

Ecumenical NewsBrief

2022



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News from the World Council of Churches (WCC)



Still awaiting Election of new World Council of Churches General Secretary



Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Sauca is still acting as WCC General Secretary. Ioan Sauca, 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](#)

Photo: Ioan Sauca: World Council of Churches

Bible Studies available

Opening the spiritual path to the WCC 11th Assembly -

Bible studies newly available [here](#)

for:

- ◆ Lent
- ◆ Holy Week
- ◆ Easter
- ◆ Ascension
- ◆ Pentecost
- ◆ Transfiguration
- ◆ Exaltation of the Holy Cross



**Christ's love
moves the world
to reconciliation
and unity**

World Council of Churches
11th Assembly
Karlsruhe, Germany
31 August – 8 September, 2022



News from the World Council of Churches (WCC) continued



WCC 11th Assembly

31 August – 8 September 2022

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from 31 August to 8 September 2022, under the theme "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity"

The Assembly

is the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and normally meets every eight years. It is the only time when the entire fellowship of member

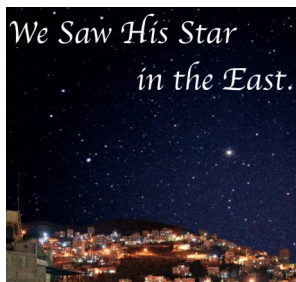


churches comes together in one place for prayer and celebration.

A WCC Assembly is a special time in the lives of member churches, ecumenical partners and other churches, as it brings together more than 4000 participants, coming from all over the world. It is a unique opportunity for the churches to deepen their commitment to visible unity and common witness. This makes a WCC Assembly the most diverse Christian gathering of its size in the world.

As plans for the assembly take shape, Ioan Sauca said, these plans are undergirded with a feeling of moving forward together. WCC 11th Assembly updates will be published every six weeks through September 2022. Please follow this [link](#) for further news and please pray for the assembly.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18—25 January 2022



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 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. They chose 'We saw His star in the East' as this year's theme. Please also see backpage.

Week of Prayer 2022 Resources

This year's resources are once again available on the CTBI website. To access them, please copy and paste <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/> 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.

Social Media & Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Show your support for Christian Unity by posting unity messages and details of your events to the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Twitter wall](#) and simply add the [#wpcu2022](#) 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 same hashtag.

A phone call and a prayer

Why not pick up the phone and contact someone from a different denomination during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for a catch up. 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 (CTE)



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

CTE Presidents—Current and New

CTE is represented by six Presidents from the major traditions of 51 National Member Churches. They meet regularly to discuss matters concerning the Churches in England, and together seek to serve as a sign of our unity. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and Rev Dr Hugh Osgood the Moderator of the Free Churches Group also hold this role. The Fourth Presidency is currently not enacted. This follows a request by CTE's Enabling Group in November 2019, reflecting the lack of agreement within the churches in England regarding aspects of theological and moral discernment.



Image: CTE Presidents (L to R): Archbishop Nikitas, Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Tedroy Powell, Rev Dr Hugh Osgood, Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Presidents of CTE expressed their deep gratitude for the service of Archbishop Angaelos and Pastor Agu during this extraordinary period in the life of the Presidency and of CTE more widely. Wider ecumenical engagement in Thy Kingdom Come, wisdom about responses to the COVID pandemic, and especially their leadership in response to the death of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement, were all priorities 'on their watch.'

For further information please follow this [link](#).

News from CTE continued

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



About the New CTE Presidents

Archbishop Nikitas of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Archdiocese of Thyateira and the United Kingdom is the new Orthodox President.

He represents the Eastern Orthodox churches which alternate with the Oriental Orthodox churches to nominate a President to represent all Orthodox.



Bishop Tedroy Powell of the Church of God of Prophecy is the new Pentecostal and Charismatic President – having been elected by the Pentecostal and Charismatic Forum within CTE as their next Moderator and President.

Photos: CTE



The new Presidents are succeeding Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of London and Pastor Agu Irukwu, leader of Jesus House RCGG in north London, and until recently the leader of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in the UK.



They will be joined by another new President in April 2022 – **Rev Helen Cameron, Methodist Chair of the Northampton District** who will be succeeding Rev Dr Hugh Osgood, the current Free Church President and Moderator of the Free Churches Group of which Helen Cameron is the Moderator-elect.

News from CTE continued

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



Thank you to Paul Goodliff



Paul Goodliff, the **current General Secretary** has served CTE over the past 6 years, following what he understood to be God's call at that time. We are truly grateful to him for accepting the challenge. He has been very supportive of ecumenical work nationwide.

Paul is due to retire in March this year.

Photo: CTBI

New CTE General Secretary appointed

Bishop Mike Royal has been called as the next General Secretary of Churches Together in England (CTE). He will take up his post in March 2022. Paul Goodliff commented on Mike's appointment: "The appointment of Bishop Mike as my successor is a brilliant next step for CTE,...." To find out more, please follow this [link](#).



Photo: CTE

Racial Justice Seminars and Resources

CTE has continued to host Racial Justice Seminars and the third of its kind took place in December 2021. To network with others in the CTMR area, please use this [link](#) to the CTMR website.

For resources on Racial Justice Sunday on 13th February 2021, please follow this [link](#) to the CTBI website.



News from CTE continued



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

CTE Resources

CTE have launched a new website. Why not explore it. A link to the many CTE resources available can be found [here](#).



Coronavirus Guidance & Resources

On the CTE webpage you will also find resources and guidelines on [Coronavirus](#).

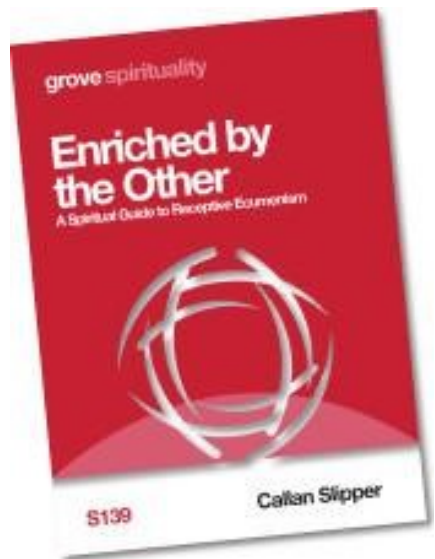


Enriched by the Other: a spiritual guide to receptive ecumenism

Talk of an ecumenical winter may not be wholly correct, but latterly many traditional denominations seem to have become more concerned with their own issues (or survival).

The formal arrangements of the 1960s and 1970s, once so energising, have become rather tired, more old hat than pioneer, and newer expressions are often uneasily decanted into old wineskins.

To read on please follow this [link](#)



News from CTE continued



Ecumenical Officers

There are National, County and Denominational Ecumenical Officers in England. They exist to encourage, assist, and resource Christian unity in a particular area or network. A key part of their work is to connect, encourage and communicate.

National Ecumenical Officers (NEOs) help their own church tradition to work with other churches. For information about the national Ecumenical Officer for your denomination, please follow this [link](#).

Please see below for picture of National Ecumenical Officers present at the All Ecumenical Officers conference in September 2021.



From left to right: David Evans - The Salvation Army, (NEO); Hilary Trevis – NEO, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Faith & Society Coordinator; Philip Brooks - United Reformed Church) Secretary for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations; Callan Slipper – NEO, Church of England; Jan Nowotnik - NEO, Catholic Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales; Michaela Youngson - NEO, Methodist Church; Judith Baker - NEO for Religious Society of Friends; Leão Neto - Assistant Connexional Ecumenical Officer, Methodist Church; Akpo Onduku – NEO, Redeemed Christian Church of God Image: Chris Dobson

News from CTE continued



County Ecumenical Officers (CEOs)

.... support churches working together within a particular county. CEOs are appointed ecumenically to support and encourage local ecumenism (churches working together) across a particular county, metropolitan area or large city. To find the Merseyside Ecumenical Co-ordinator, please follow this [link](#).

Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEOs)

Partner Churches seek to appoint Denominational Ecumenical Officers to encourage local ecumenism through the Dioceses, District, Synod, Baptist Associations, and Salvation Army Division to work as a team within the area. This team encourages local ecumenism (churches working together), offering advice and resources. Denominational Officers also relate to the National Ecumenical Officers within their own church denomination. To find your denominational officer in Merseyside, please follow this [link](#).

Denominational Officers (DEOs) can access training and conferences from Churches Together in England (CTE).



Allister Versfeld (Major) is the Mission Development Officer at Strawberry Field in Liverpool and this is how he summaries his training experience in January 2021. “As a new DEO I found the time spent over the 2 days encouraging, as well as informative, as we shared together in worship and discussion. Time was spent looking at ‘A Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission – TOOLKIT’ which was most helpful. The experience and knowledge shared by those DEOs who have been in the role for a long period of time was also most beneficial. Well worth attending.”

News from CTE continued



The First Ever 'All Ecumenical Officers Conference'

...took place in September 2021. A delegation of four from Merseyside shared a fruitful car journey to meet other Ecumenical Officers from across England to explore 'Nourishing the roots'. The joy of the 108 participants from all over England at meeting face to face again after a very long time was tangible. To read more, please follow this [link](#).

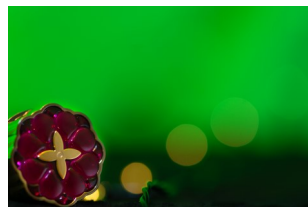


Image: Alex Monkhouse eye.of.alex 'instagram page'

Northern Ecumenical County Officers...

...have continued their meetings for mutual support via zoom every 4 months during the past year. To everyone's delight they met up again face to face after a very long time in December 2021 and ended their meeting sharing a meal. Sharing wisdom has been a great strength of the group.



Picture from left to right: Jo Philips, Cumbria; Elisabeth Hachmoeller, Merseyside; Jenny Bond, Churches Together in England; Joanne Thorns, North East; Anton Mueller, Lancashire

"A life lived with grace"

On 2nd June 2022 choirs throughout the four nations of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth are being invited to join in a unique musical celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



A Song for the Commonwealth

"This is a unique tribute to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II"

CTE is encouraging churches, congregations and parishes throughout England to get involved. Please click [here](#) for further information.

News from Merseyside

CTMR Church Leaders Group



CTMR Church Leaders met 4 times in 2021. It was a great joy for them to start meeting face to face again. They continue to give direction to the work of CTMR. CTMR Church Leaders rotate the chair of their meetings, pray together and share in each others joys and burdens. Together they host an annual Civic Reception, a lunch for local MPs and a Pentecost event. Normally they also spend a retreat day together.

Farewell

In the middle of lock down, the CTMR Church Leaders group said farewell to Rev Jacky Embrey, Moderator of the URC Mersey Synod and Major Roger Batt, our Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army. Jacky is succeeded by Geoff Felton and Roger by David Taylor.

Both moved on to take up new assignments and were very much valued members of the 'team'. Also Bishop Keith Sinclair has retired and is succeeded by Bishop Julie Conalty, the new Bishop of Birkenhead.

Welcome to Four New Members



Julie Conalty
Anglican Suffragan
Bishop of
Birkenhead



Geoff Felton
Moderator
URC Mersey
Synod



Tom Neylon
RC Auxiliary
Bishop Archdiocese
of Liverpool



David Taylor
Divisional
Commander
Salvation Army

CTMR Church Leaders Group Say Farewell to Bishop Paul

At their last meeting CTMR Church Leaders said farewell to Bishop Paul. He will be greatly missed.

Here is what one of the Church Leader said after that meeting: “I thought today’s meeting was very moving. The support and concern we have for each other is wonderful - a little foretaste of the heavenly banquet, perhaps?”

That concern was also felt for those who were unable to be present.



Photo: of some of the CTMR Church Leaders at their December 2021 meeting: from left to right: Bishop Bev, Canon Stephen Coonan, Dean Sue, Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, Bishop Paul, Archbishop Malcolm, Bishop Julie, Bishop Tom Neylon

CTMR Management Council

The smaller CTMR Management Council which is comprised of trustees appointed by the CTMR Church Leaders use their operational skills to take ahead practical matters concerning CTMR as a charity and provide support to the Ecumenical Co-ordinator. They meet three time a year.

CTMR Denominational Ecumenical Officers

Denominational Officers from Merseyside also continue to meet via zoom three times annually for mutual support, updating and to enable working together more closely. Rick Preston from the Baptist Church has moved to pastures new. Our current Ecumenical Officers are:



Rev Andrew
Edwards,
Diocese of
Liverpool



Rev Ian
Smith, URC
Mersey
Synod



Mr Ultan
Russell,
Archdiocese
of Liverpool



Mayor Allis-
ter Versfeld,
The Salva-
tion Army

CTMR Safeguarding Group

A meeting of all ecumenical safeguarding leads is planned as soon as practically possible next year. We are grateful to Linda Locke from the Methodist District who agreed to be the convenor. Thank you, Linda.

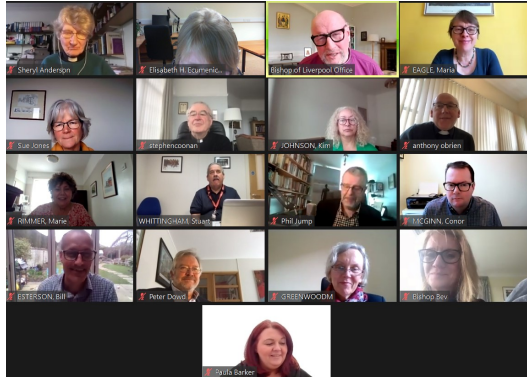
Image by Cheryl Holt from Pixabay (pixabay.com)



CTMR Church Leaders Invite Local MPs

Local MPs are invited to come to lunch with the Church Leaders every year. The Church Leaders aim at having a dialogue in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. Together they reflect on values that help to unite society and they explore what can be done together for the common good.

After having to cancel lunch in 2020 because of the pandemic, in March 2021 MPs and Church



Leaders from the Merseyside Region had an informal meeting on zoom where each had the opportunity to raise any particular items of interest or concern. Together they reviewed how they can best work together and serve the common good in the region and nationally. Picture: MPs zoom in 2021

CTMR Civic Reception 2021 in a Marquee

A Civic Reception for Leaders of the Borough Councils and Mayors within the Merseyside Region takes place every year and is hosted by CTMR Church Leaders. It is an opportunity for Mayors and Leaders of the Council to network among themselves and with the Church Leaders. It is also used to award recognition on civic members of the Region for their contribution to Merseyside and often beyond. This year's reception took place at Archbishop's House in a marquee and was a wonderful occasion for networking in a warm cordial atmosphere and for some good conversations.



Picture: Civic Reception 2021

Methodists and Anglicans in Upholland



In Upholland the Methodist and Anglican churches are wanting to work as closely as possible in the years ahead, building on joint activities like a café and Alpha groups. They have a vision for doing things together that they couldn't do on their own, making the most of the two strengths of their two "sites", sharing resources in the widest sense. Funding has just been secured from the Methodist Church ONE programme for a full time person for 12 months who will work closely with the Anglican minister who has a pioneering mission role. The vision includes new worshipping congregations, reaching all generations as far as possible, and those on the margins. A working commitment is being drawn up, based on the principles in *A Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission*

18.6.2021

Chorley Churches Together Network



Chorley Churches Together Network (CCN) worked together for an online service of prayer with contributions by many churches from across the town. The video compilation of prayers for Christian Unity in January 2021 was forwarded to all the churches in the Network, and across church communities.

Liverpool Cathedrals Honour Keyworkers

On Sunday 19th September Liverpool's two Cathedrals invited representatives of organisations on the frontline during the pandemic to a service of thanksgiving at Liverpool Cathedral, where it was possible to gather in a socially distanced manner to reflect before God.



Dean Sue and Dean Tony from Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral warmly invite you to join them for a service to:

Commemorate the Key Workers
Sunday 19th September, 2021 - 3pm
at Liverpool Cathedral



Speakers from the NHS, TUC, charitable sector, and City Council shared some of the experiences of those who risked their lives by going out while others stayed at home.

The Cathedral choirs sang, and recognising that the pandemic continues to shape our lives, the gathered congregation was able to honour the countless acts of self-sacrifice and love that offered out of the public eye in the last two years.

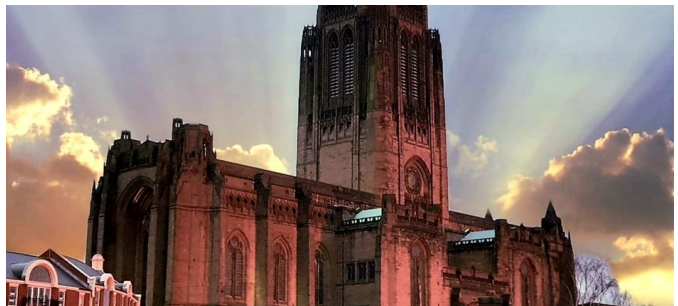


Photo: Diocese of Liverpool
By Philip Anderson, Liverpool Cathedral

Note:

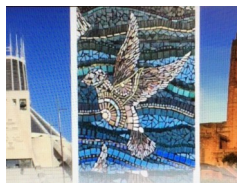
For the next Joint Service by both Cathedrals please see back page about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service in Liverpool,

Pentecost 2022 and 2021

Ecumenical Celebrations 2021

The Spirit at Work in the World -
the Ecumenical Service at Pentecost 2021

The last 2 years or so have been a significant challenge to us all, yet one that underlines our role as a people of faith to be beacons of hope within our communities. COVID has severely disrupted many of the ways in which we seek to express that - one of which is our annual Pentecost festival based around the two cathedrals. For 2021, we have again tried to make this an enriching on-line experience for those who joined.



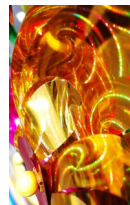
As part of that service, we recognised and celebrated the many ways in which churches are working locally within their communities, and we would like to thank all who sent in a photograph that in some way or another encapsulates "The Spirit at Work in our World/ Communities".

The service itself was built around the Peace Doves installation at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Please click [here for a link](#) to the service.

1st image: Diocese of Liverpool, 2nd image: June Asquith, St Mary's Wavertree

Pentecost Two Cathedrals Ecumenical Celebration Sunday 25 June 2022

Initial planning for 2022 is underway and as the year progresses, we will understand what shape and form the event will take. Please hold this date, Sunday, 25 June in your diaries. For more details as we get closer to Pentecost 2022 please follow this [link](#), 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 2022.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Working Together More and More?

Around our region there are over twenty worshipping congregations, bringing



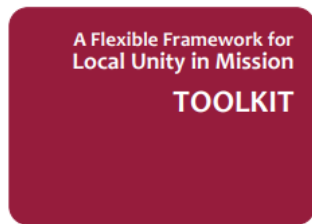
ing together different traditions. These LEPs (Local Ecumenical Partnerships) have a formal written agreement affecting the ministry, congregational life, buildings and/or mission projects of more than one denomination, with authorization by the appropriate denominational authorities and the registration 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.

If you're at an earlier stage we're here to help too. 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, then 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.

Please feel free to contact Andrew Edwards, LEP Co-ordinator for CTMR, by calling: 0151 203 9117 or by emailing him at: andrew.edwards@liverpool.anglican.org. More information about LEPs can be found by following this [link](#) to the CTMR website.



Support for Asylum Seekers (SAS)

Destitution Project - 2021



Awards

It seems to be the award season! It is good news to report that Asylum Link Merseyside was recently awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service—this is the MBE for voluntary groups. Congratulations to them for all the fantastic work over the last twenty years by volunteers, staff and Trustees.



SAS can take some reflected glory in that we have supported financially the Destitution Project, which is delivered largely by ALM, for all those years.



Not quite as grand as an MBE but I am also privileged to have been given recently at the Anglican Cathedral the Josephine Butler Award for Volunteer of the Year 2021.

As part of that award I am able to nominate a local charity to receive £1,000. I have chosen Refugee Women Connect to receive that from the Josephine Butler Foundation. The work of RWC resonates with the incredible and selfless support and campaigning for the rights of

women and children by Josephine Butler.

Destitution Project Delivery

In 2021 our partner agencies have continued to provide practical humanitarian and wellbeing support for 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, Merseyside Refugee Support Network and Action Asylum.

To read the recent SAS November Newsletter click [here](#). That will provide more details about the various work and support being done throughout our network in Merseyside in 2021.

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

- At St Michael in the City the 'Roots in the City – Community Garden' has been in great use by volunteers and visitors alike. There are plans for more widespread collaboration with other organisations in 2022.



The regular support that SAS provides a reliable source of income for staff & volunteers and buys materials to help grow fresh organic vegetables and herbs for those people seeking asylum and refuge who attend the Micah Liverpool food bank at St Brides Church, Liverpool.

- At ALM the main focus has been to enable as many people as possible to have Statutory Accommodation. During the pandemic, Asylum Link Merseyside has continued to maintain contact with as many of the destitute as possible, providing outreach drops 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.

- Refugee Women Connect [formerly MRANG] has continued providing emergency support grants to their clients, many with young babies and no access to public funds or homeless or both. Section 4 applications can take a long time during which SAS financial support is their only source of income.

- Merseyside Refugee Support Network [MRSN] provides practical targeted financial support for their clients while their cases are progressed. Besides lack of funds there are many other problems in their lives which make harrowing reading.

- Action Asylum organise wonderful days out for people seeking asylum and refuge, along with members of local communities. SAS has supported them by providing protective clothing and equipment for a re-planting day in Yorkshire, a clean-up day at Crosby Beach and removal of scrubby vegetation along a section of the Offa's Dyke Path.



Funding

Like many charity providers SAS funds have suffered because of the pandemic but we will be able to provide a slightly reduced financial support for our partners for the next year. If anyone wants to support the



SAS Destitution project cheques should be made payable to “Churches Together in the Merseyside Region S.A.S” or simply “CTMR SAS”. Alternatively donations can be made directly to:

Churches Together in the Merseyside Region
S.A.S, HSBC, 40-29-28, Account 61156144

Afghan Refugees

The [SAS Newsletter](#) shows how our agency Partners are preparing for an influx of Afghani people seeking refuge here on Merseyside. On a recent Radio Merseyside interview Phil Jump, CTMR Chair, was able to convey that preparedness.

Covid Pandemic

The Covid restrictions regarding social distancing have hampered access for clients to guidance and support. Again the SAS Newsletter provides ample evidence of the innovative ways and perseverance by our Partners in helping some of the most marginalised in our community.



As I always say 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.

To contact Neil please follow this [link](#) or liaise with the CTMR Office.

Liverpool Cologne Church Partnership

Sadly there have been no exchanges this year due to COVID and it has been agreed not to follow through on two visits in 2022.

However a visit is planned for 2023 for a major anniversary of the building of Koln Cathedral. A positive development has been zoom meetings with Koln's Partnership Group.

Anyone interested in the Koln link particularly if they are younger or speak German would be welcome to join the Group. Contact the Chair (Ultan Russell) u.russell@rcaolp.co.uk

Image courtesy: Diocese of Liverpool



By Ultan Russell

Ecumenical Involvement in Archdiocesan Synod 2020

The Archdiocese has produced a detailed Pastoral Plan and set up six Development Areas to take the work forward. There is a commitment to establish a Synodal Council drawn principally from Deaneries and with Ecumenical Consultant Observers. The Commission for Dialogue and Unity has submitted detailed reflections on facilitating strong ecumenical input to the Pastoral Plan. A copy of the plan can be [downloaded](#) from the Archdiocese's website. *By Ultan Russell*



Eighty Ecumenical Prayers & Reflections for the COVID 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.

Melisa Campbell, consultant in Public Health to Liverpool City Council, and Co-chair of Liverpool’s Food Insecurity Task Force introduced the plan, why we need it and how the plan has been developed so far; “Food Insecurity has been increasing in Liverpool for the last 10 years. This isn’t something that’s happened as a result of the pandemic, but it has been exacerbated. What we’ve realised from this first phase of our work is that we probably don’t fully understand the extent of food insecurity in Liverpool. There’s much more work to do to recognise the full scale of what we need to address.”



To read more also about the event, find out about the speakers, the five goals of the Good Food Plan and the public pledges, please visit: <https://www.feedingliverpool.org/liverpools-good-food-plan-pledge-event/>

They have received over 40 pledges of support since the event. Some of them can be found by using the following links: [businesses and organisations](#), [charities and community groups](#), and [residents](#)

Liverpool Seafarers Centre Reopened

As they launched their Christmas appeal in November 2021, Ecumenical charity Liverpool Seafarers Centre (LSC) opened the doors of its centres in Crosby and Eastham for the first time since the COVID pandemic struck in March 2020.



Image: Seafarers visiting the Centre in November 2021

Christmas gifts were distributed to ships calling at Merseyside ports as well as ships docking earlier in December which were at sea during the festive holiday. The annual seafarer Christmas Eve Mass took place in the chapel at its Crosby headquarters. It was the first Mass for more than 18 months celebrated by the ecumenical charity.

A big thanks goes to these men and women who have kept Britain supplied during the pandemic, often enduring extended contracts over eight months as they struggled to return home because of travel restrictions. Seafarers are still at the front line of COVID. Shore leave is often not allowed, or seafarers are afraid to leave the ship for risk of catching COVID. Vaccine availability is patchy and even when it is offered the paperwork showing they have received the vaccine is not always accepted around the world. Seafarer Centres like ours are often the main form of support offered to seafarers doing their job around the world. To find out more about Liverpool Seafarers Centre please visit their website:

www.liverpoolseafarerscentre.org

Dialogue Between Faith Communities

Pandemics, lockdowns, and various other events have increase both the nature and visibility of interreligious contact over the last year. The Faith Leaders' Group has continued its full meetings throughout the pandemic, joyously returning to an in-person meeting hosted by Bishop Paul in October. However, the real work has been in ongoing engagement with civic institutions both to promote the needs of faith communities, and also to offer our resources to reach into communities.



Photo at Bishops' Lodge October 2021

In Merseyside we have moved away from the old model of producing statements as a response to events unless they are local and targeted. The response to the explosion at the Women's Hospital in November was an example of a [press statement](#) having a significant effect in promoting calm reassurance and undermining attempts at division.

Following the strides forward we made in 2020 in local authority recognition of faith requirements around funerals and care of the deceased, 2021 has been a time when we have been able to use our networks to promote public health messages and support vaccinations. Alongside video and other communications, many faith groups have been active in assisting in vaccine roll-out, as well as modelling good practice to keep safe in the pandemic.

The composition of the Faith Leaders' Group is ever-changing, but the significance of the group has been demonstrated many times in the last year. If you would like more information then please contact me: enquiries@livpc.co.uk.

Crispin Pailing

CTMR Young Adults

- NOT Defeated by COVID

During the past year the inspirational Young Adults group kept meeting either via zoom or in person.



This gathering of young adults is brought together by Churches Together in the Merseyside Region. The young adults are aged 18 and above and have different experiences from right across our traditions. The group has been meeting for almost three years – something they looked forward to taking place on-line during lock down.

Peter, Tom, Chloe, Rebecca and both Liam McD and Liam M have continued to take it in turns to lead their sessions and they also enjoyed a relaxing outing and meeting up for a catch up in a coffee shop - COVID regulations permitting of course.

What a celebration it was to be able to meet face-to-face again: they seemed like long lost friends.



Their talents began to emerge and some instruments came out to enhance face-to-face sessions.

They learnt more about 'Eastern Christianity and Pentecost' at one of their zoom meetings with the help of Taras (see insert) who has accompanied the group throughout the year.



At future meetings the Young Adults are hoping to have a direct contact with the denominational Church Leaders. They want to find good topics, share stories and testimonies and above all encourage other young people to join them in their fantastic experience.

Some of the young adults were Ecumenical Observers or members of the Liverpool Archdiocesan Synod (pictured) where they gave precious contributions. They met up for a coffee with a couple of the Church Leaders after the Synod mass in June.

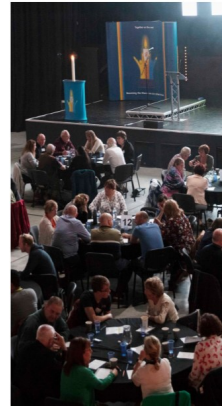


Photo: Archdiocese of Liverpool

Meetings continued in the Autumn and the group were all set for a get together with regional Church Leaders in December. However with a new surge of the pandemic, the group decided to postponed it to a time



when it is safer to do so. It was a difficult decision to have taken, especially when it emerged that some new young adults had planned to attend.

CTMR Young Adults at one of their gatherings in 2021

This is What They Say About The Group:

"I love our meetings." *Liam*



Image taken just before lock down picturing some members of the group in 2020 at the Bread Church (Methodist) in Liverpool

"The CTMR group is filled with the most amazing and wonderful people. Since the beginning, it has grown and become more than just a group of young adults but a family! This group is something I have been missing and it is so important to find people of a similar age to grow and learn together!" *Rebecca*

"Having been raised in an atheistic society (Soviet Union), I am grateful to be part of this group, members of which eagerly profess their Christian faith. It is a great joy to see young people from different Christian

This is What They Say about The Group

continued

backgrounds coming together, sharing their gifts and creating a community that transcends denominational borders." *Taras, a priest*

"Being part of the CTMR group has been such a wonderful experience. I have the opportunity to meet, learn, and socialize with Christians from other denominations and it's been great knowing that there are other people with whom I can share my faith!" *Cynthia*

"This has been something to look forward to during COVID-19".
Peter



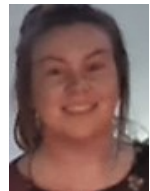
If you know anyone aged between 18 to 35, who may be interested, please encourage them to contact Veronica veronica@ctmr.org.uk or to visit the Churches Together Merseyside [Young Adults Group face book page](#). Alternatively please contact Elisabeth at the CTMR office by emailing: office@ctmr.org.uk

Link to CTMR Young Adults' Video

Here is the [YouTube link](#) to a short video about the group with inputs from members of the group.

It was used at Liverpool Hope University during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and shortened from the original version to 3'45!

Our thanks goes to Rebecca Richardson (insert), a most valued member of the group.



By Veronica McDonnell & Elisabeth Hachmoeller

Ecumenical Walk of Witness Liverpool City Centre

2pm on Holy Saturday

16 April 2022 from Metropolitan Cathedral



The annual Walk of Witness through the centre of Liverpool on Holy Saturday has suffered twice at the hands of the pandemic.

However, as we start 2022 it is very much hoped that, yet again, church leaders will be able to walk through the city centre shopping crowds witnessing to our faith on the Easter weekend.

We normally start at the Metropolitan Cathedral at 2pm on Holy Saturday (16 April 2022). Please watch out for further details.

By 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 (insert) to publicise your ecumenical events giving plenty of notice. Email: helen.jones@bbc.co.uk

You can contact Helen by post at Daybreak, BBC Radio Merseyside, P.O. Box 95.8, Liverpool, L69 1ZJ.



Image: BBC Radio Merseyside

Congratulations....



....to Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald (insert) who has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by Liverpool Hope University and an OBE for Faith and Interchurch Partnerships. The Doctorate will be conferred as soon as possible.

Josephine Butler Memorial Trust Awards

The trust was established in memory of Josephine Butler the great 19 Century lobbyist, Christian writer and feminist and identified individuals and organisations to receive awards. This year the Awards were made during *The Sixteen Days of Activism to Bring an End to Gender-based Violence*. The Awards include the main Josephine Butler Award and went to Micah Liverpool and as mentioned above, the Volunteer of the Year was Neil Cunningham, (insert) the person behind CTMR's Support for Asylum Seekers Initiative.



Thy Kingdom Come 2022

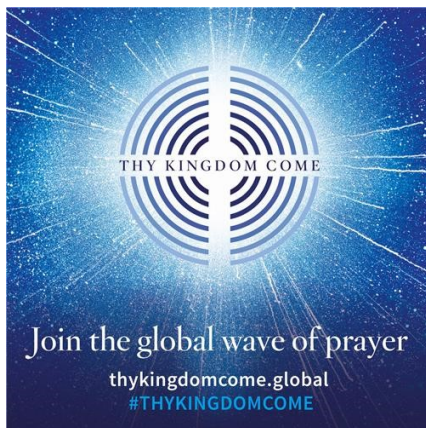
Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries and 80 different denominations have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way.

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*

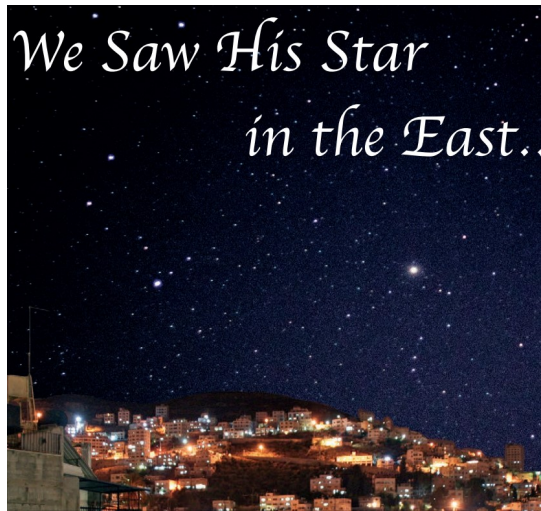


After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition.

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

**Week of
Prayer for
Christian
Unity 2022
Joint Service
in Liverpool
Sunday, 23rd
January @ 3pm
at the Metropolitan Cathedral**



On Sunday, 23rd January there will be Joint Service at the Metropolitan Cathedral for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 3pm.

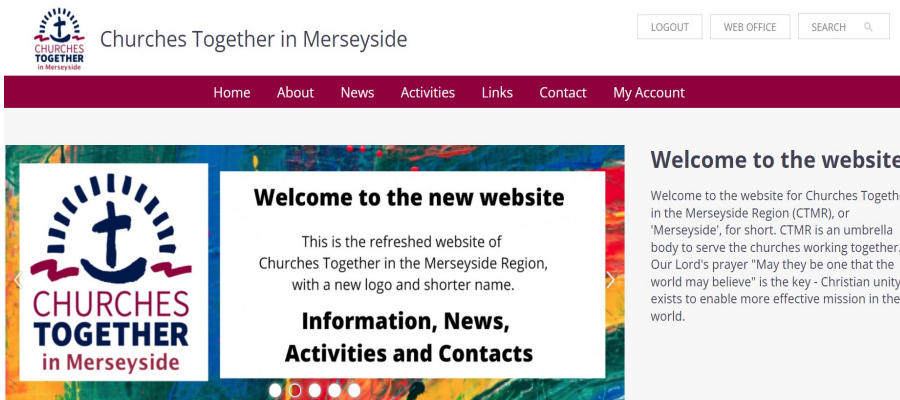
It will be a service of Choral Vespers with the Choirs of Liverpool and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedrals.

You are warmly invited!



CTMR Website

Here is the link to the Churches Together in the Merseyside Region website: 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, fraternals, ...

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

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Ecumenical NewsBrief
is published for Churches Together in the Merseyside Region
(Registered Charity No. 519061)
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