

Welcome to the "Bumper Edition" of the Churches Together in Lancashire Newsletter for the summer of 2014.

The next newsletter will be in September. Please send in stories and pictures of what has been happening where you are and news of what may be coming up in the Autumn.



From the Ecumenical Facilitator Revd Anton Müller

Looking back to June: I attended a presentation of the Cinnamon Network at Fulwood Free Methodist Church and was very impressed with the opportunities available to churches who are engaging in a range of social action and community projects.

The Cinnamon Network has been given money from the Government to match fund local community projects to £1,500. The £3,000 that you raise or have in funds are assets that can be used to attract this top up fund.



During the course of the evening I met with Dave Brown of the Preston and South Ribble Street Pastors. There are a growing number of these fantastic programmes. As always, such programmes need people, prayer and pounds (ok, money, but I wanted to have three P's!).



I met Ruth McDonald, who is a "Parish Nurse" in Barrow. I understand that there is at least one such scheme already in

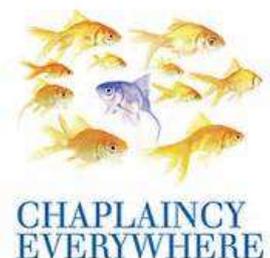


Lancashire. Parish Nursing Ministries UK is a Christian charity which helps local churches to appoint nurses, who in turn support people and



communities towards whole person healthcare. This is care for the person's overall well-being, incorporating body, mind and spirit. If you take a look at their website - www.parishnursing.org.uk - you will get a feel and understanding for the work and you will see the amazing impact on individuals, churches and communities.

My own background is Hospital and Hospice Chaplaincy. My volunteer chaplains were drawn from the local church communities and were a valuable resource to the spiritual care of patients and families as well as staff and other carers. They were also able to provide a continuity of care after patients were discharged. They brought a spiritual and social dimension to the care and well-being of patients and families. Although not the same as Parish Nursing there is a real need for churches to come together to



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Newsletter No 4

July and August 2014



develop communities chaplaincy, but also to fund programmes such as Parish Nursing.

If you have such a scheme in progress or in mind, please tell us about it. Community chaplaincy is about churches being active in meeting local needs. No one should be isolated, no one should be lonely, no one should be hungry, no one should have no hope. Even a congregation of two can make a difference to the local community.



It would be good to hear your story for this newsletter or share what you are doing on the [Churches Together in Lancashire FACEBOOK page](#). If you have not signed up as a friend please do so and use this page to share with the community of Lancashire what God is doing right where you are.

There were many other organisations represented at the Cinnamon Network event which was a collaboration between Longton Community Church, Fulwood Free Methodist and Churches Together in Lancashire. "Other funding sources are available" but do take a look at the Cinnamon Network: www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk.



My wife and I enjoyed the hospitality of the church in Scorton where there is a very active churches together group and lots of engagement with the local community. We enjoyed the company of the Revd David Brown and his wife Hanna. It was good to attend the meeting of the Lancaster Churches Together group and to be made aware of so much that is going on in Lancaster. Please keep the invites coming and use your organisation to share and encourage us all.

Looking ahead:

On **November 5th** (Bonfire Night) Professor David Wilkinson will be addressing 6th Form and University Students across Lancashire during a Churches Together in Lancashire day conference entitled "**God and the Big Bang**". Professor Wilkinson is an elemental particle physicist, Methodist minister and Principal of St John's Durham. He will be joined by other leading scientists from across our Christian denominations.



Lancashire Sings Christmas is back! It will take place on Thursday 18th December.
Let's beat the shops to it and get ourselves ready for Christmas! Listen out for details on Radio Lancashire.

95.5 MHz, 103.9 MHz, 104.5 MHz, 855 MW, 1557 MW, RDS: BBC LANCS



**From the Social Justice and Inter Faith Development
Officer Helen Boothroyd**

It's been an interesting month and I share below some of the visits I have made and new opportunities which you might be interested in, as well as a number of significant future dates for your diaries.

Two inspiring visits ... and opportunities for you to get involved

Kirkham open prison: chaplaincy would welcome more volunteers



I had an inspiring visit recently to HMP Kirkham, a category D open prison, hosted by Managing Chaplain Rev Brian Mayne. I was shown to the chaplaincy by a very helpful resident whose job it is to welcome and escort visitors, and this was the prelude to a broader impression that I quickly developed of a place that felt welcoming, busy and active and whose grounds looked beautiful - a testament to the hard daily work put in by the prisoners in producing and maintaining gorgeous floral displays, immaculate lawns and a clean well-stocked pond. Nearly all prisoners work and much of the fruits of their labours is sold in the farm shop at the entrance: flower baskets, fresh farm produce and high quality sheds and wooden garden furniture.

The multi-faith chaplaincy sees every prisoner as they come into the prison, provides a victim awareness programme and supports prisoners through bereavement, family issues and other traumas, as well as offering faith support and worship opportunities to those prisoners that want this. The chaplaincy runs on a small paid staff capacity and would much welcome volunteers to carry out a variety of roles including chatting/ interacting with prisoners using the chaplaincy facility and more background administrative roles. Anyone interested please contact: brian.mayne@hmps.gsi.gov.uk; 01772 675416.



West End Impact: supporting vulnerable people in Morecambe



I was also very impressed by my visit to [West End Impact](#) in Morecambe, a Christian social outreach project giving practical support to some of the most vulnerable local people: street homeless; those falling through the welfare net; people suffering from addictions. Support includes food, befriending, housing help, signposting, and providing an advice hub for a number

of other agencies at drop-in sessions.

The project has more than 50 volunteers, one of whom, Phil Blundell, wants to give more support to folk in danger of



falling through the welfare net and is developing an innovative micro-funding project to help him do this. Phil is up-skilling through an MA in social welfare law, policy and advice practice and is asking individuals to donate £5 each to cover the cost of this MA, for which he will in turn donate 2 hours of volunteer time: one hour to assist clients in form filling, medicals and tribunals; the second to assist clients in developing their own volunteer skills. [Donation details on Phil's Facebook page.](#)

Credit Unions need your support

In order to help reduce the reach of high interest lenders such as Wonga, the Archbishop of Canterbury has developed a high profile initiative in the Church of England to promote credit unions as a responsible local source of credit and savings. I would encourage all denominations and churches to support your local credit union, which is an excellent way of keeping money in the local community and helping financially-excluded people to both save and access affordable lending. Churches and their members can support credit unions in a number of ways:



CreditUnions.co.uk
Find your local credit union

- Joining one - credit unions can only succeed if more people from different income levels and saving abilities join; they are not just for poor people
- Providing volunteers
- Providing premises for collection points etc

To find out if there is a credit union in your area see www.creditunions.co.uk/lancashire
If not, could the local churches work with other community partners to start one?

There are lots of ways to volunteer

Together Lancashire has highlighted to me that there are a number of groups looking for Christian trustees with a variety of professional skills to strengthen their boards or scrutiny function. Some are also looking for volunteer mentors for clients. If you think you might be able to help, please contact gillian.beeley@together-lancashire.org.uk or greg.smith@together-lancashire.org.uk.



Also see www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire/get-involved

Wisdom on prayer



When I attended the Blessing on the Beach celebration in June (see article in our June newsletter), a local church member highlighted to me a 7 stage prayer process that he had picked up from DynamicCatholic.com during a visit to the United States and which he finds helpful. He asked me to share it more widely; and I am pleased to do so:

1. Gratitude - Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.
2. Awareness - Revisit and talk to God about the times in the past 24 hours when you were and weren't the-best-version-of-yourself and what you learnt.
3. Significant moments - Identify something you experienced in the last 24 hours and explore what God might be saying to you through that event or person.

4. Peace - Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed and to fill you with a deep and abiding peace.
5. Freedom - Pray about God's leading as to how to change your life so that you can experience the freedom to be the-best-version-of-yourself.
6. Others - Lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.
7. Pray the Our Father / Lord's Prayer.

Match funding for local inter faith social action projects

The [Together in Service Fund](#), supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government and administered by [FaithAction](#), is available as 1:1 match-funding for small grants between £2,000 and £5,000 to facilitate multi-faith social action projects at a local level. The next deadline date is 25 August.

Have you considered inviting a speaker from another faith community?



Has your local Churches Together group thought about inviting a speaker from another faith community? Madhu Pandya is happy to give talks on Hinduism, with artefacts etc, to churches or schools around the county, subject to feasibility of transport. If you would be interested to explore this option, or would like a speaker from another faith, please get in touch with me and I will try to arrange this for you: helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk.

Inter Faith Week: 16-22 November

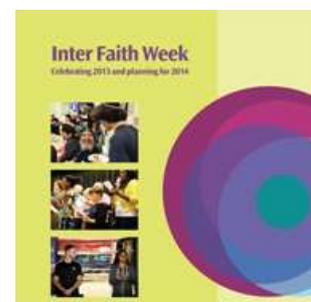
Inter Faith Week takes place in the 3rd week of November and has become a fixture in the local and national calendar with events to:

- strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

Lots of events are already planned in Lancashire for Inter Faith Week 2014 and I'm compiling information about all these for wide distribution to enable maximum participation. If you're planning an Inter Faith Week event please send me information a.s.a.p: 07503 931196;

helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk. The national [Inter Faith Network](#) has produced a helpful resource *Inter Faith Week: Celebrating 2013 and planning for 2014*, downloadable from www.interfaithweek.org, which includes planning tips and ideas. The [Inter Faith Youth Trust is offering grants](#) up to £500 for inter faith activities by children and young people

aged 11 to 25 which encourage understanding and co-operation. Priority given to projects run by third sector bodies which actively involve young people in planning, running and evaluation of the project, and promote positive community action by young people from different faiths together. Closing date: 31 August.



Dates for your diary ... please keep free

In both Inter Faith Week and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there will be a single county celebration event as well as the many great local events taking place throughout Lancashire. In planning your local events, please try to keep the 2 dates below free so that your local groups can participate in these county-wide events and enjoy the benefits of celebrating and networking with the other local groups:

A Celebration of Faith in the County: 20 November: County Hall, Preston



Lancashire Forum of Faiths celebration for Inter Faith Week. It is hoped all local inter faith groups from around the county will participate and share stories of their work over the past year. We plan awards for excellent local inter faith initiatives. Keynote speaker: Councillor Jennifer Mein.

Churches Together in Lancashire Forum celebration: 20 January 2015



The main annual opportunity for Churches Together Groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships and all Lancashire churches to celebrate together the great things that they are doing around the county to grow God's kingdom through mission and service. The event will take place in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and include a 'market place' of stalls, inspiring worship and CTL's AGM.

Please address enquiries about either of these events to me in the first instance:
helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk; 07503 931196.

Pending Events

Inter-Church Commission for Justice & Peace in Columbia: 17 July, Lancaster



Come and be inspired by Christian Aid visiting guest Fr Alberto Franco, a human rights advocate for more than 20 years with Afro-Colombian, indigenous and peasant farming communities supporting displaced & conflict-affected communities in their struggle for justice, affirming their rights & advocating for the return of their lands. 8pm; St

Bernadette's Parish Rooms, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 4HT;
refreshments from 7.45pm. More information from Lancaster Diocese
Faith & Justice Commission: lfjc@talktalk.net; 01524 383081.



Annual community Iftar at Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre: 18 July, Burnley

In Ramadan, Iftar is the evening meal eaten at sunset to break the day's fast. All are invited to join this event, which brings faiths and communities together. 8pm; Faith Centre, Burnley Campus, Barden Lane, BB10 1JD.

Experiencing Ramadan 2014: 21 July



Would you like the opportunity to experience fasting for a day; the opportunity to learn more about Islam; to understand why Muslims fast; to open your fast by having an evening meal with Muslims; and to raise money for the Katy Holmes Trust?

Sisters4Sisters, a leading Muslim Women's group established over 10 years ago, strive to bring communities together and provide training and activities for women of all ages and backgrounds. They offer this [opportunity to join 1.6bn Muslims in fasting for the day and to learn more about Ramadan](#). A meal will be served after the fast opens.

Ramadan is a month of charity and those taking part are asked to help raise money for the [Katy Holmes Trust](#), a charity dedicated to research in and raising awareness of paediatric brain tumours. Registration essential. Information/registration: Tasnim Desai: tasdesai@hotmail.co.uk; Sofia Begum-Ali: 07907935610. Registered participants will receive details about fasting including advice on what to eat beforehand.

Centenary of Britain's entry into WW1: 4 August



There will be a vigil in Westminster Abbey on 4 August in the hour leading up to 11pm when war was declared by Britain 100 years ago. At the same time, homes, churches and other public buildings around the country are invited to take part in [Lights Out](#), turning out lights but leaving just one light burning as a symbol of continuing hope in the darkness of war. The title refers to the reported comment by Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary in 1914, that "the lamps are going out across Europe, we shall not see

them lit again in our lifetime". Churches may want to accompany Lights Out with an act of worship or reflection. The Government would like to hear from churches planning to take part: warwick.hawkins@culture.gsi.gov.uk.

Other WW1 commemoration resources:

1. [www.cte.org.uk/Groups/235035/Home/Resources/World War 1/World War 1.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/235035/Home/Resources/World_War_1/World_War_1.aspx)
2. www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/203992/HOPE/Mission_Moments/Remembrance/Remembrance.aspx#.U48QACgVe0x
3. <http://quaker.org.uk/ww1map>
4. www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/latest-updates/world-war-one-liturgy.aspx
5. www.book-of-phd.com/index.html



7th Lancashire Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride: 13 September

Sponsor money divided between the National Churches Trust and participant's chosen church. An opportunity to cycle or walk as a church group and visit interesting churches as well as raising money.



[Suggested routes](#) available, or devise your own. Service of thanksgiving on the Fylde. [Resources](#) available. More information: pjlumsden58@gmail.com; 0792 9270753.

Let my people go! World week for peace in Palestine & Israel: 21-27 September



<http://pief.oikoumene.org/en/world-week-for-peace>

Germinate! growing and equipping rural mission: 11 October, Coventry



Major national day conference on rural mission for lay, clergy and regional church leaders 10am-4pm, Coventry.

Information/booking: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

The Church and new housing areas: 16 October

National open meeting for network resource people and pioneer ministers to hear from some case studies and compare notes about issues including planning, appointments, building, and assets in a variety of ecumenical relations and arrangements. For further information contact Jim Currin at Churches Together in England:

jim.currin@cte.org.uk

