

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

This Report sets out the key areas of work for Churches Together in Herefordshire over the past year, and for Anna Nugent, the County Ecumenical Officer (CEO), employed by CTiH for 45 hours per month in 2022 (until her retirement from the role); and for Emma Wright, the CEO from January 2023.

Churches Together Groups

Many of the Churches Together Groups around the county are continuing a process of self-evaluation and a rethink about how they will operate post-pandemic. The following is a snapshot of some of the groups' activities.

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold went through a process of self-evaluation and review last year, changing their name to *Christians Together* to better reflect the group. They have been looking at ways to work together for joint mission in their area, with all individual church activities being considered as opportunities for partnership working.

Their activities have included a very effective Christian Aid week collection and ecumenical service; regular Taizé services and online Night Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, regularly attended by Christians from different churches.

- **Christians Together in Orleton** are sharing services, alternating Sundays between the Anglican and Methodist churches. They are working together towards becoming



EcoChurch and have an after-school 'Eco Group'. They run a regularly well-attended Messy Church

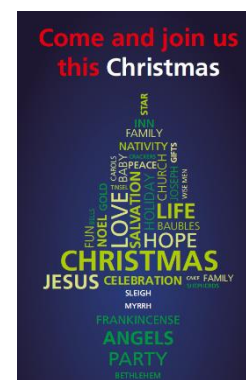


and have created a welcome leaflet summarising their activities for newcomers to their community. They also undertook a review of their work, chaired by the County Ecumenical Officer in 2022. They also ran a Lent study group which was insightful and gives people an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of their faith. Open the Book and CTiO coffee shop are good witnesses for the people of Orleton.

Churches Together in Ross & District have

continued to meet regularly, and Churches are talking with each other. They produced a Christmas flyer inviting their community to their Christmas services and met daily for prayer during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity <https://www.ctrd.org.uk/>.

Vennture are circulating 200 questionnaires in Ross to determine whether people feel safe on the streets of Ross and how they can support people in feeling safe in partnership with CTIRD.



Churches Together in Hereford have been looking at new ways of working and continue to encourage churches to come together in witness for the Good Friday walk around the city centre. City Praise has brought together multiple churches and large numbers of Christians in worship and praise in the Cathedral several times through the year.

Churches Together in Leominster have held their annual celebratory 'Christmas Lights Service' as usual which is followed by the switching on of the Town Lights in Corn Square, Leominster. They also held daily prayer around the churches in the town for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There is a yearly Lent course which is attached to the Lent lunches and a Good Friday Walk of Witness that took place over Easter. Father Guy mentioned how there was a bi-annual Passion play which died out before the pandemic which would be good in looking at starting up again. They also ran a stall during the Dementia Action Week in May. There is a newsletter that CTL puts out which increases further contact amongst churches.

Churches Together in Weobley continue to work well together, worshipping together at Harvest Festival; providing a Christmas Lunch for their community; organising Carol singing in the village on Christmas Eve and joining together again for an Epiphany Service.

Churches Together in Kington & District are working together and continuing to meet and discuss the needs of their community. They produced a Christmas Leaflet detailing all the church Christmas services and produce a Travelling Crib that visited shops and schools around the town in the run-up to Christmas.

Organisations with whom CTiH works

LEAF – Ledbury churches

LEAF in Ledbury - 'Locally Encouraging All to Flourish'. This charity, was set up to manage the existing and future social action



projects that are run ecumenically already in Ledbury, overseen by Rev Tony Hodder, the ecumenical minister. These activities are thriving and growing and include pastoral and marriage counselling, a Christians

Against Poverty money course and debt counselling service, Alpha, Messy Church, Family Fun days, Open the Book and a chaplaincy service in the local GP Health Centre. The warm spaces that were created by the Baptists and the Catholics which closed at the end of January, they want to find somewhere more central and create more awareness of warm spaces. You can find out more information at

<https://www.leafledbury.com/>



Venventure

CTiH continues to support, publicise and actively work with this ecumenical organisation, including publicising their need for more Christian volunteers and Link Workers from all churches.



This year they have taken over running the emergency support for the homeless through the winter, as well as continuing with Street Pastors and Street Ambassadors; Family Pastors support for troubled families across the county; support for individuals and young people needing someone to walk alongside them through a time of challenge or crisis. www.venture.org.uk

Herefordshire Houses of Prayer

The CEO has joined Christians from all over the county and beyond, for an hour of online open prayer 'Zooming for Revival'. It is a supportive group which continues to meet every Tuesday night to pray for current issues and for the Holy Spirit to move in Herefordshire. Zoom link for this prayer group available from the CEO herefordshireceo@gmail.com



Church Leaders Together - Hereford

The CEO joins with Church Leaders of Hereford monthly for a lunch meeting and prayer time. The time is used to share news about individual and joint projects as well as offering support and prayer for each other's ministries. They started 2023 with a visit up the tower of Hereford Cathedral, praying together for the needs of the city.



Work with individual denominations

The Methodist Church

The CEO was happy to facilitate meetings between Methodist and Anglican clergy this year to encourage co-operation and discussion between churches.

She was also invited to preach at Ledbury Methodist Church.

The Anglican Diocese of Hereford

The CEO was happy to attend the licensing services at the Diocese. 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 Melliush as Diocesan Mission Enabler at his licensing, on behalf of CTiH.

The CEO has a co-opted place on Hereford Diocesan Synod and has attended meetings on behalf of CTiH.

The CEO attended the installation of the new Vicar Rev Philip Miller at St Peters Church, Bromyard. It was very well attended by the community with Bishop Richard talking about the unity that will come out of this and this gives Bromyard the opportunity to press forward in creating Church events and spreading the Gospel further.

Hereford Cathedral

The previous CEO Anna represented both CTiH and Hereford Cathedral (as a Lay Canon) at the annual Anne Frank Memorial Service in Hereford at the invitation of the 3 Counties Liberal Jewish

Community, via Zoom. She also represented CTiH at the County Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Church in Wales / Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff

The CEO was invited to a Church in Wales Ecumenical Officers and Interfaith Network meeting in Builth Wells in September, by Rev Ainsley Griffiths, National Ecumenical Officer, Church in Wales, to speak about where God was working in Herefordshire and how churches and Christians were joining in together: "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 (CTE)

The CEO 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?' and the New County Ecumenical Officer conference in January.



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 (including recruiting and employing the new CEO from January 2023).

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.



Open Meetings

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



Robert Thomas MBE spoke at the November meeting, held in person at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford. The meeting was recorded

and can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/EU4zphZaNfM>

Anna Nugent (to Jan 2023) / Emma Wright (from Jan 2023)

herefordshireceo@gmail.com

Website

CTiH has an online presence in the form of a website with an 'Upcoming Events' diary that is constantly updated with events, worship and meetings of Churches Together Groups and anything where Churches and Christians are coming together. Visits remain steady (with some people accessing the newsletter this way). Most visitors access the site via a search engine, a third of visitors via Facebook, then from links on local denomination websites.

<http://www.ctih.org>

Facebook

The CTiH Facebook page has 517 followers. The page is regularly updated with events and news and sharing where Christians and Churches are working together.

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



Newsletter

CTiH publishes a newsletter 11 months of the year, sent electronically via MailChimp to 197 recipients (from whom permission has been explicitly obtained). [here](#)