

County Ecumenical Officer Report

November 2023 Open Meeting



Churches Together Groups

Since the last open meeting, I have attended meetings in Hereford, Leominster, Ross on Wye, Orleton and Weobley.

Church Leaders Together Meetings

St Peters in Hereford has put on an 'Exploring Prayer' event. The event consisted of reflecting on different prayer traditions from different denominations. A 'Nave' event was also put on to help those who are unsure about Church and want to explore Christianity more. Dave Tristram from Hereford City Council spoke about the funding that is available for Churches to provide spaces for community benefit.

Ecumenical Events

Faith in Art Exhibition

I attended a Faith in Art exhibition which showcased artwork from different denominations. I was very impressed with this unique ecumenical venture! There will be more exhibitions throughout the autumn and winter. The other dates will be advertised in the CTiH newsletter.

Anne Frank Service

I attended the Anne Frank Memorial Service run by the Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community on behalf of CTiH. It was a great service and lovely to talk to other members of the congregation.

Churches Together in England Forum

I have been invited to participate in helping plan the CTE Forum 2025 topics, speakers and the structure of the conference. We meet every two months.

Ecumenical All Representatives Conference

I attended the All-Ecumenical Representative conference in Derbyshire where the theme of the conference was "Ecumenism: Looking Forward." I was invited to participate in a panel to talk about my passion for ecumenical work and talk about the great ecumenical endeavour that is going on throughout the County.

National Parenting Initiative Event

I attended the last event of the National Parenting Initiative. The Charity has now closed due to a lack of funding. To celebrate the work that has been done, they organised a vision event to help inspire Churches to get involved in this ministry. The NPI directed people to organisations such as Kids Matter, Who Let The Dads Out?, Parenting for Faith and Connected Lives. This event gave each organisation time to speak about the work that they do. It was very exciting to hear about all the work that has been done and pray that the work of these organisations will continue to flourish. For more information on these courses, please contact herefordshireceo@gmail.com for various course details.

Support for Asylum Seekers in Leominster

I attended a Zoom meeting where organisations met to discuss where asylum seekers can be provided with the best support in Leominster. Members of Churches Together in Leominster were encouraged to join. Joining this meeting helped me become more aware of how CTL is proactively engaging with their community and know how to help facilitate and support other Churches Together groups to help other asylum seekers; should the need arise.

Churches Together in Herefordshire Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of Churches Together in Herefordshire meets 4 times a year, receives a report from the CEO and reviews her activities and initiatives.

The Committee is made up of representatives from each of the sponsoring denominations and has been chaired by Steve Sully, of Challenge Community Church, and Trustee at Vennture.



The Aims of CTiH

- a. To work and pray for Christian Unity;
- b. To provide a means of consultation on matters of common concern within the churches and with the wider community;
- c. To be the Sponsoring Body of Local Ecumenical Partnerships in accordance with CTE practice.
- d. To enable Christians in Herefordshire to develop growing relationships, to ensure good communication, to respond to the needs of society and to witness to the Gospel together.

Open Meetings

Churches Together in Herefordshire holds two Open Meetings a year – May and November.

Newsletter

The newsletter has 170 recipients.

Instagram

The Instagram has 62 followers.

Facebook

The Facebook page has 556 followers.