



From the Ecumenical Facilitator Revd Anton Müller

"A Happy New Year to all our readers"! And so has many a newspaper greeted its readers. In many ways the Church is like a newspaper, intended in the first instance to convey the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. That good news is most powerfully proclaimed when Christians present the visible unity of God through the work that they do together as the body of Christ; a body of many denominations but one body under the Lord Jesus.



**Churches Together in Lancashire
Forum and AGM**

**Churches Together in Lancashire Forum: 20 January; 7pm-9pm;
St Cuthbert's, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3AR**

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity approaches we have the opportunity to be together as one Church and one faith under one Lord. It is hoped that as many as possible from across the County of Lancashire will gather at St Cuthbert's Fulwood for the Churches Together in Lancashire Forum. A number of organisations will be taking part in the 'market place' which is open to any church group or organisation that would like to take the opportunity to share their mission and ministry where they are with the wider Christian community of Lancashire.

There will also be the opportunity to meet with leaders of the Christian denominations and churches and to listen to each other to encourage and promote the work of the Gospel where we are. Our denominational and church leaders need to hear from you; they need to hear your concerns as well as your hopes; they need your prayers for guidance in the work that they do in managing the structures of the Church be it to manage decline or to promote growth. The leaders of our churches are called to be the servants of all and this will be an opportunity to pray for them in that service as they gather to listen to those they have been called to serve. A flyer is attached with this newsletter for you to circulate.

Please contact me at antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk if you would like be part of the missions and ministry "marketstall". The Forum will also include the opportunity to celebrate the social justice pledge which Church Leaders signed together at The Foxton Centre on 14 October and to hear from Tim Keightley, CEO of The Foxton Centre, who will make a short presentation about the inspiring work of this excellent social action project.

During the AGM the new Constitution will be presented under which new member churches and Trustees will be welcomed.

We begin at 7.00pm. The AGM will be at 8.00pm and closing worship will be led by Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton at 8.30pm.

Lancashire Sings Christmas

Lancashire Sings Christmas was a great success. Nick Moxon, who was in the Radio Lancashire studio with Joe Wilson for the event, writes "Thank you to all who took part in Lancashire Sings Christmas. We hope you had a good time - we certainly did in the studio. A big thank you must go to Eric and the band from Blackburn Salvation Army and Sue Witts and her singers from St James' Church, Lower Darwen who led the carol singing so brilliantly. It would help us if you could spend 5 minutes filling in the attached feedback form and return it to me so we can properly evaluate the event". A copy of the form is attached with this newsletter. What will you do this year?



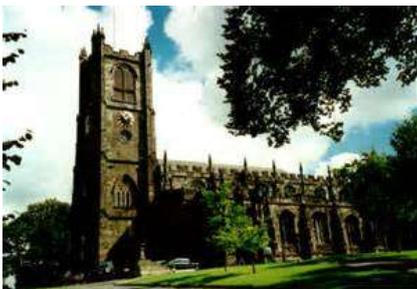
I was privileged to be based at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary where I also witnessed the licensing of the Revd Ian Dewar as the new Chaplain with whom I hope to liaise this year. I hope also to make visits to all local ecumenical partnerships (LEPs) and with our team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEOs) and explore a number of new relationships.

Cinnamon Network Faith Audit

The Faith Audit is under way and will draw from Blackburn and Darwen, Preston and South Ribble in order to provide a representative sample for Lancashire. Check out www.cinnamonnetwork.org.uk



Adoption and fostering event at Lancaster Priory: 26 February; 6.30pm



Following a meeting earlier last year with Julie Dobson of Lancashire County Council, I am delighted to be able to offer this opportunity for church groups to find out more about the adoption and fostering service that the County Council operates. A small team will give a presentation and there will be the opportunity to hear from those who have been adoptive and foster parents as well to hear from those who have benefited from this important element of care.

The evening will include a time of Christian spiritual reflection on the theme of our own adoption into the family of Christ and the important role that Christians can have in offering a Christian loving home to those in need of adoptive and foster parenting. More information to follow.



Could you love us?

Thinking about adoption?
We'd love to help 0800 028 6349

Ben age 8 and Lily age 6

Lancashire
County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption



From the Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer Helen Boothroyd

I join Anton in wishing you a Happy New Year and blessings for 2015. I will be leaving Churches Together in Lancashire at the end of February after just a year in this post because I will be taking up an expanded role with my other employer Churches Together in Cumbria.

One of the things I will miss from this job is working with CTL's superb partner organisations, such as Christian Aid, the Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission and Together Lancashire, all of whose work is in some way featured below.

Introducing Ruth Platt, Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator

Hello, I'm Christian Aid's regional coordinator for Lancashire. My role includes encouraging people to give, act and pray on behalf of the world's poorest. That might be organising a fundraising event, campaigning to address the unfair systems that keep people poor, or praying for the oppressed to be set free. Please do get in touch if you would like any support in these areas (RPlatt@christian-aid.org; tel: 01925 582 819).



I'd like to tell you about two key activities coming up. Firstly, **tax dodging** prevents developing countries from collecting an estimated US\$160bn a year.

This injustice must be stopped, so as part of the Tax Dodging Bill coalition, we're putting on 'Manchester let's make tax fair workshop'. This will give you all the knowledge and tools you'll need to take action. [Book your free ticket online](#) and we'll see you on the **12 February**, 6-8:30pm at Oxfam Manchester office, 46-50 Oldham Street, M4 1LE. Also see our '**Tax and the Bible pocket guide**'; order from 08700 787 788, quoting the code F2262 or download:

www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Tax-and-the-Bible-pocket-guide-March-2014.pdf

Secondly, **Lent** is early this year, starting on the 18 February. So don't be caught out and make sure you order your Christian Aid '**count your blessings**' **40-day reflection calendar** soon. This year we are following 3 people from Ethiopia and Christian Aid's partner HUNDEE. [Available online soon](#) - or get in touch with me directly.

Thank for all your hard work and support across Lancashire. Christian Aid could not do its work without you! Best wishes for 2015.

Ruth Platt

Reminder re using the resource 'How to help the homeless this winter'



This resource by **Together Lancashire** was included with the last newsletter in Publisher format, but as many people do not have Publisher a pdf version is attached here. Please continue to distribute widely among your local churches; if possible with information about local food provision and services for the homeless printed on the reverse. Order pre- printed copies from 01254 658914 or by emailing greg.smith@together-lancashire.org.uk

Feeding Britain: the report of the national Inquiry into Hunger

This All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry, chaired by the Bishop of Truro and subtitled 'A strategy for zero hunger', was published in December and can be read or downloaded at <http://foodpovertyinquiry.org>

News from Churches Together in England



CTE Christmas Card picture competition

Jim Currin, CTE Secretary for Evangelisation, writes:

"This is to encourage people to enter for the Christmas picture competition we run at Churches Together in England. Artists need to submit their pictures before 31 January 2015. All the information can be found at www.cte.org.uk/christmaspicture. We look forward to receiving original pictures that explore the Christmas message; by email please to jim.currin@cte.org.uk

CTE 2015 leaflet

There is a 2015 leaflet about Churches Together in England available for either pdf download or paper copies which the CTE office is happy to send free of charge. The leaflet lists the member churches, priorities of work, staff members and some highlights of news as CTE serves the churches in England. All information is on the web page www.cte.org.uk/2015leaflet



Listed places of worship roof repair fund – 30 January application deadline



The SPAB (Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings) Maintenance Co-operatives Project has informed us that if you look after a listed church that needs help with its roof now is the time to act. The deadline for the one-off government grant of £10,000 -

£100,000 for roof and rainwater goods repairs is midday on 30th January. See www.lpowroof.org.uk

Dates for your Diary – a listing of events and resources from local churches and partner organisations

Preston Interfaith Dialogue: 1st Thursday of every month 7-9pm, Preston Quaker Meeting Hall, 189 St Georges Road, PR1 6NQ - See attached jpg poster.

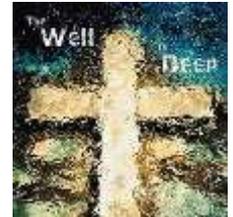
East Meets West Epiphany Party: 10 January - Event of Lancaster's women-only inter faith group. For details or to join the group contact: eastmeetswest@gmail.com; 07767 626891 (Hilary Hopwood, Co-Chair); 07766 253341 (Banu Patel, Co-Chair).

Fracking? As Christians should we have a view? 15 January - Exploring views on fracking as people of faith; Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre in St Anne's. Supported by Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission. See attached pdf poster.

Unite event with Terry Eckersley at Lytham: 17 January - See attached pdf poster.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25 January 2015

"The Well is Deep": resources and order form available from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: www.ctbi.org.uk/681. Don't forget to come to Churches Together in Lancashire Forum on 20 January - see p.1 and attached flyer.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Holocaust Memorial Day: 27 January

Events will take place all around Lancashire to commemorate the Holocaust.

Faith in Lancaster has notified me of the following events:

18 January: Diversity Tour; starting 11.30am in the Jewish Rooms, Lancaster University with a bagel brunch and a talk by Paul Iganski reflecting on the impact of anti-Semitism on Jewish life and culture. Followed by a visit to the Dallas Road Mosque and then to the City Library, where women from the East Meets West group will talk about their embroidery on display there over light refreshments. Confirm details and

book your place at robbie.rob.smith1@gmail.com or by phone on 01524 736410.

24 January: Havdalah and Culture Share - Mark the end of the Jewish Sabbath and share on the theme of 'Keeping Memories Alive'. Bring something that holds memories for you. Refreshments.

25 January: Interfaith service at Priory Church, Lancaster; 6.30 p.m.

26 January - 1 February: Exhibition at the Dukes Gallery by artist Diana Zwibach of work representing her personal response to the Nazi programme of attacks throughout Europe.

27 January: Candle-lighting commemoration on 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau; 6.30 pm at Lancaster Castle and 7.15 pm at The Storey Institute.

28 January: Screening at the Dukes Theatre of the film 'Night Will Fall', documenting the story of footage taken by Allied soldiers at the liberation of the Nazi camps in 1945.

Music for all with Junior Royal Northern College of Music: 31 January; 7.30pm; Torrisholme Methodist Church - See attached pdf poster.

Church Action on Poverty Sunday: Visions of a Good Society: 15 February

Information at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday. Plan a service around the theme:

www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/resources

Fairtrade Fortnight: 23 February - 8 March - www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight

Lent in the Minster, Preston: Monday evenings 23 February and 2,9,16,23 March

Inspire 2015: Loving your neighbour: 7 March; 9.30am-4pm; Runcorn College, Leyland - See attached pdf poster.

"2014 The Year that Was"



January 22nd
The Revd Anton Müller and Ms Helen Boothroyd

commissioned into their roles as Ecumenical Facilitator and Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer



October 14th
Lancashire Church Leaders sign Social Justice Pledge at

The Foxton Centre



March 10th
Launch of Christian Muslim Encounters in Lancashire



November 4th
Archbishop Sentamu at Blackpool Tower



June 9th
Loaves and Fishes "Blessing on the Beach"



November 4th
Faith in the Community Morecambe with Major Drew McCombe, Salvation Army Divisional Leader for Lancashire and the NW



NW meeting in Preston

August 11th
Inter Faith Network



November 20th
A Celebration of Faith in Lancashire for Inter Faith Week



September 21st
Visit to Longton Community Church



December 18th
Lancashire Sings Christmas