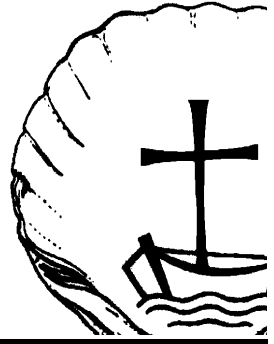


Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

Ecumenical NewsBrief

March 2016

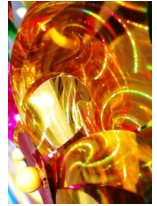


Pentecost 2016

Churches invited to Pentecost Pageant

May 15th 3pm Starting at Liverpool Cathedral

Churches are invited to this year's Pentecost Pageant, our traditional two cathedrals walk on Hope Street.



The walk will start at Liverpool Cathedral with a short act of worship before the choirs and CTMR Church Leaders head up the procession to the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Following the success of 2014's walk of witness this year there are plans for a bigger and bolder expression in partnership with Liverpool City Council and partners along Hope Street. Plans for the walk include stages for various bands and artists at various locations along the famous street. Echoing the Pentecost theme the street will be emblazoned in a splash of colour as the procession traverses the street culminating at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

And cameras from the BBC will be present to capture the event for a future Songs of Praise.

In a new approach the close will be on the plaza of the Metropolitan Cathedral enabling a larger audience to witness the final acts set against the cathedral's magnificent backdrop.

We anticipate large numbers to be present for this year's walk which will be a strong act of witness to the city and region.

Please come along and bring your parish/ association banners.

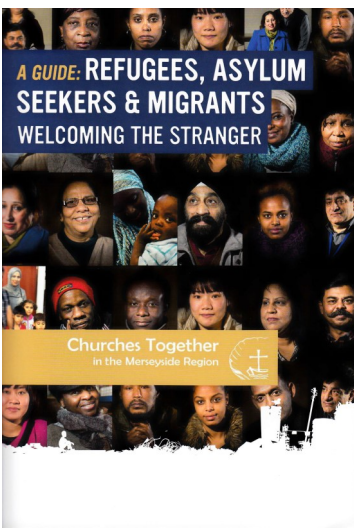
More details about this exciting event can soon be found on the CTMR and Diocese of Liverpool websites: www.liverpool.anglican.org



A Guide: Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants Welcoming the Stranger

A ground-breaking document written by the Justice and Peace Commission in conjunction with other church leaders was published in March

The innovative guide 'Welcoming the Stranger' is intended for churches and other groups to help them find a way to respond positively to the refugee crisis. With easy to read sections and important factual information the guide busts myths that have grown up to describe this national and global crisis.



Importantly the document offers clear guidance and support to help church communities, and others, offer practical help as they seek to welcome the stranger. They say all churches and communities can consider

- Helping new arrivals to integrate into local communities
- Donating money to groups and charities who help asylum seekers and refugees
- Donating clothes and goods to these organisations
- Volunteering to develop skills, like teaching English to asylum seekers and refugees
- Helping asylum seekers with transport costs,

like buying saver tickets or travel passes

- Campaigning and adding our Christian voices to the local and national picture
- Praying and reflecting, and keeping the issue in the forefront of our minds
- Supporting the City of Sanctuary and Places of Welcome local and national movements

Volunteers needed for Debt Advice Centre

Triple C Liverpool

is a small charity that originally started as a collaboration between St Christopher's and Christ Church in Norris Green and The Church of the Good Shepherd in Croxteth. They work with people in the L11 area of the city and their projects include working with older people and children and families. They operate 3 foodbank distribution centres and a debt advice service.



They are currently recruiting volunteers to work in the Debt Advice Centre. For further information please contact Emma Howarth: triplecemmahowarth@yahoo.co.uk

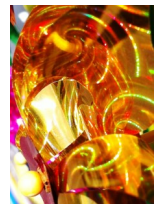
New Community Choir



Abigail Birch and her friends have launched a community choir for all ages and standards. Lead by enthusiastic students, they aim to provide powerful choral/classical music to the community. New members are welcome to join them each Sunday at 12:30pm at Dovedale Baptist Church. For more information contact abigail.k.birch@hotmail.co.uk

On Pentecost Eve

Following the invitation of Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu's call to prayer for the evangelization of the nation, **the Anglican Cathedral will be open for prayer** in the evening on Pentecost day for anyone from any denomination. Some moments of corporate prayer will be led in the Lady Chapel between 6pm and 8pm on that evening (May 15).





Commemorating 'Reformation 1517'

The Presidents of Churches Together in England

encourage all churches in England to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 with sensitivity acknowledging our unity in Christ. They have issued a statement. To access it, please copy and paste the following link: http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/462002/Home/News/Latest_news_articles/Commemorating_Reformation_1517.aspx

From Conflict to Communion

is the title of a joint statement from the World Lutheran Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. <https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20Conflict%20to%20Communion.pdf>

Please see chapter VI for five ecumenical imperatives.



Luther 500

Looking ahead

Plans are underway in Merseyside to commemorate the anniversary of the Reformation in Germany in 2017.

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