

County Ecumenical Officer Report

Open Meeting – November 2022



Churches Together Groups

- ❖ Churches Together / Christians Together in Orleton, Ewyas Harold, Hereford, Ross, Kington, Weobley and Leominster are continuing to meet regularly.
- ❖ I have attended further meetings of a small group of Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Quakers in the village of Almeley who are exploring the possibility of doing things together as a group. They are currently exploring the possibility of attending a session of each other's worship. Linked to this, I attended an Open Afternoon to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Almeley Wooton Friends Meeting House.
- ❖ I chaired a review with Christians Together in Orleton, in accordance with their Covenant, at which they looked back over the last 5 years and considered their plans for the future.

Local Ecumenical Projects

Christ Church, Ross – I chaired a meeting of Christ Church's Consultative Group (URC and Methodist Church leaders and representatives) – following the Congregational Meeting in June at which they decided to close the church. I attended the final service of this congregation in August. It was beautifully put together and managed to be positive about the future as well as give thanks for all Christ Church had been.

Ecumenical Projects / Groups

Ledbury LEAF (Locally Encourage All to Flourish)

I have attended further Trustees meetings of LEAF (as a Trustee representing CTiH) – the new charity made up of all the churches in Ledbury working together. The charity is flourishing, extending their work into a chaplaincy at the local Health Centre, working in the Primary School mentoring a group of boys, as well as continuing the Debt Centre and regular family events that have been extremely well attended.

Church Leaders Together / Herefordshire Churches Houses of Prayer / Prayers for Youth

I have attended further meetings of the Hereford City Church Leaders Together group at which they share current issues and projects and pray together. I continue to occasionally join and publicise the 'Praying for Revival' Monday evening Zoom prayer sessions and the monthly Prayers for Youth Zoom sessions.

Vennture

Vennture are now settled in their new premises and have plans to open a big residential project, taking over an old hotel in the city to support the homeless and rough-sleeping population (alongside the support they give to these individuals). They have also extended the Street Presence project to include evenings, responding to community fears around the river paths.

Herefordshire (South & East) Methodist Circuit

I was invited to preach (3rd Sunday of Easter) at Ledbury Methodist Church, and received a warm welcome.

I was happy to host a lunch for Dean Sarah Brown, Rev Phil Warrey and Deacon Angie Allport at which they considered what things they might do together. They have plans to meet again both in the Cathedral and at St John's Methodist Church, as well as a meeting with the Archdeacon.

Anglican Diocese of Hereford

Licensing Services

I attended the Licensing & Installation Service for Rev Jae Chandler as Team Vicar in the West Hereford Team and welcomed her on behalf of CTiH. Steve Sully welcomed Rev Mark Melluish as Diocesan Mission Enabler at his licensing, on behalf of CTiH.

Diocesan Ecumenical Officer

Bishop Richard Jackson has appointed two Diocesan Ecumenical Officers – Shropshire and Herefordshire. Rev Lois Beynon has accepted the job for Herefordshire and she has already joined the Standing Committee of CTiH, to represent the Diocese. She has also accepted the position of Chair of Churches Together in Hereford (city) and I have had a couple of meetings with her about both roles.

Hereford Diocesan Synod

I have been co-opted by invitation of the Bishop to sit on the Synod, representing Churches Together in Herefordshire and attended two Synod meetings.

Hereford Cathedral

I attended an ecumenical Pentecost Praise Service in Hereford Cathedral, led by Dean Sarah Brown, with the Bishop preaching. It was very well attended (200+ attendees) from a variety of city churches. It has been followed by a number of 'City Praise' events in the Cathedral.

I attended the annual Anne Frank Service (as a Lay Canon representing the Cathedral as well as CTiH), with Dean Sarah, organised by the Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community and led by Rabbi Danny Rich.

I have attended further meetings of the Cathedral Council, representing the College of Canons.

I attended the County Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, representing CTiH, in September.

Church in Wales / Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff

I was invited to speak to the Church in Wales Ecumenical Officers and Interfaith Network residential meeting in Builth Wells in September, by Rev Ainsley Griffiths, National Ecumenical Officer, Church in Wales. The meeting was chaired by the Dean of St David's Cathedral. Day One, the speaker was Bishop Martyn Snow, Anglican Bishop of Leicester who spoke on 'Visions of Ecumenism and Mission'. I was the speaker on Day Two, to the title: "Ecumenism and Mission: Discerning what God is already doing in Herefordshire". The talk and subsequent discussion was well received and the group closed the Network meeting with a call to their respective churches to create an 'Ecumenical Nation' for Wales (like Cumbria's Ecumenical County).

Churches Together in England

I attended The CTE Ecumenical Officers' Consultation, held at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire in September (for Denominational Ecumenical Officers, County Ecumenical Officers, CTE staff and National Ecumenical Officers). The theme was 'Exciting, Relevant, Loving Church?'.

CTiH

The **Facebook page** followers are now numbered 522.

<https://www.facebook.com/churchofenglandherefordshire>

The **newsletter** has 194 people who have requested to be on the mailing list. The CTiH website www.ctih.org continues to be updated with events (zoom and otherwise) on the calendar and the current monthly newsletter on the homepage (as well as archived newsletters).

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