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CTMR Website

Please visit www.ctmr.org.uk and click on 'Church and community events this week' for **Calendar of Events**. It can be found on the Home page. Please notify us of any events open to all denominations in Merseyside planned by two or more Churches.

There are many ecumenical initiatives /actions supported by different Churches all over Merseyside: services, food banks, walks of witness, passion plays, lectures, cantatas, fraternals. We would love to hear how

Focus on Young People

Preparation for the International Youth Congress 2018 in Liverpool...and beyond!

CTMR was delighted to welcome Youth Leaders from several denominations within the Merseyside Region for their first ecumenical meeting. The leaders, who included 2 chaplains from our local universities, shared some of their precious experiences. It became clear that each denomination has a characteristic way of working with young people and that there is a great variety which was refreshing and enriching.

BIG HOPE 2

The meeting also included a briefing on the BIG HOPE 2, the name given to the International Youth Congress which will take place from 13-20th June 2018, at Liverpool Hope University. BIG HOPE ONE took place 10 years ago and was a huge success. To find out more please visit: <http://www.thebighope.info/aboutus/> If you are from Merseyside please also contact Elisabeth at office@ctmr.org.uk Sponsorship is available. Last booking date: 7th June 2018.

Picture shows Big Hope Celebration at Met Cathedral in 2008



Get Involved!!



Representatives are now being sought to take part in the **CTE Forum 2018, 17-19th September**. This Forum is a tri-annual event. If you are under 35 years old & would like to join us, please contact Elisabeth at: office@ctmr.org.uk. or call 0151 709 0125

Picture: Young speakers at CTE Forum 2015

News from CTE

& CTBI



CTE Review

The 2018 trifold leaflet is available by copying and pasting the following link <https://cte.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=202099> The 2016 CTE review of the year leaflet is available on the CTE website

CTE Resources

A link to CTE resources can be found here: <https://www.cte.org.uk/>

Retirement

CTE General Secretary Rev Dr David Cornick will retire at the end of this year and his successor The Rev Dr Paul Goodliff has been appointed.

'A New Framework'

Last year CTE staff were asked for further work on '*A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission*'. All information is here: www.cte.org.uk/ANewFramework *A Guide for understanding 'A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission'* is available here: https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/516911/Home/News/Latest_news_articles/A_guide.aspx

THEOS report on CTE

“The ecumenical movement in England has been on a significant journey over the past few decades. The number of Churches and denominations engaged in the area has grown remarkably, reflecting shifting trends in English Christianity. That, combined with major changes in the ecumenical bodies, and changing perceptions of ecumenism among Churches, has given rise to a complex and vibrant ecumenical scene.” To read on please visit www.cte.org.uk/theos. It is hoped that this report will serve to provoke fresh debate about the purpose, focus, and direction of ecumenism as it develops over the coming years. Like CTE, **Churches Together in**

News from Merseyside

From the CTMR Presidents group

Congratulations

to the Very Reverend Dr Pete Wilcox, former Dean of the Anglican Cathedral who became the new Bishop of Sheffield.



Image courtesy of Liverpool Cathedral

Welcome



to the new Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, Revd Canon Dr Sue Jones, currently in the Diocese of Derby. Canon Sue will be installed by the Bishop of Liverpool on May 5th at 3 pm in Liverpool Cathedral.

Image courtesy of Rob Walker

Retirement

Best wishes on his retirement to Rt Rev Richard Blackburn, Bishop of Warrington. Bishop Richard's farewell service will take place on Saturday 21 April 2018 at 3pm also at Liverpool Cathedral.



Image courtesy of The Diocese of Liverpool

Moving on to pastures new

Congratulations to Major Drew McCombe who has been appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Secretary for Spiritual Life development at the Salvation Army Territorial headquarters in London. Major Roger and Noreen Batt are to succeed Major Drew and his wife. They are already on our Salvation Army team here in Liverpool.



The CTMR Presidents group

meets 4 times a year to give a strategic direction to CTMR. One of their meetings is a retreat day.

Picture taken at their November 2017 retreat.



CTMR Presidents invite local MPs & Civic Leaders

Local MPs came to lunch with the Church Leaders in March. The theme of the event was faith and politics, prepared by the CMTR Social Responsibilities team.

CTMR Presidents will also host a Civic Reception for Mayors and Leaders of the Councils in the Merseyside Region. Many replies are coming in at present. This year's Civic Reception will take place at Bishop's Lodge.



Civic Reception at Archbishop's House in 2017.

Merseyside Denominational Officers

A meeting of Northern Denominational Officers is due to take place from the 3-4 May at the Briery Retreat and Conference Centre in Ilkley, West Yorkshire to allow networking and focus on useful issues. 30 Ecumenical Officers will gather for mutual support and exchange, supported by CTE staff.. There will be 3 representatives from Merseyside.

Events on Merseyside



Liverpool City Centre Ecumenical Walk of Witness

**Holy Saturday
31 March @ 2pm**

Led by Bishop Paul Bayes, Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, Rev Jacky Embrey and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon

the procession will start at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Piazza, followed by walk through the City Centre with prayers being led at various points. The procession will end with a short act of worship and refreshments at Liverpool Parish Church, St Nicholas, Pier Head.

'Thy Kingdom Come' re- launch on Ascension Day

Thursday 10th May

Like last year two acts of worship are planned by the URC Mersey Synod to launch 'Thy Kingdom Come'. It is hoped that this may encourage other churches to find a way to take part and engage with 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Both services will be an opportunity for people to pray into the issues of the world through the context of that day's news, to address their concerns, to give thanks and to hopefully laugh at the more quirky side of life. The morning service will be accompanied with tea, coffee and bacon sandwiches and the evening with tea and cake.

Morning Service: Heswall URC, Telegraph Road, CH60 7SE 10.30am



Pentecost 2018 Events in Liverpool Hope Street Harmony



Ecumenical celebration & Pentecost Walk

**Sunday 20th May
3:00pm—5:30pm**

We would like to invite all parishes to this year's Pentecost celebrations in Liverpool.

Starting at Liverpool Cathedral with a short act of worship we will process along Hope Street. During the procession different choirs will regale the walkers. The proceedings will culminate in a mass choral performance and singing of the Halleluiah chorus on the steps of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

You can join us for the whole procession or any part along Hope Street



where you will also find the Makers' Market and many musical activities in venues along the street after the procession.

For more details as we get closer to Pentecost please visit: www.ctmr.org.uk

Young people performing on Stowell Brown Square, off Hope Street, Pentecost 2017

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 Building Bridges



From Chorley

“I wondered what I could do to build bridges locally. So I wrote about the Week of Prayer in the Church newsletter and our parish priest preached a couple of times about it - and very well. Then on Tuesday morning three of us from the ecumenical scripture group went for coffee to the Pentecostal Church Café and we got shown their church. We established a lovely relationship and learned about their work, how they worship and baptise and hope to set up a soup kitchen. They already run a food bank. We affirmed the connections we have as a churches, since our congregation also contributes weekly to this food bank. We left as new friends!

On Friday four from our group took part in the Anglican celebration of the Eucharist. We were made feel very welcome and received an excellent sermon but we also felt the pain and sadness of the division.

I also wrote a letter to the local Methodist minister with some news about an ecumenical event.

I also made it to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service – even though I had not found an advert, but the Holy Spirit lead me there! On getting there it felt like a homecoming. 4 people spoke about their practical and ecumenical projects on homelessness, loneliness, food bank etc, but with a focus on ‘your right hand... glorious in power’. I deepened previous contacts, met a Quaker and was invited to join the monthly Churches Together meetings. I am really looking forward to going.

How had I plucked up the courage to venture out? Perhaps because last year I had taken part in a large international ecumenical gathering which was inspirational and had spurred me on to take initiative.

Uli Yeomans

An Ecumenical Quiz

From Old Swan

In Old Swan we have a group of Christian ministers from across all the churches who are committed to meeting every month to pray, share news, events and generally offer support to one another. This year we decided to hold an ecumenical quiz as part of unity week to encourage our congregation members to also get to know other

church congregations from our area. Around 80 people gathered and enjoyed fun, fellowship, scouse and a few questions. A great evening was had by all, and it seems that this event will definitely form part of the ecumenical churches calendar from now on.



Rev. Canon Emma Williams

Walk of Witness and Passion Play

CT Formby, Altcar & Hightown

The following advert could be found in the local paper: “Churches Together in Formby are a group of Christian churches that seek to promote Christian Unity and reach out with the message of God’s love for all in the local community. They represent all the main churches in the area with a core group

who meet regularly for planning, praying and sharing ideas and vision. They are the group behind the annual Easter Walk of Witness & Passion Play each Good Friday, the Family Fun Day and the well established Christmas Nativity Play.”

Both Nativity and Passion Play have brought members of various churches together and

have brought many people who don’t regularly attend church to celebrate with them. Photos available here: <http://www.ctifah.org.uk/pages/passion-play.php>

A video and photos are available on <http://www.oloc.co.uk/passionplay2017.html>



BBC Radio Merseyside



'News from the Pews' is broadcast around 7:30am every Sunday morning. It is the 'what's on' feature for the Daybreak programme on BBC Radio Merseyside.

Get in touch with presenter Helen Jones to publicise your ecumenical events giving plenty of notice. By email: helen.jones@bbc.co.uk or by post - Helen Jones, Daybreak, BBC Ra-

dio Merseyside, P.O. Box 95.8, Liverpool, L69 1ZJ.

Other Events & Services

Theological Conference



You are warmly invited to attend a half-day theological conference organised by the CTE Pentecostal Forum on **Saturday 24 March 2018**, from 12noon to 4.30pm, at Renewal Christian Centre, Solihull near Birmingham.

This conference will be a significant learning experience no matter what your church background as together we explore the relationship between the Reformation, marking its 500th anniversary, and the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement of the past 100 years.

For individual or block registration please go to: [Eventbrite tickets](#), for further information please visit :

www.cte.org.uk/NationalTheologicalConference

Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest aims to create space for all people from a range of Churches and denominations to encounter God, to be confident in

their faith and to see transformation in lives and communities. It's an event where everyone is valued and cared for and where the church is supported and resourced. All ages and abilities can learn in their own way, as the event theme runs across the whole age spectrum and throughout the day. The event is accessible for all, with top quality content in children's and youth programmes and provision for people with disabilities and additional needs.

For further information please visit: <https://www.springharvest.org/>



Mariapolis 2018

4 - 8 April 2018

How many borders exist around us, and within us – and how can we overcome them? This is the theme of the Mariapolis which began as a summer gathering to rest and reflect together, and it continues to this day in many countries across the world. Open to all people of goodwill, Mariapolis 2018 takes up the theme 'Beyond all borders'. Mariapolis 2018 is organised by the Focolare Movement



which was sparked by the light of the Gospel lived amongst people of all ages and backgrounds. People from different denominations organise this event enjoyed by young and old alike. It takes place in Ampleforth Abbey – a centre of prayer and community for centuries. This 'retreat with a difference' will also have many opportunities for dialogue, celebration, relaxation and fun! More information at www.focolare.org.uk. All are welcome.



The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM)

WCCM introduces, supports and nurtures people in the simple, peaceful practice of Christian Meditation and the community that it creates, not only by the regular Christian Meditation group meeting, but also by presenting “Quiet Days” and events. An open day will take place **Sat, 21st April 2018**, 10am – 3:30pm at St John with St Mark, St John’s Church Hall, Parkinson St, Bury BL9 6NY. It will be led by David & Christine McKenna, Benedictine Oblates of the WCCM. Please pre book.

There is also a WCCM interfaith event, led by Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB, Director of the WCCM, 22nd May 2018 at Manchester Cathedral. For further information please contact: David McKenna. Tel: 07442 534 860. Email: wccm.bolton@gmail.com.

For WCCM events in Lancashire please visit the website: christianmeditationlancashire.co.uk.

Big Church Day Out

....is returning to Capesthorpe Hall in Cheshire, **1-2 June 2018**.

40,000 plus will be gather-

ing together to worship, pray and fellowship with each other. It is a great opportunity to share the gospel, to see many respond, to make life changing decisions which will impact on individuals, families and communities. Please visit www.bigchurchdayout.com for more information. For their 10th year celebrations they are helped along by Matt Redman, Kari Jobe, Crowder, Travis Greene, Housefires, Martin Smith, For King and Country and many more.



The Great Get Together 2018

22nd – 24th June



Many churches use the ‘Great Get Together 2018’ to hold ecumenical events like: a get together with neighbours to share food, a street party, a shared barbecue in the local park, a picnic or a bake off. What

matters is that to have fun and bring the local communities closer together. Below find a link to sign up for news about it <http://the.greatgettogether.org/page/s/get-involved-with-the-great-get-together>

Sea Sunday

Sunday 8th July 2018

Resources for churches including activities for children & young people should be available nearer the time from

www.seasundayhero.org .



Sea Sunday is an opportunity for your church community to pray for seafarers and to highlight Sailors’ Society ministry amongst this often forgotten group. Sea Sunday is marked annually on the second Sunday of July but Sea Sunday services can be held anytime of the year!

Counselling Service in St Helens



An inter-denominational team of Christian counsellors who have undertaken recognised training to Diploma level offers professional counselling. They offer counselling and counsellor

training to the local community.

For further information please visit: www.philippitrust.com

The Crossing Point



An inter- denominational Service in Liverpool for those who suffer domestic abuse.

The Crossing Point is a free confidential Domestic Abuse Service, for women, men and young people who

are or who have suffered from domestic abuse.

They offer :

- crisis intervention by identifying and assessing your risks
- help with safety planning and looking at any issues you are facing
- 1-1 emotional support, face to face or telephone, also home visits / outreach to safe homes or venues by arrangement.

They also run our own 12 week Crossover recovery programme which brings a greater understanding and recognition of abuse which will help equip you for the future. For more information please contact:

T: 0151 378 9517 ; W: <http://thecrossingpoint.co.uk/>

Christians against Poverty



Christians against poverty offer debt help.

For further information.

E: wesnorris@capcapuk.org

W: <https://capuk.org/> T: 01274 760 580

Also on Merseyside

A cantata to celebrate the Resurrection Liverpool Bach Collective

Arise, my soul, the day of the Lord is here (Cantata 145)

Sunday 15 April 2018 @ 6:30pm

Choral Evensong and Cantata

At Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Wavertree L15 9EQ

Singers and Players directed by Philip Duffy

The music includes a duet in which a tenor takes the part of the risen Christ, and the soprano responds—perhaps as Mary Magdalene. Trumpet and flute join oboes d’amore and strings and a chorus and vocal soloists. The Cantata is unusual because it includes a chorus not by Bach, but by Telemann; the opening movement is a sinfonia for trumpet and strings, also by Telemann. Evensong music will include Stanford’s Canticles in C and Rawsthorne’s Christ is our Cornerstone.

Further information and poster to be displayed:

W: www.liverpoolbach.com

E: liverpoolbach@icloud.com

Looking back to 2017

Story Mobile Truck in Liverpool to commemorate Luther 500

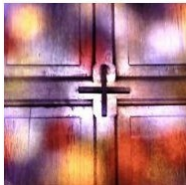


All events surrounding the visit of the Story Mobile Truck to Liverpool in commemoration of Luther 500 were well attended also by a delegation from Cologne and fostered relationships with the



German and Nordic Community and Liverpool Hope University.

The reflections on the 5 Rs by CTMR Presidents



were used in services and also further afield. They entailed reflections on **R**ejoicing, **R**emembering, **R**eforming, **R**epenting, **R**econciling. A booklet with these contributions is available at the CTMR office.

Design by Jim Currin CTE

Seasons of Welcome Event

Michael Harvey and others provided excellent input into the Seasons of Welcome event in March 2017. The event served to illustrate the rhythms of the local communities and sharing of creative initiatives with local stories and initiatives of welcome



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