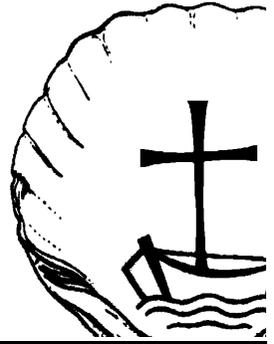


Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

Ecumenical NewsBrief

February 2017



Greetings from

....the CTMR Office, Elisabeth Hachmoeller, CTMR Co-ordinator

Having celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity locally this January, in



2017 CTMR are focusing on: commemorating the 500 year anniversary of the 1517 Reformation with a special event in February and Church Leaders offering reflections on the '5 Rs' during the year. CTMR will be hosting a 'Seasons of Welcome' event; CTMR will be joining with the nation in prayer for 'Thy Kingdom Come' before and at Pentecost. CTMR aims at highlighting common values at hustings ahead of the 'Metro Mayor' elections in May. As in other years, CTMR Church Leaders are also

engaging with MPs and Civic Leaders. For further details please read on and see diary of events.

We are interested in hearing about ecumenical work, initiatives, events and I'm in the office to pick up the phone on 0151 709 0125. My normal working hours are: Mon & Thu: 9:00am – 4:30pm; Tue: 9:00am – 3:00pm.

....the CTMR LEP Coordinator, Rev Andrew Edwards

"CTMR asked me twelve months ago to take on the role of LEP coordinator (in our region there are 19 shared congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships=LEPs) alongside my role as vicar of the Good Shepherd, Croxteth. I've spent much of my ministry in LEPs in Kent, Skelmersdale and Southport.

I aim to be ready to speak up for and support LEPs in time of change or challenge. Most just get on with being local churches. Sometimes support maybe needed when appointments, decisions and changes are being planned, so I seek to be available as an advocate for LEPs. I've shared in celebrating the renewal of a well-



established Local Covenant. In my new role I've been in contact with senior church leaders where appropriate & have chaired a meeting for an LEP when they decided whether the next minister would be from the URC or Methodist tradition. Do contact me: andrew@ajedwards.me.uk or 0151 203 9117."

Story Mobile Truck in Liverpool Commemorating Luther 500

21 February 2017

The commemoration of the 500th anniversary of 'Reformation 1517' expresses itself in the "European Reformation Roadmap," which is touring across sites of significance in Europe through May 2017, visiting 3 English cities: London, Cambridge & **Liverpool** & 64 other cities in 19 European countries. This show truck is travelling to different way-stations to augment local events. With several screens and multimedia offerings it displays the stories about the Reformation adding local stories in each city. The truck is more than 16 meters long and 9 meters wide. It will stop for 36 hours in each city, highlighting the local history of the Reformation. Its ultimate destination is Wittenberg in Germany, where Martin Luther lived and worked.



Programme of events in Liverpool on 21st Feb '17

11:00 Tea/ Prayer @ Nordic Church, 138 Park Ln, Lp L1 8HG

12noon Official Opening (**VENUE TBC**) by Dame Lorna Muirhead.
All welcome!

12.30-17.00 Story Mobile Open to the Public

17.30-18.30 Lutheran Vespers, Lady Chapel, **Anglican Cathedral**

18.30-19.30 Reception for all at the Anglican Cathedral.

For **further info & confirmation of attendance at 11:00 @ Nordic Church, contact:** Rev Jo Jan Vandenheede pastor.nordic.church@gmail.com or visit: <http://www.reformation500.uk/events.htm?id=21>

CTMR Commemorating 'Luther 500'

The 6 CTMR Presidents are fully endorsing the Statement of the CTE Presidents regarding the celebration of Luther 500 in England. The **CTMR Presidents** would like to offer a common witness to Churches in Merseyside by each reflecting on one of the 5 Rs: **Rejoicing, Remembering, Reforming, Repenting, Reconciling**. These 500 word-reflections will be available for publication in Church Newsletters of all denominations and will be circulated by the CTMR Office for publication from May to October 2017 (omitting August).

For background information please see statement of the CTE Presidents Feb 2016, using the following link: http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/462002/Home/News/Latest_news_articles/Commemorating_Reformation_1517.asp

“Seasons of Welcome Event”

Saturday 18th March 2017, 9:30am–1pm
Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Ln, Lp L1
3BT



Come and explore how Christians might work together with their communities to raise awareness and explore faith through the “seasonal calendar” of the locality. The event will include opportunities to highlight local good practice through exhibition tables or ‘mini presentations’; reflect on

what it means to become “communities of welcome” and find out more about the national prayer initiative “Thy Kingdom Come”. Introductory workshops will provide the opportunity as churches, parishes and churches together groups to make plans and share ideas to take forward.

Main Speakers: Michael Harvey and Rev Phil Jump, NW Regional Baptist

Minister. All welcome! Cost: £7

Please **book** by contacting the CTMR office office@ctmr.org.uk or calling 0151 709 0125

“Thy Kingdom Come”

Join in the ecumenical, international call to prayer for mission and evangelism between Ascension and Pentecost 2017

... in whatever way is right for you; in your local churches, Churches Together groups, families, as individuals, ...

The Presidents of Churches Together in England are encouraging Churches of all traditions to partner in the “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer event from **25 May – 4 June 2017**.

People around the world are invited to join in this wave of prayer.

How can you participate? It’s not complicated – people are simply asked to pray in whatever way they want and with whoever they want for others to come to know Jesus Christ.

You are invited to **register your Pledge2Pray** at www.thykingdom.co.uk

As a follow up to the CTE Presidents’ Statement, Video, and Presentation to the recent Enabling Group meeting of Churches Together in England, Lambeth Palace are hosting a launch event. CTMR have chosen a representative to attend this event at the beginning of February ‘17 For further information please visit www.cte.org.uk/thykingdomco



Pentecost 2017 & 'Thy Kingdom Come' on Merseyside

Cardinal Vincent Nichols who is one of the 6 Churches Together in England (CTE) Presidents has accepted an invitation to preach in Liverpool on 'Thy Kingdom Come' at **Pentecost (4 June)** this year. 'Thy Kingdom



Come Celebrations' will begin with services on Ascension Day (please see below) and prayers will be arranged locally until Pentecost. At Pentecost there will be a service at 3pm which will be the climax of all 'Thy Kingdom Come' activities in Liverpool. If a funding bid is successful a highly animated pageant along Hope Street will be part of the celebrations.

Please watch this space and hold the date in your diaries.

This year also the **Metropolitan Cathedral** celebrates its **50th anniversary**.

You are invited to prayers led by the United Reformed Church on **Ascension Day, 25 May 2017:**

- 10:30am – noon at Parkgate & Neston URC

(Moorside Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6QP)

- 7:30pm – 9pm at St. John's URC, Warrington

(Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington, WA4 6QE)

The Services are followed by time for prayer and are led by Revd Jacky Embrey, Moderator of the URC Mersey Synod



Hustings prior to 'Metro Mayor' elections on 4 May 2017

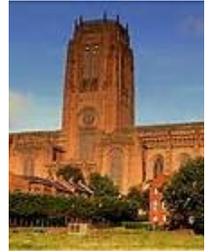
CTMR Church Leaders have offered to the 6 Borough Councils involved (Liverpool, Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton & Wirral) to host hustings ahead of the election to the new **Liverpool City Regional Mayor**.

On the Government website it says that it is 'a proposed agreement between the government and the leaders of the Liverpool City Region to devolve a range of powers and responsibilities to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and a new directly elected mayor for the city region.'

Church Leaders are working on a manifesto conveying the CTMR value based vision. Hustings are being arranged in close collaboration with Liverpool Voluntary Sector Partnership (VS6). Please contact the CTMR Office

for further information. Email:
office@ctmr.org.uk Tel: 0151 709 0125.

One husting is confirmed to take place in **Liverpool on 6th April '17, 6:30 pm at the Anglican Cathedral** followed by refreshments. Details for other hustings to be circulated via email as they emerge



MP Lunch & Civic Reception

Lunch for local MPs and the Civic Reception for Leaders of the Borough Councils and Mayors within the Mersey-side Region will take place in March and October this year. Both are hosted by the CTMR Presidents. Please keep those events in your prayers. Thank you!



CTE Liturgies & Resources for Luther 500

Two items from the CTE Joint Liturgical Group may be of interest if you are looking to commemorate Luther 500. The **Reformation 500—Order of Service and Resources** (please see link below) are based on the 5 Rs (Remembering, Reforming, Repenting, Rejoicing, Reconciling) which the six Presidents of Churches Together in England have offered as themes for commemorating the Reformation in 2017. These resources are offered by CTE to churches for use before or in connection with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on 31 October 2017, the date commemorating the start of the Lutheran Reformation in 1517. Please see links below:

Reformation 500 –Order of Service and Resources

<http://www.jlg.org.uk/Resources/Luther.shtml>

SHAPING OUR WORSHIP Conference, London, 7 Mar '17 by Joint Liturgical Group of GB

<http://www.jlg.org.uk/Events/index.shtml>

SHAPING OUR WORSHIP

We shape our worship, our worship shapes us.

A conference hosted by The Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain. All welcome.



Date: 7th March 2017, welcome at 10.30, close 5.00pm
Venue: The National Centre for Liturgy, 200 Strand, London, WC2R 0PH
Cost: £10 per person, includes lunch
Email: office@jlg.org.uk
Web: www.jlg.org.uk

REFORMATION



500



Get Set Go, 11 March 2017

is designed to help churches who wish to start or develop a men's ministry. A number of experts will be present so as to explore how to do this and how to network with other like-minded churches. For full details please follow the link <http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/Men--s-Conference---Get-Set-Go---March-11th-2017>

Big Church Day Out, 2-3 June 2017

Capesthorn Hall, Cheshire.

The programme is predominantly music and worship based but with a focus on fun and fellowship as well.

For further information please email: <https://bigchurchdayout.com/north>



Big Day Out, 8 July 2017

Southport Convention Centre

Speakers: John Proctor, Steve Chalke, Lawrence Moore. Further information by emailing: admin@NWSynod.org.uk All welcome.



ADDENDUM to "A Guide: Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants 'Welcoming the Stranger'"

At present CTMR/Support for Asylum Seekers, Together Liverpool and Asylum Link Merseyside are collaborating on an ESOL pamphlet entitled **English for Speakers of Other Languages**. This is an Addendum to the CTMR document "Welcome The Stranger" which has proved so popular. It will be particularly useful for faith groups and charities who are preparing to support asylum seekers This pamphlet will be available for printing soon.

Lenten Resource from CTBI

Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths. The 2017 Lent resource explores how Christian faith has been deepened & enriched by encounters with people of different religions. To

download, visit Churches Together in Britain & Ireland website at <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-course-2017/>



Forge North West

Equipping Christians missionally where they are.
Accessible, affordable and practical missional
training at a centre near you.

March 3-5th 2017; July 14-16th 2017; November 24-26th 2017

Venue: Salvation Army, Liverpool Valley premises, Mildenhall Road. Liverpool

L25 2SN. **Further information** liz.j.milne@salvationarmy.org.uk



News Flashes

Mission in the Economy MitE

has a new Co-ordinator, Mike Prescott, a new web address, a new email and a new branding:

Web address: www.mitechaplaincy.com

Contact email: info@mitechaplaincy.com

Twitter/facebook/Instagram: @mitechaplaincy

Mike Prescott was commissioned at Liverpool Parish Church this January by the Archbishop of Liverpool with a sermon by the Bishop of Liverpool.



Merseyside Council of Faiths

Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of the Methodist Liverpool District has agreed to co-chair the Council of Faiths representing CTMR Church Leaders.

Liverpool Hope University

are planning a series of theological events in 2017 to commemorate Luther 500.

Information will be posted at: [EventsCalendar - Liverpool Hope University](#)



Regular Meetings at CTMR

CTMR Presidents meet quarterly to set overall strategy for Churches Together in the Merseyside Region.

CTMR Management Council/RSB also meet quarterly to set budgets, produce accounts, annual reports provide governance, and compliance oversight to CTMR Presidents.

CTMR Project Teams meet to project manage events as they occur.

Denominational Communications Officers within the Merseyside Region will meet 3 times a year.

Denominational Ecumenical Officers also meet 3 times a year.



Diary of CTMR Events 2017



- 21 Feb** Story Mobile Truck in Liverpool (see p 2)
- 18 Mar** Seasons of Welcome Event in Liverpool (see p 3)
- April** Husting(s) ahead of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority election-**Thu 6 April @ Liverpool Cathedral** (see p 4,5)
To be arranged in other Boroughs
- 25 May-4 June** Thy Kingdom Come (see p 3/4)
- 4 Jun** Pentecost Event 3pm (details to be confirmed, see p 4)
- May -Oct** 500 words statements by CTMR Presidents on the 5Rs available for publication in Church Newsletter (see p 2)

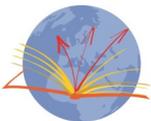
International Events

9-13 May 2017 **Travelling together: Christians on the Way to Unity** 5-day event, hosted by the Focolare Movement, for Christians of all Churches, ages and vocations, offering opportunity to gain insights with hundreds of others into the ecumenical journey of Churches across the world. For further information please call 0151 482 6674 / 0151 722 3981, visit www.focolare.org.uk or email: north@focolare.org.uk



21-28 August 2017 **Ecumenical international conference on the Reformation** to be held in Wittenberg in August in commemoration of the 500th anniversary "From the True Treasure of the Church(es): Rediscovering the Gospel Together

Main Organiser International Ecumenical Fellowship IEF
Further info available from CTMR Office



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