

**Churches Together in Lancashire
Annual Meeting
Tuesday 8th December 7pm
By Zoom
MINUTES**



Welcome: Bishop Julian, Chair of CTL
Apologies: No apologies were recorded
Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved

Chairman's Report for 2020

If one had to choose to be chair of anything... 2020 would not be the Year! However – despite the challenges that the Pandemic has brought to World and to our own County of Lancashire – what we have seen has been real growth in 'unity in mission' as churches have come together to respond to the crisis and serve their communities.

There are many wonderful examples – from larger scale programmes such as The Pantry in Fleetwood – a partnership between the Healthcare Trust with the Catholic and Anglican churches of Fleetwood, to single acts of random kindness such as the "Slice Guy" in Preston donating a 100 pizzas to needy families in the community.

We are aware of the work of our chaplains who work ecumenically in high risk environments such as Hospitals and Prisons. One of our most recently ordained Priests in the Diocese of Blackburn, the Revd Susan Salt, chose to return to her work as a Doctor in order to serve on the frontline of the NHS in the battle against COVID.

The Salvation Army has always been in the forefront of community support and it has been heartening to hear of churches across the denominations giving support.

Some of the stories of hope and good news will feature in this year's Lancashire Sings Christmas which will be broadcast on Thursday 17th December at 7pm on Radio Lancashire.

The Churches in Lancashire have been full participants with the Lancashire Resilience Forum, working with civic leaders and with leaders of the other Faith communities. We have been represented across a number of sub groups such as recovery group, the faiths group and the volunteer and community group. In November members of the Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Bahai communities along with civic leaders met with the Christian leaders for Lancashire and most recently a Webinar, organised by CTL and the Lancashire Forum of Faiths was held to explore "Hope" in our communities. This coming together will continue.

The meeting of the Church Leaders through the year has been especially valuable. This year Churches Together in Lancashire welcomed Bishop John Fenwick to the meeting. Bishop John is the Bishop for the Northern Province of the Free Church of England and is a Trustee of Churches Together in England.

It is always a challenge to get all the Leaders together but in this time of Zoom the meetings have been well supported and have been a time of much needed encouragement. We are also encouraged to hear of many local groups coming together ecumenically by Zoom, in prayer & study, fellowship & worship.

We are all in unprecedented times and unprecedented times calls us all to do unprecedented things. The Church in Lancashire has been called to action together and is responding: that work will and must continue as together, in prayer and in hope, we work bring light to the darkness – trusting in the One who is the Light of the World.

Commissioning of The Revd Brian Jolly as Chair of CTL 2021

The Revd Brian Jolly accepted the position of Chair of CTL and conducted the meeting from this point.

Presentation from Churches Together in England

A toolkit for implementing: A Flexible Framework for local mission and unity: by the Revd Dr Callan Slipper, National Ecumenical Officer for the Church of England

A presentation was given by Callan Slipper. Details of the Flexible Framework may be found here: <https://cte.org.uk/working-together/local/a-flexible-framework-for-local-unity-in-mission/>

Report from the County Ecumenical Officer with updates on

- i) DEOs,
- ii) LEP's
- iii) Ecumenical Project Funding 2020

County Ecumenical Officer (CEO) Report 2020

The Revd Anton Müller continues represent North West Regions (Intermediate Bodies) of Liverpool, Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria on the Enabling Group of Churches Together in England. These meetings have taken place via Zoom. The Enabling Group has facilitated discussion around the 4th Presidency of CTE (the Empty Chair, in the light of the nominated candidate being in a same sex marriage); discussion forums on church responses to Black Lives Matters – Bishop Joe Aldred has been pivotal in this work; The CEO has been appointed Deputy Moderator of the 2022 Forum, the national conference of Churches Together in England.

The CEO with some of the DEOs (Denominational Ecumenical Officers) are serving as Ecumenical Observers on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's Synod.

Throughout the Pandemic the CEO and DEOs have participated in meetings of the Lancashire Resilience Forum and sub groups.

The CEO has continued to develop the Ecumenical Discussion platform working with the Lancashire Theological Society, Lancashire Forum of Faiths and A Company of Speakers. The most recent event was an interfaith webinar on Hope

Development of the Ecumenical Working Parties (EWP) was put on hold earlier in the year but work on this has now resumed. Representatives from each of the denominations have been invited to come together to share thoughts and ideas around: Mission and Discipleship (Marks 1 and 2); Social Care (Mark 3), Social Justice (Mark 4), Environment (Mark 5) – in addition there will be EWPs on Children, youth and young adults, spirituality and pilgrimage. An ecumenical “Emergency Planning” working party was suggested last year – we never knew how quickly this would come to pass with the DEOs deployed to various groups within the Lancashire Resilience Forum.

Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO's)

Lancashire has developed the most complete team of DEOs with representation across all the church groups in Lancashire.

The Revd Stephen Brown has been appointed as the DEO for the Archdeaconry of Blackburn; The Revd Liz Jewitt has stepped down as DEO for the URC NW Synod – a replacement is being sought.

(Local Ecumenical Partnerships) LEPs:

Trinity Accrington: The Revd Paul McNally appointed last year as Curate in Charge is to be licensed as the Incumbent.

Churches Together in North Blackburn: is beginning a period of affirmation and review following changes in the team.

Ecumenical Project Funding 2020

Grants of £1,000 were awarded to:

“Transforming Lives for Good” group in Blackpool – a project to provide meals in the holiday to children who would receive free school meals in term time.

“The Well Community Café” – an evangelism programme around a hot breakfast also in the Blackpool area.

Financial summary for year ending December 31st 2020 Mr J Fisher

End of Year Accounts for 2019 previously circulated

Any Questions? There were no questions

The meeting closed with a Blessing after a short time of worship and reflection.

Signed..... Date: 25th November 2021