

## Churches Together in Herefordshire's Annual Report – May 2023 - May 2024



This report sets out the key areas of work for Churches Together in Herefordshire over the past year. Emma Wright, the County Ecumenical Officer (the CEO) is employed by CTiH for 45 hours per month.

### Churches Together Groups

**Churches Together in Kington and District** helped organise this year's Lent groups with around 20 people in attendance. They regularly lead services at Kington Court care home and have fellowship with them on a regular basis. CTK are keen to help advertise KICK's vacancies within their Churches Together group, with their individual Churches and are looking to see how they can collaborate further. They are also organising a Pentecost praise event mid-May. Due to the Baptist Church's accessibility, they are hoping residents from Kington Court care home will attend.



### **Churches Together in Weobley**

Father Simon McGurk is currently chairing the group. The Easter children's holiday club was well received, and they recreated Holy Week using Lego! They are also organising a Pentecost walk and are hosting a bring and share lunch so the Churches can have fellowship together.



### **Christians Together in Ewyas**

**Harold** are continuing to support Christian Aid by helping to collect donations and collaborate with their local magazine to help spread awareness of the donations. They are also looking to participate with Houses of Prayer. Houses of Prayer is curated by Pam Wright who sends out a weekly email with prayer ideas. This was considered a good way of building upon the discussion of prayer from Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. CTEH are also looking at the possibility of including a prayer diary in their local magazine.

### **Christians Together in Bromyard**

CTiB have hosted ecumenical Stations of the Cross this Easter and are also planning an ecumenical Pentecost Sunday service. To celebrate Armed Forces day, CTiB organised an ecumenical Church service, celebrating those that are part of the Armed Forces community. They are also keen on starting a Passion Play to enhance greater connection and fellowship in the community.

### **Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District**

The World Day of Prayer service was well received with 40 people in attendance. They organised an ecumenical breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service. CTRD also hosted a quiz for all Churches in Ross; with all proceeds being donated to Tearfund.

### **Churches Together in Leominster**

CTL helped organise an afternoon tea for the asylum seekers in early December and the opportunity was taken to give out leaflets for

Churches's Christmas services. They have supported TASS with activity days, locations to cook and town walks. The Lent courses and the daily Lent lunches were well received. The Walk of Witness was well attended with time for reflection whilst singing hymns and listening to readings.



### **Christians Together in Orleton**

CTiO organised prayer breakfasts to help Churches prepare for Lent. For Easter, they prepared a Stations of the Cross village trail. At each station, there was a prayer with an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Good Friday.

### **Churches Together in Hereford**

CTH organised a great Walk of Witness at Easter. Around 120 people attended with great support from clergy and Church members. CTH elected a new Chair, Steve Grisman in February. CTH are keen to see greater representation on the group, from both denominational and the Free Churches in the city.

### **Groups with whom CTiH works**

#### **Church Leaders Together Hereford**

Church Leaders Together have been coming together in fellowship to worship together monthly and update each other on their individual Church activities. Yesterday, the group

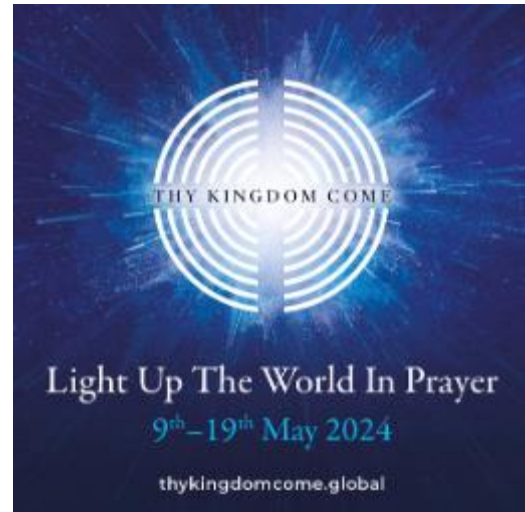
participated in an intercultural course which focused on enhancing their comprehension of cultural diversity within the Church.

### **University of Worcester**

The University of Worcester contacted the CEO as the University wanted to put together a research bid to the NIHR (National Institute of Health and Care research) to research the impact that faith groups are having on community health and wellbeing across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. I attended the group as a participant and found the discussion intriguing. They settled on the proposal revolving around market towns and mental health. They will put the bid forward and wait to hear back from NIHR.

### **Thy Kingdom Come**

Thy Kingdom Come are providing resources for a new prayer initiative "Pray for 5." This revolves around praying for 5 people who don't know Jesus, and to pray for individuals each day of the weekday. Thy Kingdom Come have also produced a separate prayer journal for their Light Up the World in Prayer event. Each day revolves around reflecting using a prayer tradition from different denominations. Thy Kingdom Come is a helpful resource for those seeking fresh ideas for their Churches/Christians Together group. For more info, please contact the CEO at [herefordshireceo@gmail.com](mailto:herefordshireceo@gmail.com)



### **Churches Together in England**

The CEO attended the yearly ecumenical conference titled "Working with Intermediate Ecumenism." She was asked to be on a panel to discuss her passion for ecumenical work which was really exciting and it was a privilege to be asked to participate!

Emma Wright was also asked to talk about her ecumenical experience at the Enabling Conference in October which was a pleasure. It was extremely interesting to hear about her fellow colleagues' experience with ecumenism from different regions.



### **Vennture**

Vennture have just finished their Project Bright Path training helping support rough sleepers and their mental health. Vennture are also collaborating with Herefordshire Homeless Hub, providing warmth and support through opening up Hereford City Church's Union Café. They continuously help to deliver emergency accommodation for rough sleepers. Street Pastors also continue to look after people late at night providing reassurance and practical help so people can get home safely.



## LEAF

LEAF (Locally Encouraging All to Flourish) continues to provide emotional support through the Kintsugi Hope course. They also continue to provide debt counselling services, family fun days throughout the school holidays and an Alpha course.



## Individual denominations

### Anglican and Methodist

The CEO meets regularly with Anglican and Methodist leaders to discuss ecumenical work within the County. These meetings demonstrate how crucial it is to keep an open line of communication between denominations and strengthen fellowship between Church leaders.

Out of this meeting, the CEO have contacted the rural chaplaincy Borderlands so she can gain a greater understanding of the ecumenical work that is organised to support the farming community.



## CTiH

CTiH's Standing Committee still meets 4 times a year. This gives me an opportunity to report back to the team of denominational representatives on a quarterly basis.

We are currently looking for another Roman Catholic representative to take on a role within the Committee. The new Chair is Duncan MacLean who is a member of HEBA. The Vice Chair is Rev Phil Warrey and the Treasurer is Steve Gisman.

The CEO is currently looking to update CTiH's website in the next few months. The current ideas are to have a mission statement page, vision/aims page with each CT constitution uploaded to the website. This will also include CTiH's constitution and CTE's constitution.

The CTiH Facebook page has 552 followers.

The Instagram page has 78 followers.

The CTiH newsletter has 171 subscribers.

The X page has 34 followers.

