



Hello all, if you have any news or events that you would like mentioned in the next issue of the newsletter, please let me know by **midday on 30th April**. Thank you!



Churches Together in England (CTE) is looking for a creative and strategic leader to take on the role of [Chair of Trustees](#). The successful candidate must identify with CTE's mission to be a visible sign of the churches' commitment to one another.

Main responsibilities

- Providing leadership and guidance to the Board of Trustees in setting the strategy for CTE, ensuring that priorities are clearly set out and providing oversight and governance of the organisation.
- Directing the business of the Board, agreeing agendas, and chairing and facilitating board meetings, encouraging a strong collegiate working environment where all Trustees contribute their skills, experience and opinions in order to achieve a high level of scrutiny and oversight.
- Setting clear expectations for culture, values and behaviours and ensuring that these are embedded with appropriate structures and processes.

- Representing the organisation publicly and at events, meetings, or functions and being credible as an ambassador for CTE internally and externally with key stakeholders including the media, policymakers, funders and the Government.
- Ensuring the financial viability and long-term sustainability of the charity.
- Providing leadership and support to the General Secretary and holding them to account for the effective management and delivery of the organisation's strategic aims and objectives.
- Maintaining the Trustees' commitment to Board diversity, renewal, and succession planning in line with best practice.
- Ensuring that the Board of Trustees has the right mix of knowledge, skills, and experience through periodic reviews to highlight individual and Board training needs; ensure assessment of individual and Board effectiveness.

This is a voluntary role, but expenses will be paid, and we anticipate a minimum time commitment equivalent to around three days per month, following an initial period of induction.

Full details can be found at www.cte.org.uk/ctechair2024

If you are interested in this role and would like to have an informal discussion, [please email the Company Secretary of CTE and Chair of the search group, Richard Bradbury](#). If you wish to apply, please send a CV and covering letter to Lorraine Shannon at lorraine.shannon@cte.org.uk and kindly complete the equal opportunities monitoring form [via this link](#).

Closing date for applications: midnight on Sunday 14 April 2024.

Interviews: will be held during April / May (date tbc)

Could St Peter's Saltley Trust help support your bright idea?

We're dedicating a third of our annual grants budget to fund **grass-roots** projects being developed by individual local churches, schools or colleges (or small local partnerships of these).

 Grants are available for **new** work which is creative, innovative, experimental and exploratory in nature, and focused upon either:

- Religion (particularly Christianity) in school education
- Religious literacy, church-college partnerships and spiritual development in Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges
- Christian learning and discipleship within church and community settings

We particularly want to support the development and trialling of new initiatives which could become the model or inspiration for work elsewhere.

For more detail on funding priorities and eligibility criteria, see: www.saltleytrust.org.uk/what-we-support/.

You can also contact: director@saltleytrust.org.uk



Talk Discipleship and Funding Opportunities over Coffee!

St Peter's Saltley Trust offers funding and support for creative projects in Christian learning/discipleship and religious education. Come and hear about our new grass-roots grant opportunities, and help shape our new programme of discipleship projects by telling us what you think helps people go deeper in their everyday walk with God. Meet us at the following times/places, and we'll buy you a coffee (or similar)! Open to any - not just church leaders/clergy.

- Wednesday 8 May 10.30-12.30,
Wesley's Cafe, Broad Street, Ludlow
SY8 1NH

No need to book, but dropping us an email would help us know who to expect. Look out for the Saltley Trust logo when you arrive. Contact Ian Jones (director@saltleytrust.org.uk)

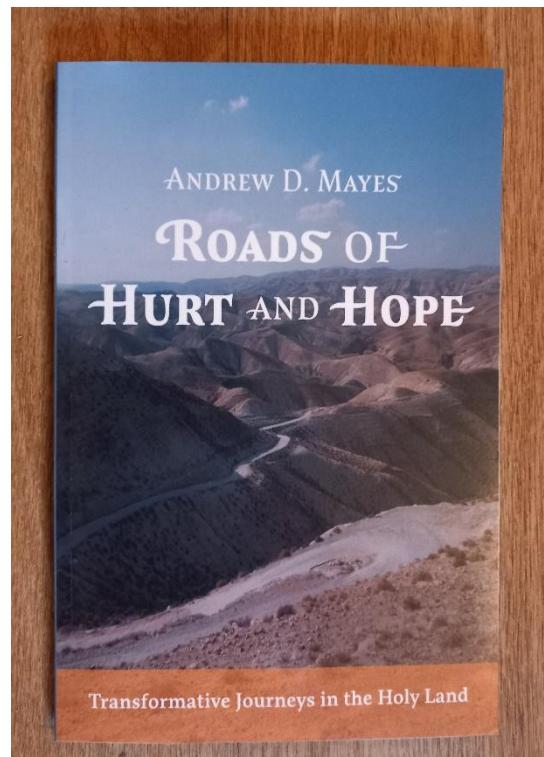
News from Churches/Christians Together Groups Events/ News

Churches Together in Hereford

Churches Together in Hereford's Walk of Witness was a good and worthwhile event. Between 100 and 150 people joined us. The sun shone and we had great support from clergy and church members!

Churches Together in Leominster

As usual, Churches Together in Leominster has been very active in Lent. We held our weekly Ecumenical Lent Study Group on five evenings through the season, following a new study guide written by Father Andrew Mayes. He is a frequent traveller to the Holy Land and had his latest working visit abruptly shortened by the outbreak of the current hostilities. The result was this book which took us on a pilgrim journey along several of the biblical roads, meeting people both in scripture and in the present day. We would recommend the book to be used by other study groups. It is not specifically a Lent Study Guide but could be used at other times of year. (Available on Amazon)



Our Lent lunch Soup meals were held each week moving around the town centre churches and have raised money for Christian aid and CAFOD.

We also held our Walk of Witness on Good Friday, carrying the cross through the roads, squares and carparks of the town. Readings and silence were followed with prayers and hymns.



Open MEETING

The Impact of the Police
Chaplaincy Service in
Herefordshire
Speaker: Mike Wilkinson



8th May, 7pm at St John's
Methodist Church

There will also be worship
and refreshments.



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is hosting "Hope for Justice", a free conference on 13 April 2024, from 11am to 4pm, that will focus on the critical issue of police and criminal justice reform/transformation within Britain, specifically from the perspective of racial justice. [Learn more about Hope for Justice and book your ticket](#)

Spiritual Question Time, 25th April 7pm – 9pm

Join us for an enlightening evening of deep conversations and soul-searching! At **Spiritual Question Time**, we'll explore life's big mysteries and discuss various spiritual topics.

This in-person event at **St Katherines, High Street, Ledbury, UK**. It's a great opportunity to bring your burning questions and an open mind to hear Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah answer your questions on the hot topics of faith affecting Christians today. Prepare to be inspired, and challenged, and leave with a renewed sense of wonder about life and our place within creation. Don't miss out on this thought-provoking event!

Intergenerational Mission Learning Community

Dates: 15th April 2024
Times: 11am-1pm

For anyone involved in Intergeneration mission or who works with children, young people and/or families. An opportunity to gather over food, share good news stories, pray and learn together.

To be added to the mailing list to receive more details please email [Lizzie Hackney](mailto:Lizzie.Hackney@churchofengland.org)



'Understanding autistic meltdowns and shutdowns' video

Triona Brading, an autistic Christian who is a Roofbreaker disability champion with Through the Roof, has teamed up with the charity again for a second video: 'Understanding autistic meltdowns and shutdowns' at <https://youtu.be/aDD8-exFb-s>.

Triona shares "helpful starting points for discussions with the autistic people in your church" to create awareness and begin dialogue, so autistic people can feel at home.

The new video explains the difference between two different responses an autistic person may have to feeling overwhelmed: an outward response (a meltdown) and an inward response (a shutdown).

It gives useful tips on how to prepare in advance for meltdowns and shutdowns, talking to autistic individuals before anything happens about what support or help they may want. It also covers what you could do if a meltdown or shutdown emotional response is already happening.

Triona, an advocate for making the church a more accessible place for autistic and neurodiverse people, released the video as the second in her [series of Autism and neurodiversity videos](#) for churches @TTRChangesLives on YouTube.

Advice from Triona is: "If it's possible, in the space that you have, and the setting that you're in, you might want to think about a plan for if someone is experiencing a meltdown."

Church can be a difficult and confusing place for autistic people, but it doesn't have to be that way. This video aims to help people in churches learn how to create a more inclusive church environment for autistic people, with practical tips and advice that can be easily and quickly implemented.

"The best thing you can do is talk to autistic people you know that come to your church groups and services, and see what they would like in place." Triona says.

Send a positive message to autistic people in your community – **watch, like and share [the video](#) in your church or community** so everyone grows in understanding and can offer a truly accessible welcome for autistic people.

Through the Roof provides free support and resources through its Roofbreaker project to enable Christian disability inclusion. Find out more

at: <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/roofbreakers/>

How can a church become a sanctuary—a place where individuals living with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging? *The Sanctuary Course* was created to equip communities of faith that are asking this important question.

Developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience, this free eight-session study guide explores key mental health topics and examines meaningful ways to offer companionship, support recovery, and promote wellbeing.

Why The Sanctuary Course for my church?

- **Designed for small group settings:** It can be used by the whole church, not only pastoral teams and those in leadership roles.
- **Available for immediate use:** It is easily accessible online and includes short films, guided conversations and reflection times to help small groups explore mental health.
- **It's reputable:** It is research-based, theologically informed and sensitively presented. The course material has been developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience of mental health challenges.
- **It's effective:** Research has shown that *The Sanctuary Course* helps create communities which are well-informed, safe and supportive spaces.
- **It's enriching:** Running the course for the whole church can help build a culture of wellbeing and mutual support for everyone.



THE SANCTUARY COURSE*

The course is free and is accessible online at: sanctuarymentalhealth.org.uk