

Churches Together in Herefordshire's Annual Report

– May 2024 - May 2025



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 Weobley

The annual Carol service raised money for the Disasters Recovery Committee and there was a surplus from the CTiW Christmas lunch. As a result, a total of £400 was sent over to the Disasters Emergency Committee. They also have organised bible studies over this past year with good attendance. CTiW also organised a Walk of Witness on Good Friday and an ecumenical service on Easter Sunday.

CTiW shared “this year’s World Day of Prayer was a truly special occasion, bringing together members of different churches in a joyful spirit of unity and reflection. The service was held at St Thomas’ RC Church Weobley, the ecumenical service (prepared by ladies from the Cook Islands) centred on the theme “I Made you Wonderful”, inspired by Psalm 139.

Through prayers, readings and music, they celebrated the truth that each of us is uniquely made and deeply loved by God. It was a meaningful time of fellowship, shared worship, and encouragement.”

CTiW also raised money during the service, which will support the ongoing work of the World Day of Prayer movement across the world.

“Cook Island” Display



Christians Together in Ewyas Harold

CTEH are looking at different ways of experiencing God's presence. They have discussed Taize, watched an Open the Book performance and a service organised by the “Come Gather Round Group” that provide services for residents at Dulas Court. They continue to collect donations for Christian Aid and present leavers books to those leaving Primary School. They also organised an ecumenical walk of witness.

Christians Together in Bromyard

CTiB organised an ecumenical Stations of the Cross around Bromyard as well as an ecumenical Walk of Witness with readings and alternative retellings of stories. Churches in Greater Whitbourne are putting on a community-led production of *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat* at the end of October. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the production. If anyone is interested in joining the cast, please contact myself and I will get you in contact with the churches from Greater Whitbourne.

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District

CTRД are keen for all the churches to continue to support chaplaincy in the secondary school and the primary schools in Ross-on-Wye. They organised another Light Up A Life service which was well attended. They also organised a bring and share lunch alongside WPCU events that took place from 20th-26th January. They continue to arrange an ecumenical sunset service which is held on a yearly basis (see the photos below.) They continue to organise a yearly Harvest lunch. They are also arranging a 'birthday picnic party' for Pentecost with food, games and activities and of course a birthday cake to celebrate the anniversary of Pentecost!



around the world on the Christmas decorations.

St Ethelbert's hosted a quiz night which was open to all.

The Moravian Church hosted the World Day of Prayer and encouraged everyone to wear fresh flowers as the material was developed by churches in the Cook Islands. CTL contributed a lantern to Light Up Leominster parade.



Churches Together in Leominster

Luston Methodist Chapel and Eye Church celebrated 50 years of ecumenical worship. They organised Lent lunches and sent donations to CAFOD and Christian Aid. The Walk of Witnesses were well attended. They also organised Bring and Share lunches alongside leading prayer walks around the town. CTL took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Their theme was 'gifts' which allowed visitors the opportunity to write wishes for gifts that people would want to share



Christians Together in Orleton

CTiO organised weekly Lent groups and Easter Egg hunts that took place at the local pubs. They also helped donate goods to the local foodbanks and charities (Mary's Meals and Farming Minds.) They organised another time of carol singing at The Boot Pub and they also organised an Advent Study Group. The Christmas event of Stars and Angels was well attended by lots of families who gave really positive feedback. They led an Easter holiday club, going through the events of Holy Week with an interactive Last Supper, talking to the children about the importance of communion.

Churches Together in Kington

Praise services continue to be rotated between the churches in Kington three times a year and they also led Christmas Carols at the local pub. KICK gave a presentation at one of their meetings. Kington's Food Bank is continuing to thrive and they will organise a Pentecost themed praise event later on in the year.

Churches Together in Hereford

CTH organised a World Day of Prayer service which was well attended. They also supported the Saltmine Theatre's Passion Play that took place across Hereford with local people involved in the community cast. They also organised a Walk of Witness for Good Friday and are going to organise a local prayer walk for the summer.



Groups with whom CTiH works

Church Leaders Together Hereford

Church Leaders Together Hereford continue to meet on the first Tuesday of every month for a time of fellowship and prayer.

Churches Working Together in Ledbury

Churches in Ledbury held an ecumenical Walk of Witness at the local Market House with each Church providing a reading or a reflection. There was a joint Pentecost service with a BBQ and there will be a joint Harvest service in October.

Vennture



Vennture welcomed ten graduates to their Street Presence teams gaining qualifications to help relieve the pressure of emergency services on a Friday and Saturday evening. If you are interested in bringing a "calming and reassuring presence to the streets" please contact volunteering@vennture.org.uk

LEAF



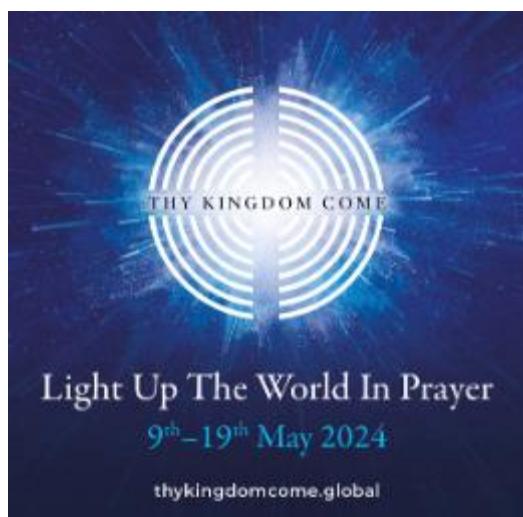
LEAF supports the Ledbury community through a wide range of initiatives. CAP offers debt counselling and a Money Management Course, while emotional well-being is addressed through counselling, school mentoring, and the Kintsugi Hope course. Spiritual needs are met via Alpha courses and joint church activities. Children enjoy events like Forest Fun and "Open the Book" storytelling. The Youth Hub is thriving, with weekly sessions and community food projects. Family support includes parenting courses and toddler groups. A new outdoor classroom project engages primary pupils, with plans to expand. Dedicated staff and volunteers ensure smooth operations. Donations are welcomed via LEAF's website. They

also recently celebrated 10 years of ecumenical prayer meetings at the beginning of June.



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come are providing resources for their 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 from Ascension to Pentecost from 29th May – 8th June. 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



Churches Together in England



Enabling Group

The theme of Enabling Group October 2024 was the imperative of racial justice. We looked at testimonies and black and womanist theology along with theological reflections on racial justice and living with diversity at CTE. It was incredibly moving and thought provoking.

Forum

The theme at Forum was One But Not the Same: Celebrating Diversity – Living with Difference. There were engaging talks on synodality, a talk on the priesthood of all believers and a talk on the call to unity. The CEO led a collaborative workshop on “Weighing It Up: How Do we Discern the Challenges in Society?” discussing social media, climate change and the importance of spiritual life.

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 Chair is Duncan MacLean who is a member of HEBA. The Vice Chair is Rev Phil Warrey and the Treasurer is Steve Grisman.

The CEO is currently updating CTiH's website. We now have a vision and values page and are thinking of extra elements that we could add to the refurbished website.

The CTiH Facebook page has 560 followers.

The Instagram page has 101 followers.

The X page has 38 followers.

The CTiH newsletter has 171 subscribers.