

Ecumenical NewsBrief

2021



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The News from the World Council of Churches (WCC)

Election of new World Council of Churches General Secretary delayed by Coronavirus

Former Secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit left the WCC at the end of March 2020, and was consecrated as bishop and installed as the Presiding Bishop of the Bishop's Conference in the Church of Norway at the end of April 2020.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit. Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Saucă has been appointed WCC **Acting** General Secretary

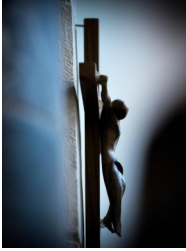


from 1 April. Ioan Saucă, from the Orthodox Church in Romania, has been Professor of Missiology and Ecumenical Theology at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey since 1998 and its director since 2001. He has served as a WCC Deputy General Secretary since 2014. For more information please follow this [link](#)

Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Saucă Photo: World Council of Churches

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18—25 January 2021

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed during the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the [Monastic Community of Grandchamp](#) in Switzerland. The theme “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17.



Week of Prayer 2021 Resources

This year's resources are once again available on the CTBI website. To access them, please copy and paste <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer> into your browser.



Christian Aid & Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Each year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. Please copy and paste <https://ctbi.org.uk/goanddo> into your browser.

Social Media & Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Show your support for Christian Unity by posting unity messages and details of your events to our [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Twitter wall](#) and simply add the #wpcuwall hashtag to your Twitter post—please note there is a delay before they appear. You can also find updates about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Twitter by following the #wpcu2021 hashtag.

Why not pick up the phone

Since we can't get together at this time, why not pick up the phone and contact someone from a different denomination during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Also **why not** consider dedicating each day during this octave to pray for a church of a different denominations in your area.

News from Churches Together in England



One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission,
empowered by the Spirit

CTE trifold leaflet



At the beginning of each year CTE produces a tri-fold A4 leaflet. It is a very useful resource which includes staff details, a list of our member churches, an overview of the previous year and projects for the current year. The 2021 leaflet should be available soon and can be accessed [here](#).

News from CTE continued

One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission,
empowered by the Spirit



CTE Review 2020

will be available soon on the CTE website

Farewell to Dr Joe Aldred



CTE's Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations, Bishop Joe Aldred, retired on 31 October 2020.

Many colleagues who have worked with Bishop Joe over the years have sent in memories and messages about the impact he has had on the ecumenical journey during his time at CTBI and CTE. For a perspectives on his impact and legacy, please follow this [link](#). CTMR Church Leaders also wrote a note of thanks to Joe on his retirement.

Welcome to Sarah Ball

Sarah Ball is the Communications Assistant (part-time post) for Churches Together in England. She works alongside [Lucy Olofinjana](#) on CTE's website, social media and communications.



Welcome Shermara Fletcher



to the role of Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations. Shermara will lead CTE's work amongst Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, as well as facilitating CTE's new Racial Justice Working Group. She'll commence in March 2021.

News from CTE continued

One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission,
empowered by the Spirit



CTE Resources (also on COVID-19)

A link to the many CTE resources available can be found [here](#).



CTE & Coronavirus

On the CTE webpage you will also find a new tab entitled [Coronavirus](#) where a number of different kinds of resources and guidelines can be found.

The Receptive Ecumenism Course

Embracing the Other is a resource for Receptive Ecumenism produced by a team served by Churches Together in England. It is free for anyone to use. It is intended for groups of people, perhaps from different church traditions, can be found [here](#).



Bill Snelson

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Bill Snelson former General Secretary of CTE died on the morning of Thursday 17 December 2020. He became the second General Secretary of Churches Together in



England in succession to Canon Martin Reardon. During his tenure from 1997 to 2008, Bill encouraged and witnessed an expansion of the membership of England's Ecumenical Instrument, in particular from the Pentecostal constituency. For a tribute to Bill please visit the [CTE's website](#).

CTE Webinar

Acting together for Racial Justice

Black Lives Matter has challenged Christians about our role and shortcomings in confronting racism. Can we now help one another in taking positive action?

Three things are needed: recognition, lament and education. That's the conclusion of Keyboard who make connections in Bristol between black churches, and white-led churches, meeting



together and meeting separately. This was shared in an online event about racial justice, hosted by Churches Together in England.

Another key insight was that white Christians should not be looking to BAME Christians to help them, and to have to relive all over again the pain of repeated microaggression that black people today are on the receiving end of. There is already quite enough documented about the issues, and resolutions passed. It's now about action.

We'd love to hear from Christians in the CTMR area who are taking action or wanting to, in however small a way, in solidarity, personal contact, righting wrongs, in employment and institutions.

CTMR could offer a space where people can meet, or share hopes, or create a reading group. Things we couldn't do on our own become possible when we connect with others.

Go to the [Racial Justice page](#) on our website, and maybe you can add to the stories and resources there.

Racial Justice Sunday this year is 14 February <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>

The 'All Ecumenical Officers Conference'

which was due to take place in 2020 was postponed to September 2021 and we are very much looking forward for this event to take place if circumstances allow it.

A Meeting of CTE with NW Church Leaders

took place last week entitled Re-imagining Intermediate Ecumenism. A representative from each of the 5 areas in the North West gave a brief introduction to the 36 participants about how they work ecumenically in their region. The report from Merseyside highlighted that at present ecumenism focuses on being light footed and missional in this region. We are reaching out to parts of the Church that are not so well represented and



there are good relationship between Church Leaders and Civic Society. It emerged strongly from this meeting that good relationships are at the heart of ecumenism and enable us to listen to God and to one another. Our colleagues from CTE were uplifted by this zoom gathering.

Northern Ecumenical Officers

Colleagues from the North East, West Yorkshire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester continue to meet now via zoom on a quarterly basis for mutual support and sharing. It is very valuable to meet colleagues from across the North and to experience the warmth of relationships.

We are delighted to have Jenny Bond from CTE with us who is based in Manchester.



News from Merseyside



CTMR Church Leaders group



CTMR Church Leaders met 5 times in 2020 mostly via zoom and continue to give direction to the work of CTMR. Their annual retreat was postponed to a time when it's possible again to meet face to face. CTMR Church Leaders continue to rotate the chair of their meetings.

CTMR Management Council

There is a new CTMR Management Council in place with a smaller number of trustees appointed by the Church Leaders. The membership of this group is based on operational skills rather than denominational representation so as to take ahead practical matters concerning CTMR as a charity and providing support to the Ecumenical Co-ordinator.

CTMR Denominational Officers

Denominational Officers from Merseyside also continue to meet via zoom on a quarterly basis for mutual support, updating and to enable working together more closely.

CTMR Safeguarding Group

There is a new convener of the Safeguarding Group and meetings will recommence once current circumstances permit. The convener is Liverpool Methodist District Safeguarding Officer Ms Linda Locke.

Image by Cheryl Holt from Pixabay (pixabay.com)



CTMR Church Leaders Invite Local MPs

CTMR remains committed to an **annual lunch for local MPs** from the Merseyside Region. The outbreak of the pandemic meant this could not go ahead in March 2020, but invitations have gone out for March 2021. This lunch provides vital networking opportunities for meaningful conversation in a context of mutual support and constructive engagement.



Picture: MPs lunch in 2019

A Different Kind of CTMR Civic Reception

CTMR also continues to plan for the hosting an annual gathering for **mayors and civic leaders** to foster ongoing co-operation with faith communities.

Again because of the pandemic, the event had to be cancelled in 2020. However the Church Leaders wrote to Mayors and Leaders of the Council to offer them the opportunity to send through any prayer requests and to assure them of their prayers for them and their people.

They also invited them to let them know of anything practical that the churches could do to help, which they were not already doing.

Leaders of Councils wrote notes of thanks to the Church Leaders and very much welcomed their prayers and offer of further assistance. They are aware that churches in the area are already linking in with the community voluntary services.

It was heart-warming to receive prayer requests from Leaders of the Councils for the citizens in their care.

There is a date in the diary for this year's civic reception in June 2021

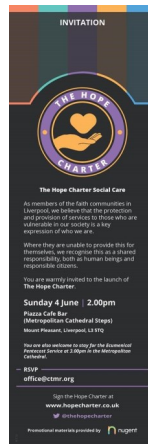


Picture: Civic Reception in 2018

CTMR Social Justice Group

Churches Together in Merseyside have a shared commitment to challenging and combatting injustice. Current initiatives include the “Hope Charter” calling for a fairer and better resourced approach to providing care for the elderly and vulnerable in our region, and supporting refugees with a particular emphasis on forced detention.

Along with Churches Together in Cheshire CTMR also encourage the communities in the Region to stand against modern day slavery both in consumer choices and by being vigilant as we go about our daily lives.



Many Churches in our various areas...



.....pray for their local churches of different denominations on a rota basis. Why not include a prayer in your services for the local Churches in your area too?

Please tell us

We are aware that there will have been countless local ecumenical events throughout the year. In Mossley Hill the weekly zoom meeting of ministers is a source of joy amidst the pandemic. We would love to hear from you about any ecumenical initiative at this time.



Who Cares? Life after COVID19: The Perspective and contribution of the Churches.

Thursday, 28th January 2021 - registration required



Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon



Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes



Denise Barret Baxendale, Chief Executive, Everton Football Club



Professor Gerard Pillay, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool Hope University



Lesley Martin-Wright, Chief Executive, Knowsley Chamber of Commerce



Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council

The Metropolitan Cathedral and Liverpool Cathedral in collaboration with the Heseltine Institute have been reflecting together recently on the role of the Churches in a post-COVID world and more widely how we all rebuild the Liverpool City Region. At the beginning of their reflections Pope Francis published his encyclical [Fratelli Tutti](#) which stimulated us to think about some of the bigger questions around what people do and how they face this Covid world. The Pope in 'Fratelli Tutti' raises the importance of living together, the responsibility we have to support one another and to cooperate with one another. The Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon and the Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes will make the opening contributions. They will be responded to by: Denise Barret-Baxendale, Chief Executive, Everton Football Club; Professor Gerard Pillay, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool Hope

Who Cares? Life after COCOVID - cont.

University; Lesley Martin-Wright, Chief Executive, Knowsley Chamber of Commerce and Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council. Our discussion will be chaired by Professor Michael Parkinson from the University of Liverpool. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of a shared conversation across Liverpool City Region in the coming months.

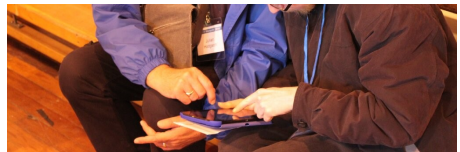


It is **necessary** to register to ensure you can participate. Please open the link below which gives details of the event and complete the Eventbrite registration.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/liverpool-responds-who-cares-what-kind-of-life-after-covid-19-tickets-135533060031?aff=Michaelemail>

CTMR Communications Officers

As restrictions because of the pandemic set in, Communications Officers met online to discuss co-ordinated communications during the Covid-19 restrictions. Their meeting resulted in:



- A structured [web-page](#) where a **message** from the CTMR Church Leaders during the current crisis can be found. It also provides links to **resources** available within various denominations in Merseyside for use at this time. Resources will be updated as they become available.
 - A Facebook page where various partners can offer invitations and information through the press/communications representatives. Please click [here](#) for the Churches Together in the Merseyside Region Facebook page.
- Some significant conversation took place around what churches do once this is over.

Pentecosts 2020 and 2021

Ecumenical Celebrations 2020

Last year's **virtual walk along Hope Street in Liverpool** was entitled '**Our Service of Hope**' and took place on-line only.

It was led by Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of Liverpool Methodist District.



There were contributions by Bishop Paul and Archbishop Malcolm as well as by the Deans of our two cathedrals. 'Outstanding!' was one of the comments. The Service was viewed by more than 1,000 people. To catch up with last year's on-line service, please click [here](#).

Prayer for St Helens

teamed up with Church in the Square and St Helens Church Leaders last year to create United2020, a week long programme of online content created by St Helens Church Leaders across the denominations to engage, inspire and transform lives. For more info please click [here](#)



Pentecost 2 Cathedrals Ecumenical Celebration 2021 Sunday 23rd May, 1-3pm



Initial planning for 2021 is underway and as the year progresses, we will understand what shape and form the event will take.

Please hold this date in your diaries. Thank you.

For more details as we get closer to Pentecost 2021 please visit: www.ctmr.org.uk or call 0151 709 0125 or email: office@ctmr.org.uk

Please Tell Us

We would be delighted to hear about any ecumenical celebrations which you are planning locally at Pentecost 2021.

Partnering with other Christians where you are?

From Andrew Edwards—LEP Co-ordinator for CTMR



Maybe you're working with Christians of other traditions on a particular project, or you're finding that you are planning or praying or dreaming together, and you may be wondering how to take the next steps. At what point do you need to put something on paper? What would be appropriate for you? What will strengthen your partnership at this stage? Who do you need to talk to? Are there others doing something like this?

Churches Together in England have created [A Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission](#) which helps with questions like this. We've been involved hands on with putting together the **toolkit** that goes with this. Please get in touch, and we'll do everything we can to help.

And we love to hear stories about the joys and struggles, and as far as possible to help problem solve together – we always want to be finding the way to answer questions, “Yes, you can”.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Around our region there are over twenty worshipping congregations, bringing together different traditions. These LEPs (Local Ecumenical Partnerships) have a formal written agreement affecting the ministry, congregational life, buildings and/or mission projects of more than one denomination, with authorization by the appropriate denominational authorities and the registration of the agreement with CTMR.

LEPs open up opportunities for sharing resources and mission initiatives – they also throw up their own questions and challenges. We're here to offer advice, or point in the direction of others who can.

For different types of LEPs please follow this [link](#). Andrew Edwards, LEP Co-ordinator for CTMR, Tel: 0151 203 9117 To contact Andrew, please [click here](#).

Support for Asylum Seekers (SAS)

Destitution Project - 2020

If we asked a person seeking asylum or refuge on Merseyside how has their situation changed owing to the current pandemic they would probably list among other things that their access to food, clothes, toilet-



ries has been severely curtailed; their opportunities to meet and socialise with their friends and compatriots have been stopped or restricted and the access to advice and advocacy with their cases has been made more difficult. More especially they would probably say their lack of resources and feelings of hope are having a detrimental effect on their mental wellbeing.

Despite the practical difficulties presented by the pandemic SAS in collaboration with our incredibly resourceful partner agencies have continued to provide practical humanitarian support at a personal level to people seeking asylum and refuge in our local community.

Where possible, activities and social interaction have been made available in order to support their wellbeing and provide hope for the future.

Our main partner agencies include Asylum Link Merseyside, Refugee Women Connect, Faiths4Change and Merseyside Refugee Support Network.

Specifically, SAS has financially supported focused and targeted projects for the destitute including:

Ø At St Michael in the City the former overgrown and derelict garden area around the church has been cleared and a new Community garden is in use by volunteers and visitors and will be developed further in 2021.

The regular support that SAS provides gives "Roots in the City – Community Garden" a reliable source of income – can pay staff & volunteers and buy materials to help grow fresh organic vegetables and herbs for Asylum Seekers and Refugees using the Micah Liverpool food bank at St Brides Church, Liverpool.



Specifically SAS will additionally fund in 2021 pallets of peat compost and the erection of a wooden shelter to provide cover and shade for the volunteers.

Ø Despite having to close St. Anne's Centre for health and security reasons during the pandemic, Asylum Link Merseyside has continued to maintain contact with as many of the destitute as possible. Two houses and two former presbyteries still provide emergency accommodation. Outreach drops provide a lifeline and personal contact with emergency support grants, food parcels, food vouchers, and small cash donations delivered to the hostels or hotels or known addresses for our clients. English as a second language (ESOL) lessons have continued via Zoom meetings, and there have been some restricted outings for students such as bike rides. SAS provided funding for small cash donations to our clients ahead of the recent Christmas break.

Ø Refugee Women Connect [formerly MRANG] has adopted innovative ways of maintaining contact during the pandemic by providing emergency support grants to their clients, many with young babies, who for various reasons beyond their control are destitute i.e. no access to public funds or homeless or both.

Ø In 2020 SAS received a request from Merseyside Refugee Support Network [MRSN] to provide practical targeted financial support for their clients while their cases are progressed.

SAS is able to guarantee the current level of support for MRSN and our other partners for the next year. However none of the above projects would be possible without the financial grants and donations received from our



longstanding and generous supporters – individuals, church communities, and faith groups.

Thank you all on behalf of our partner agencies and of course on behalf of the grateful people seeking asylum

and refuge in our community.

By Neil Cunningham

To contact Neil please follow this [link](#)

Liverpool Cologne Church Partnership

A zoom meeting between the two Partnership Groups took place in December 2020. One shared area of concern was the effect on income for larger churches (like the three Cathedrals!) caused by COVID.

Image courtesy: Diocese of Liverpool



Sadly planning for visits are on hold. It had been hoped that some of the Merseyside Church Leaders might visit Koln this year and that a delegation from Koln would visit Merseyside to visit a range of mission initiatives across the denominations.

By Ultan Russell

Archdiocesan Synod 2020 Ecumenical Involvement

The Ecumenical Observers have been active in preparing for the Archdiocese's Synod (still called Synod 2020 albeit in June 2021) The CTMR 18+ Young Adults Group have been particularly pro-active in their preparation.



By Ultan Russell

Eighty Ecumenical Prayers & Reflections for the COVID-19 Crisis from the Worldwide Church



Please [click here](#) to find a link to a prayer resource for the COVID-19 crisis, compiled by Cynthia Dowdle and Ultan Russell.

The layout of the booklet was designed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Liverpool Seafarers Centre Takes Gifts onto Ship

Liverpool Seafarers Centre mission is to promote the spiritual, moral and physical welfare of persons who are, or have been, seafarers and their families.



Liverpool Seafarers

Centre (LSC) as we know it today is the result of a successful partnership between the Anglican Mersey Mission to Seafarers and the Catholic Apostleship of the Sea (Liverpool).

The Centre took Christmas gifts for seafarers on board a vessel docked in Liverpool thanks to Waitrose in Formby. The store got in touch to help, donating mince pies, chocolates, sweets and personal hygiene products to the value of £440. Each seafarer also received a Christmas card handwritten by a Waitrose partner.

LSC chief executive John Wilson took 25 on board the ACL Atlantic Sail and presented them to crew members, who were due to spend Christmas at sea, along with a further 15 to another vessel.

The donation from Waitrose, which already donated surplus food to seafarers via FareShare, was made as part of the John Lewis Partnership Give a Little Love campaign.

To find out more about Liverpool Seafarers Centre please visit their website:

www.liverpoolseafarerscentre.org

Dialogue Between Faith Communities

Photo at Bshops' Lodge 2019

Throughout 2020 the leaders of the different faith communities in the City Region continued to meet, mainly by Zoom. As well as meet-



ing together, the faith leaders were able to work with local authorities throughout the pandemic on a number of issues. In particular, local authorities were able to accommodate the needs of different communities around death and funerals. In addition, faith communities were crucial in tackling local spikes in COVID, and also in communicating public health messages across the region. For more information about interfaith work in the Liverpool City Region and how you can connect your church to other local faith communities please contact the Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing (Rector of Liverpool) rector@livpc.co.uk.

By Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing

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. Email: hen.jones@bbc.co.uk

Image: BBC Radio Merseyside



or by post - Helen Jones, Daybreak, BBC Radio Merseyside, P.O. Box 95.8, Liverpool, L69 1ZJ.

Also **if you are doing anything to help people out at the moment** they would like to know. Simply email: makeadifference.merseyside@bbc.co.uk

CTMR Young Adults

“Two Years On” - Review of CTMR 18+

We could hardly believe that we had been meeting as a group for two whole



years. How amazing!. Time to look back, and reflect on the journey so far. We enjoyed chatting online about how things have developed over the past two years.

Firstly, we reflected on **how on earth we had all ended up coming together** and joining the group in the first place! It was interesting to hear how for most of us, it was because we had been asked to give it a try by another person, who had thought that it might be something that we would enjoy. These “**encouragers**” included friends, Chair of District, University Chaplain, Priests, and Parents. Reflecting on this helped us to realise that it’s often through personal contact that people will be encouraged to participate in Faith groups such as ours.

One of our group was interested to know **what the Church Leaders think** about our group. Elisabeth assured us that they are very interested in us, we are on the agenda at all of their meetings and they encourage and support us.

We moved on to share our thoughts about **what belonging to CTMR means** to us and **what we have gained** from it. We all agreed that we have grown

tremendously as a group and have felt privileged to be part of it. We have enjoyed welcoming new members and also feel happy to see people come and go, and have the freedom to rejoin with a welcome if they wish.

Highlights of our journey include the social elements and our sense of be-



longing. We reminisced about our walks and chats and ***our laughs together*** our shared prayer and our involvement in the ***Pentecost celebrations (see photo below)*** had all been highly valued and important to us. It was great to be asked to read in the Cathedrals, and to share in the Liturgy together.

We were all able to be involved in the Catholic Synod within the Archdiocese and some of us took part as members as well as **Ecumenical observers**.



As a group, we feel grateful that we have built up trust in our relationships and it's easy to confide in each other and discuss our faith and our concerns freely, in an atmosphere of **Christian fellowship, trust and mutual respect**.

We care for each other and we have realised that although we come from different denominations, our differences are not an issue. **There is a strong bond of unity. Through mixing and listening and discussing, we have all seen that we are members of a family.** We all follow Jesus, and He is central to the lives of each and every one of us.

Picture: A social evening turned into a moment of sharing.

We have enjoyed the **shared leadership** we have experienced together, when each one of us has taken turns to plan and lead our sessions.



This has led us to delve into a wide variety of topics and has enabled us to enrich each other through the shared experiences of our faith journeys. At the same time, we are keen to remain faithful to our own traditions and value them.

The feeling of **Community** has been especially helpful to us during the pandemic, when we have looked forward to meeting online and helping each other to cope with the ups and downs of the restrictions, the hopes and fears and the difficulties encountered through this strange new way of living.

Before the restrictions, we were able to **visit each other's places of worship**. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Salvation Army, the Catholic University Chaplaincy in the City Centre and the Methodist 'Bread Church'.

Pictures: left: Methodist 'Bread Church', Liverpool City Centre; right: The *Salvation Army*, Liverpool Walton



It was great to learn more about our different traditions and to grow in respect for them, through chatting and spending time together. **We have learned so much from each other** and marveled at the way we all follow Jesus, and how this is expressed in a variety of beautiful, yet different ways.

Image taken at first meeting in November 2018

We ended our review by **con-
prove** upon. We all agreed
better during meetings.
watching the clock!

sidering what we might be able to **im-
prove** that our timekeeping could be
We're not very good at

We also felt that
be able to
others
spread
ex-
ways

we would like to
**reach out to
more,** to
the Word, and to

our Chris-
make a promo-
used to encourage
us? Also, when the re-
organise a residential Retreat

tionality. Perhaps we can
tional video which can be
others who might wish to join
restrictions are over, maybe we can
for the group, when we can mix activi-

ties, reflection and prayer, in an interesting venue? Perhaps, we can fundraise so that we will all be able to attend?

We **thank God** for our belonging to the group, and for the gift of each other, and we pray that we may continue to grow in unity and in the love of God and each other. We look forward to the day when we will be able to meet again in person, and once again enjoy each other's company for the glory of God.

If you know anyone aged between 18 to 30, who may be interested, please encourage them to contact Veronica. veronica@ctmr.org.uk or visit the **CTMR 18+** face book page at <https://www.facebook.com/ctmr18plus/>



Ecumenical Walk of Witness Liverpool City Centre

2pm on Holy Saturday

3rd April 2021 from Metropolitan Cathedral

One of many events which was lost in 2020 during the lockdown, the Ecumenical Walk of

Witness will be back for Easter 2021.

In every city, town and village Christians of different denominations walk together to show the unity we have in Christ.

Come and join the Bishop of Liverpool, the Archbishop of

Liverpool, and leaders of other Christian churches in the region as they walk from the Metropolitan Cathedral at 2pm on Saturday 3 April, reaching Liverpool Parish Church at the Pierhead at 3pm for a short act of worship.

Please follow whatever COVID guidance is in place at the time, and it will be possible to remain distanced if necessary. For more information, contact enquiries@livpc.co.uk.



Thy Kingdom Come 2021



'Thy Kingdom Come' is a **global prayer movement** that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Christians from more than 170 countries and 65 denominations have taken part in past years.

'Thy Kingdom Come' runs between Ascension and Pentecost, and **in 2021 will take place from 13—23 May**.

During the 11 days of 'Thy Kingdom Come', it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. Picture from Thy Kingdom Come website

'Thy Kingdom Come' continues to grow, especially in its ecumenical reach of different churches and denominations involved. In particular, both the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches have a more formal part to play, with their own dedicated resources being produced for their national networks.



A wide range of **resources** are available on the 'Thy Kingdom Come' website: www.thykingdomcome.global/

'Thought for Today' to Keep our Spirits Up from our Churches Together in Great Crosby contact



For about the last 10 years Terri has been the organiser of Churches Together in Great Crosby Welcome-in Scheme and latterly the Council Secretary. Through this she had built up a contact list of about 100 in the Crosby area.

When the pandemic started she began emailing a 'Thought for Today' to these contacts to keep their spirits up.

It was one of these contacts who persuaded her to publish. the A5 size book which contains 104 'Thoughts', some for special occasions— Christmas, Lent, Easter, Remembrance Day, etc. and the rest are general— Difficulties, Hope, Worry,

Photo of Terri holding a copy of the book - taken for The Champion newspaper

etc. and is available on Amazon www.amazon.co.uk. for £4.99. All profits will go to charity.

The pieces in this book first appeared in The Liverpool Daily Post.

Terri Whitaker lives in Liverpool with her husband.

She is a retired college lecturer with a BA Hons in Humanities from The Open University; an MA in Victorian Literature from Liverpool University; an MA in Theology & Religious Studies from Liverpool Hope University, and a Post-graduate Certificate in Education (Post 16) from Liverpool John Moores University.

New CTMR Website

In June 2020 our new website went public and this is the link:

www.ctmr.org.uk

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, fraternal, ...

We would love to hear how Churches are working together in this region.

Electronic versions available

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