

# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1160021

## Details

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**Other names** CTL

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2015-01-19

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 3 Hartington Place  
Carlisle  
CA1 1HL

**Phone** 07919438413

**Email** [antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk)

**Website** [www.ctlancashire.org.uk](http://www.ctlancashire.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH 1 AND OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

**Activities:** Churches Together in Lancashire operates through local groups across Lancashire. Groups promote unity through prayer, worship & community service. Activities include food banks, action against poverty, parish nursing, street pastors. Churches Together in Lancashire works collaboratively with Together Lancashire, Farming Community Network, local and County council, other faith groups.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Lancashire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£47,392	£57,832	-	-
2023-12-31	£13,969	£50,093	-	-
2022-12-31	£31,458	£31,745	-	-
2021-12-31	£20,249	£22,151	-	-
2020-12-31	£29,452	£25,996	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bishop John		2017-10-19
Rev Sharon Read		2024-11-13
Roy Stephenson		2022-11-03
Rt Revd Paul Swarbrick		2018-10-16
Rt Revd Philip John North		2023-06-01

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160021

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# Accounts

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# **Churches Together In Lancashire**

**Financial Accounts**

**For The Year Ended**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Towers + Gornall Ltd**  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Garstang, Preston



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts of Churches Together in Lancashire

Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.......... Date.....

**Mick Gornall**  
Towers & Gornall  
River View  
96 High Street  
Garstang  
PR3 1WZ



**Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2024**

<b>Churches Together in Lancashire</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Income</b>		
General Denominational Contributions	45,642	13,969
<b>Other Income</b>		
Grants received	1,750	
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>47,392</u>	<u>20,249</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Ecumenical Development Officer:</b>		
Salary and Pension	39,069	27,688
Travel and home telephone	2,554	5,952
Consultations, courses and resources	41,623	-
	<u>41,623</u>	<u>33,640</u>
HMRC Payments - PAYE, Tax,& NICs	8,655	4,317
Forums, conferences & local review expenses	5,348	8,560
<b>Office Costs:</b>		
Equipment	850	394
Insurance	292	292
	<u>1,142</u>	<u>686</u>
Affiliations	380	1,198
Grants (accounts / payroll)	-	300
Other Expenses	683	1,392
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>57,832</u>	<u>50,093</u>
Income Less Expenditure	- 10,440	- 36,124
Cleared Liabilities from previous year	-	-
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<u>- 10,440</u>	<u>- 36,124</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
HSBC Current Account	25,128	35,568
HSBC Deposit Account	25,128	-
	<u>25,128</u>	<u>35,568</u>
CAF Cash Account	1	1
CAF Gold Account	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Churches Together In Scorton	25,129	35,569
<b>Liabilities</b>		
General contributions received in advance	-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>25,129</u>	<u>35,569</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Last years general funds	35,569	71,693
Balance of Income and Expenditure for the year	- 10,440	- 36,124
Current Liabilities	-	-
	<u>25,129</u>	<u>35,569</u>





***Churches Together in Lancashire  
Annual General Meeting  
for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Reports***

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"πορευθέντες οὖν μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη βαπτίζοντες αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος"

Ματθαῖος 28v19

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



**Chairman's Report 2023 (On behalf of the Trustees)  
The Revd Dr Peter Colwell**

I am delighted to have been invited to take on the role of Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire. I am born and raised in Lancashire and live in Cleveleys. I am an ordained minister in the United Reformed Church and serve as the Deputy General Secretary of CTBI, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

As with previous "Chairs" my term of office began with Lancashire Carers Sing Christmas which was an excellent opportunity to be introduced on air to the County as your new Chair. It is a fantastic event reaching over 10,000 people and highlighting the very special work done by individuals and organisations who provide care for the most vulnerable in our community. (We heard from Adam Brogden of the St John Ambulance who came with Joan Wright, a volunteer for 64 years, and was a nurse for fifty years. The programme also introduced Zoë Abernethy, the Northwest Church Engagement Officer for Christian Aid. There was a moving interview with Cameron Murray from Derian House. There were live-links out to the Darwen Asylum Refugee Enterprise where Christmas Hampers were being distributed and to the Heskin Community centre where Lorna Bowling shared the work of a group that support those living with Parkinsons Disease.)

The Churches were represented by the Northwest Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army, Major David Taylor. David retires this year and so our prayers are with David and Kathy as they look to the future. The annual message and prayer were delivered by the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend Malcom McMahon focussing on the work of those who care for others and prayed for lasting peace in those places of conflict in the world.

The Carols were led brilliantly by our friends from the Blackburn Salvation Army Band under baton of Eric Millest and the Blackburn Community Choir under that baton of Jeff Borradaile.

Churches Together in Lancashire was invited to the Christian Police Association Carol Service by its chair PC Paul Pountain. This was attended by the Chief Constable, Sacha Hatchett Stasia Osiowy (O-sho-vy) the Divisional Commander for the South Division, which covers Preston, South Ribble, Chorley, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

Building relationships with Civic Leaders, Local Authorities, Police and Community Services, the NHS, continues to be a priority for Churches Together in Lancashire. Out of the relationship with the Lancashire Constabulary came the invitation to +Philip, the Bishop of Blackburn, to preach at the national conference of the Christian Police Association which took place at Salmesbury Hall.

Throughout the year the Church Leaders for Lancashire have met either in person or by Zoom. These meetings have been well attended and represent the most important aspect of Churches Together in Lancashire which is the bringing together of all Christians for prayer and fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**  
**Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Each denomination has an appointed ecumenical officer which gathers monthly in person or online under the direction of The Revd Anton Müller, County Ecumenical Officer for Lancashire. The role of the DEO is to encourage and support ecumenical activity in all of denominations churches. To do this the DEOs continue to build ecumenical points of contacts in each Deanery, Circuit and Mission Area.

Most churches and groups do come together for the Week of Prayer, a Walk of Witness, Pentecost Praise. There are also many activities taking place with monthly prayer meetings, ecumenical services on the 5th Sundays of the month alongside the weekly provision of care in the community which demonstrate the good examples of churches working together in mission and ministry.

In addition to the work with local groups, Churches Together in Lancashire continues to grow its Network Partners and working groups, referred to as “enabling groups”.

In May of this year Churches Together in Lancashire worked with Network Partner Karen Livesey, the Director of No Whispers CIC. This organisation delivers awareness training in identifying and responding effectively to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). The event held at Whalley Abbey brought together safeguarding leads from across the denominations which revealed the differences in practice that can create gaps in the provision of safeguarding for all.

Many of our network partners and enabling groups joined us again in the Church Tent at the Royal Lancashire over the third weekend of July. The Church Tent signposted a range of church-based resources for supporting farming and rural communities. The lead partner for 2024 was Lancashire Mind to raise awareness of farming and mental health. (The other partners included PLASP, the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership. Christian Police Association Preston Street Pastors, NHS Community Roots, Farming Community Network, Anna Chaplaincy, Field Nurses, No Whispers, the Agricultural Chaplaincy Association and the Lancashire Churches Rural Focus Group. We also gave space to the MND Association.)

The Church Tent service was led by an all-female ministry team across the denominations. This year the music was led by the Balderstone Brass Band.

We are very grateful to the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund and the Lancashire Foundation. The grants received covered the cost of the Marquee, the electrical supply and the provision of free hot and cold drinks by Preston Fair Trade.

The Church Tent was visited by The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Amanda Parker, the Mayors of Blackburn and Burnley, The Bishops of Blackburn and Burnley along with a steady stream of visitors grateful for a free cuppa and somewhere to sit down.

This year the Church Tent Community will gather again joined by Citizens UK which will focus on Rural Poverty and the Living Wage Campaign. We are again seeking grants the cover the £2,500 costs of this important Christian presentation at the Royal Lancashire Show.

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

2024 was milestone in the life of the Methodist Districts across the Northwest. Churches Together in Lancashire was represented at the launch of the Northwest England Methodist District held at the Victoria Hall in Bolton. The Revd Dr James Tebbutt was commissioned as the overall chair of the new District.

*Seeking to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation* is one of the Five Marks of Mission which underpin the work of Churches Together in Lancashire. This is one of the areas where all churches can join as one to be a powerful voice to challenge injustice and pursue peace in the world and in our own communities where social cohesion and service is so important.

We were dismayed when funding for the Interfaith Network was withdrawn by the previous Government. The Church Leaders for Lancashire came together to write in support of the work of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland that has campaigned, successfully, for the recreation of some kind of programme to generate inter faith relations.

Churches Together in Lancashire is also working to raise awareness of the situation in Palestine and Gaza. This has a long and complex history, and churches have different even opposing opinions. It is why I am delighted to be in conversation with Dr Marwan Darweish shortly.

Most recently Churches Together in Lancashire has begun to work with Church Action on Poverty and the "Your Local Pantry" scheme which takes the provision foodbanks much further in order to create a sustainable programme in the manner of the original co-operatives.

Ecumenism is a day-to-day expression of what it means to be church. At times it is right to highlight special events that mark the ecumenical journey that all Christians must make as they seek to usher in the Kingdom which for is all, not just a few.

This year 2025, marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. This was the first ecumenical council that led to what is known as the Nicene Creed. Whilst it brought much unity to the Early Church, which was destroying itself over doctrinal conflict, there remains disagreement over some small, but by no means insignificant differences.

You have the opportunity to explore all of this over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September when Blackburn Cathedral will host an ecumenical programme to mark this 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is so much to share but I will end this report here because it is here, the statement of faith, that stands at the centre of all that we are.

The Revd Dr Peter Colwell  
Deputy General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland  
Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire      27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



**The County Ecumenical Officer's Report  
The Revd Anton Müller MA**

It has been another busy year packed with ecumenical activities, events and programmes.

I received reports of a good number of services and gathering for prayers in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. I took part in the event held at St Anne's Lytham. We did hold an online event which the few people who attended found helpful. I am not planning a CTL online gathering in 2025.

***Engaging with Churches & Groups***

Over the year I have taken services at Penwortham URC, St Leonards CofE in Langho, Trinity Community Church Accrington, our only Baptist/Anglican LEP.

I have attended meetings of the Blackburn and Darwen Leaders Group, the Fylde Leaders Group, Churches Together in North Blackburn, Accrington Deanery Synod.

It was very moving to attend the launch of the Northwest England Methodist District and then the following day attend the welcome service for the Revd Michaela Barker at Kirkham & Fairhaven Methodist Church with a message of welcome and greeting on behalf of Churches Together in Lancashire.

***Meetings of the Presidents and Denominational Ecumenical Officers***

There have been five meetings of the Presidents (the Church Leaders for Lancashire). These have been well attended by Zoom and at various venues around the County. In 2025 there will be four meetings. Two by Zoom and two in person. The main purpose of the meeting is to strengthen Christian unity across the denominations through prayer, reflection and fellowship. The meetings also bring shared issues and concerns to the table. A joint statement was sent by the Presidents in response to the last Government's withdrawal of funding to the Interfaith Network. There was also considerable discussion on the Assisted Dying Bill on which there are diverse views across the churches.

There have been ten meetings of the Denominational Ecumenical Officers split between online and attended meetings. There is an emphasis on prayer, reflection and fellowship. These gatherings also represent something of the engine-room of ecumenism in Lancashire as each member relates to various groups and activities around the County. Most importantly they support and encourage ecumenical development in their own denominations. The Revd Daleen Ten Cate, DEO for the Northwest Synod comments: *"Highlights for me of last year was to work with all the people who was part of the RLS CTL, on grassroots level such as Lancashire Citizens, PLASP, St Johns Ambulance etc. It is always important to me that the relationships we build, trickle down to grassroots levels. It was also special to be part of the first women's only team presiding the Love Feast at the RLS."*

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



***Partnership Working***

The Enabling Group for environment is developing well. Dave Champness has taken on the role of Chair of the Environment Group. It is planned to carry out a cross denominational survey of church and environment matters, to encourage all churches to engage creatively for a cleaner environment and assist those working towards the Eco Church Awards.

The Enabling Group for Social Justice & Responsibility is covered by the work being done by Dr Peter Lumsden who is making progress with various NHS bodies and Social Prescribing

CTL's network partners now include Sanctuary Mental Health, Citizens UK, Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service, No Whispers CIC, Housing Justice, Church Action on Poverty, Your Local Pantry Scheme, Lancashire Mind, The Christian Police Association, Field Nurses, Parish Nursing, Farming Community Network, Hope at Home, the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership, (PLASP), NHS Community Roots, Christian Aid, the Lancashire Churches Rural Focus Group and the Agricultural Chaplaincy. All of these were represented in the Church Tent at the Royal Lancashire Show which received grants from the Lord Lieutenant's Duchy Fund and the Lancashire Foundation. The Church Tent was visited by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Amanda Parker, the Mayor of Blackburn, the Mayor of Hyndburn, the Bishops of Burnley and Blackburn.

***Engaging with the regional and national work of ecumenism***

In my wider remit I have continued to represent the Northwest region of Churches Together in England on it's Enabling Group. This is a role that I share with my counterpart in Merseyside, Elisabeth Hachmoeller. Between us we co-ordinate the meetings of the Northwest region in various locations and online.

The Northwest Synod of the United Reformed Church has appointed the Revd Darren Holland as it Ecumenical Officer across the Northwest supporting its churches and local ecumenical officers. Darren attends the Northwest CEO group, the Lancashire DEO meetings and the meetings of the Lancashire Church Leaders.

In my role as the Moderator of the National Forum of Churches Together in England I have attended the annual meetings of the Staff & Trustees, contributed to the discussions on its strategic and organisational development and chaired the Forum Planning Group.

***Ensuring a future for skilled ecumenical work***

After two years of work to create and promote the development of a Common Awards Ecumenical Module for lay and ordained ministerial training this has now been accepted by Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford.

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



**An ecumenical celebration of Christmas**

***9<sup>th</sup> December: Christian Police Association Carol Service***

Churches Together in Lancashire was well represented at this event, and we hope to be fully part of the event again. I gave one of the readings. The new Chief Constable for Lancashire Constabulary, Sacha Hatchett, took part along with the Chief Superintendent Stasia Osiowy who is the Divisional Commander for South Division, which covers Preston, South Ribble, Chorley, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale. for South Ribble. The music was led by the Preston Salvation Army Corp Band. I would like CTL to give this more support and encourage the Church Leaders to attend and take part as they are able. The event was featured in "The Salvationist" the national magazine of the Salvation Army with a picture of Major David Taylor, NW Div Commander with the Chief Constable.

***18<sup>th</sup> December: Lancashire Carers Sing Christmas***

This event went very well and was reported on BBC Northwest Television across two programmes. The Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Revd Malcom McMahon gave the message this year which recognised the work of carers, both individuals and organisations. There was also a call and prayer for peace in the various places of conflict. The Revd Peter Colwell, Chair of CTL was amongst those interviewed during the programme and featured on BBC Northwest Tonight.

Less groups now sign up to host local venues because of the time of the programme, although a small number did host evening events using BBC Sounds. I intend to encourage more participation in the daytime and at other times using the BBC Sounds option.

***21<sup>st</sup> December Romanian Orthodox Church Christmas Event***

A few of us attended this fabulous Christmas musical event with traditional Romanian music, readings and prayers, and of course traditional Romanian delicacies. Thank you to Fr Ciprian Bidan, the Romanian Orthodox Priest in Preston and to the church for their welcome and hospitality.

**Priorities for 2025**

- Establishing active contacts in each our local groups remains a challenge. Comms remains key to keep ecumenism visible
- Encouraging groups to build on their programmes and to explore the ecumenical dimension across the various ministries taking place.
- Encouraging the ecumenical dimension in lay and ordained ministerial formation.
- Launch of the Common Awards module "Theory and Practice of Ecumenism" with Ripon College, Cuddesdon.
- Strengthening the support for each DEO by their Church Leader and creating a network of ecumenical contacts in each denomination across the County.

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



Church Leaders should regularly invite the DEOs to bring an ecumenical dimension to denominational strategic planning and organisation.

- Developing the civic and community relationships through the creation, support and development of enabling groups around key issues and network partnerships.
- Continue to build up the directory of recognised Independent Free Churches.
- Continue to identify and build relationship with BAME led churches.
- Identify and support young adults/youth in ecumenism linked to the CTE Bill Snelson Fund for young ecumenists. Linked to this is to have greater involvement in Surfstage, youth and young adult pilgrimages

### **Events in 2025**

**2025 is a year of Jubilee.** The 2025 Catholic Jubilee Year is a Holy Year of Jubilee that began on December 24, 2024, and will end on January 6, 2026. The theme for the year is "Pilgrims of Hope." There will be events taking place globally as across the three Dioceses in Lancashire. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

**Vision 2026** The Diocese of Blackburn is planning a programme which will take it forward as it approached its centenary year. The Diocesan Ecumenical Officers are working on the inclusion of ecumenical development and engagement in the next stage of the Diocesan Vision after 2026.

### **17-19<sup>th</sup> March: The Churches Together in England Forum 2025**

One but not same: celebrating diversity – living with difference.

The Lancashire delegates are The Revd Stephen Brown, DEO for the Archdeaconry of Blackburn, Captain Tracy Collis, DEO and Church Leader representative for the NW Division of the Salvation Army.

Fr Paul Cannon & Sharon Beech (Diocese of Salford), Deacon Pru Cahill (NWE Methodist District). The Revd Kevin Huggett (URC NW Synod) is the Forum Director of Music. Bishop Anderson Jeremiah is now a Trustee of CTE and will be giving the keynote address in place of Justin Welby following his recent resignation.

**4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July Surfstage: All Age Christian Festival at Parbold** – this has the potential to be the Greenbelt of the North.

**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July Royal Lancashire Show:** The Church Tent will host a range of partner organisations with a particular focus this year on Rural Poverty and the Living Wage Campaign. Network Partner "Citizens UK" will lead on this aspect.

**12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September: Nicaea 25** – a celebration of faith, belief and the unity we share in Christ and established at the first Council of Nicaea in 325 with the formulation of the first ecumenical document we know as the Nicene Creed. Prof Rachel Muers (Quaker) has accepted our invitation to take part.

<https://edwebprofiles.ed.ac.uk/profile/professor-rachel-muers>

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



Other participants include Dr Victoria Turner (URC), Ripon College, Cuddesdon; Fr Andrew Louth, Emeritus Professor of Orthodox Studies (Durham University); The Revd Tim Norwood, CofE National Ecumenical Officer for Local Ecumenism. There will be other denominational representatives taking part.

Please save the dates, especially the ecumenical gathering on Saturday afternoon 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Lancashire Carers Sing Christmas with Radio Lancashire**  
We have the new Bishop of Burnley, The Rt Revd Joe Kennedy taking part and provisionally the new Chief Fire Officer for Lancashire & Rescue.

**So why bother with Ecumenism?  
Because Jesus prays for it, and we are called to make it so.**

John 17vv18-24

<sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. <sup>20</sup> I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one,

**But why?**

*so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

**Why?**

*so that the world may know that you have sent me ...  
so that the world may know that you have sent me ...  
so that the world may know ... You!*

*It's a Mission Imperative not a Mission Impossible!*

**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December :  
Held by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



**Report from the Anglican Denominational Ecumenical Officers**  
The Revd Stephen Brown, The Revd Gary Lewis  
Diocese of Blackburn

Next year will mark the centenary of the foundation of the Church of England Blackburn Diocese. For the last decade the Diocese has been working towards priorities established through a process called Vision [2026](#), around Christian discipleship and leadership, children and young people, and witness to Christ in daily living. As that programme finishes, a period of consultation is underway to discern a renewed focus and direction.

It seems fair to say that ecumenism has not featured greatly in recent times in our collective thinking. Towards the end of last year, a successful bid for (amount??) from central church funds, focused on evangelistic renewal, gave cause for much celebration. Clearly it offers exciting possibilities, but it is nevertheless noticeable that the considerable work that's been done locally to attract it took little account of what all our non-Anglican neighbours are doing, despite trying to be faithful to the same gospel, and in the same geographical areas - and, indeed, facing many of the same challenges.

Following my own recent retirement as a Vicar in Haslingden and having had a chance to spent many of the Sundays over the last four months visiting other congregations around Accrington, I now have a renewed perspective on the bigger picture of which we are all part. It is not always something that we seem to recognise or want to acknowledge.

The two Anglican DEOs are currently liaising with Anton and with national ecumenical officers as to how best to present the case for thinking (and praying) more ecumenically, and how to get ecumenism back in the centre of our agenda, post Vision [2026](#).

Coincidentally, there are projects going on across Lancashire, coordinated through an initiative called Gather, which aim to map the work that local churches and faith groups are doing systematically, especially around care for children and families, care for homeless people, and provision of food banks and community pantries. This seems likely to produce clear evidence for the value of including churches in discussions about funding for new partnership projects, not least with local authorities and the NHS. But mapping such things may also alert churches themselves to the importance of each other's presence and gifts.

Surely that must be to the greater glory of our God, whose providence we are called to witness to not least in the honouring of one another, and through each of our distinctive voices joined in together in singing the music of Christ.

The Revd Stephen Brown  
DEO for the Blackburn Archdeaconry, Diocese of Blackburn



## **Report from Enabling Group for Church and Environment**

Chair: Mr Dave Champness

Dioceses of Blackburn & Carlisle Net Carbon Zero Senior Project Mgr

### **Terms of Reference:**

Representatives from the URC, CoE and RC (Quakers), met in July with the Revd Anton Müller, County Ecumenical Officer for Churches in Lancashire, to explore the potential to reinvigorate the Environmental Enabling Group that last met pre-Covid.

This document discusses some potential topics/issues for collaboration across the counties of Lancashire and Cumbria reflecting the broader geographically overlapping areas covered by the NW Synod of the URC, NW Methodist District, the CoE dioceses of Blackburn and Carlisle (who are collaborating on carbon net zero) and the RC Diocese of Lancaster that also covers Cumbria (see map at end of document).

### **Topics/issues for collaboration**

- Ecodiocese/Ecosynod/Ecochurch – providing a regional/strategic point of contact for ARocha/Caring for God's Acre officers and a mechanism for sharing mutual learning/collaborative events on topics such as:
  - Churchyards' maintenance/biodiversity
  - Workshops for churches working towards bronze/silver/gold status
  - Raising awareness of regional and local council/third sector support
- Net Carbon Zero – providing a point of contact for regional officers to collaborate on topics such as:
  - Church Schools – learning from heat decarbonisation plans
  - Church/cathedral/office/retreat house buildings – learning from energy audit/heat decarbonisation plans and demonstrator projects
  - Vicarages/manses – learning from heat decarbonisation plans and demonstrator projects
  - Land not in churchyards – learning from strategic planning and interventions
  - Carbon off-setting – learning from strategic planning and interventions
- Providing a united voice/point of contact for environmental issues with statutory and grant funding bodies in the geographic area eg local authorities, Natural England
- Providing a point of contact for regional third sector environment charities eg Cumbria/Lancashire Wildlife Trusts
- Enabling a response to matters of environmental justice as experienced by the population of north-west England eg Cumbria coal-mine
- Enabling environmental-themed content at the CTL tent at the Lancashire Show.
- Sharing resources for local campaigning (eg writing letters to MP's) regarding Climate Justice and Environment issues

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**Topics/issues out-of-scope**

- Matters predominantly related to social justice and/or general rural affairs eg affordability of energy bills, local food supply chain
- Matters predominantly related to animal welfare
- Planning and response to natural disasters linked to climate change eg flooding, heatwaves

**Proposed membership and meeting frequency**

**A Core Group to meet termly**

- Dave Champness (Church of England)
- The Revd Anton Müller (Churches Together in Lancashire)
- The Revd Daleen Ten Cate (URC)
- The Revd Karen Herschell Lancashire Rural Focus Group
- Stephen Garsed (Environmental Officer, Diocese of Salford)
- Ian Marshall (Quakers)
- Zoe Abernethy (Christian Aid)
- Stephanie Roux, (Properties Manager, NWE Methodist District)

'Topic' sub-groups to be formed with other input from knowledgeable individuals eg Diocesan Environmental Officers (DEnvO) to meet as frequently as they determine

- Ecochurch/Ecodiocese
- Net Carbon Zero

'Task and Finish' sub-groups to be formed to resolve time-limited topics eg Lancashire Show preparation.

**Update:**

1. The synods of both the dioceses of Blackburn and Carlisle received updates on progress with their respective Net Carbon Zero/Ecodiocese action plans at meetings on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Funding from The Church Commissioners has provided additional staffing capacity and funding for
  - a. Energy Audits/Heat Decarbonisation Plans for all church schools and the higher emitting churches
  - b. Small value grants (up to £2,000) for churches undertaking energy reduction projects
  - c. Funding for a small number of 'demonstrator' projects - both churches and vicarages
2. Both dioceses are actively working towards achieving silver Ecodiocese status with the main challenge being encouraging more churches to register/work toward an Ecochurch award.
3. In July 2024, The General Assembly of URC received an update on progress with implementing the Environmental Policy adopted in 2022.
4. Following a well-attended Ecochurch event hosted by Carlisle Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> October featuring input from Rev Canon Grace Thomas (Manchester Cathedral residentiary canon and Diocesan Environmental Officer), plans will be developed with Blackburn Cathedral to host something similar in 2025

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5. A group of churches in the Lancaster/Morecambe area are planning an ecumenical Ecochurch day on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Introducing the Revd Karen Herschell Stephanie Roux and members reports**

- Karen's is p/t CoE incumbent for four parishes in the Hodder Valley and p/t rural church renewal officer supporting churches to have a growth agenda. She will be asking how Creation Care fits with missional approach. Churches in her two previous benefices made good progress on Ecochurch - Balderstone is a great exemplar for Forest Church.
- Stephanie oversees Methodist buildings (churches/manses) across the NW and is helping to steer churches in their Ecochurch/net zero journey. She will contact Polly Eaton at Arocha to get access to the district's Ecochurch data. Aiming for all manses to have an EPC of at least 'C' and disposing of property where this cannot be met (a similar strategy is being employed by Blackburn Diocese, but harder to find suitable replacement property within some parishes). In Cumbria, God for All strategy looks at the church and school buildings in a community and selects the most appropriate to maintain worship.
- Daleen shared the data for URC engagement with Ecochurch across the NW Synod of which
  - Lancashire. Bronze: 9, silver 5, gold 1 (Clitheroe). Garstang almost gold but finding the church land section challenging to achieve
  - Cumbria. Bronze: 7, silver 6
  - Initial progress made during Covid lockdowns
  - New building person in post. QI reports to include carbon section.
  - Same conversations happening as CoE re: green investment in clergy housing that costs the regional church but benefits the occupiers.
  - URC looking at an affordable housing scheme on land at Bolton-le-Sands
- Stephen explained the 'Live Simply' RC equivalent of Ecochurch that doesn't have grades of awards. It is also applicable to church schools and religious orders.
  - Good engagement in NW Cumbria (Cockermouth/Workington) and poor in Preston which is consistent with URC/CoE currently
  - Wider challenge of engaging priests who have come from overseas to lead parishes on eco matters. Mixed response.
- It was agreed that we should ask the 70 local Churches Together Group Leaders (of whom approximately 20 respond usually) whether eco/creation

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care/net zero has been discussed locally and for stories of ecumenical working on the topic. **ACTION: Dave/Anton to devise and circulate a questionnaire**

- The Christian Aid update was shared
- Anton reported on the Church Leaders' meeting at end January. The AGM is 27th Feb at 7.30pm online. The leaders' next meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> March at which he will provide an update from this meeting.
- Royal Lancashire Show tent provides missional resources for supporting rural communities - historically there was some resource for rural chaplaincy but this ceased 8+ years ago.



**Resources:**

Arocha:

<https://arocha.org/en/theology-churches/faith-distinctives/>

Baptist Union of Great Britain

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/618427/Climate\\_resources\\_for.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/618427/Climate_resources_for.aspx)

Catholic Church Laudate Si:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

Church of England Net Zero Carbon Church

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

The Methodist Church in Britain

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/take-action-become-an-eco-church/>

Quakers in Britain

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/quaker-eco-church-network-steps-to-accreditation>

The Salvation Army

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/about-us/policies/environment>

United Reformed Church Eco Awards

<https://urc.org.uk/category/eco/> <https://nwsynod.org.uk/mission-green-apostles/>

Six Christian Charities that help the Environment

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/blogs/6-christian-environment-organisations>

Christian Aid Climate Justice

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/talking-climate-justice-tour>

**Report from the Enabling Group for Social Justice & Responsibility**  
**Faith Partnerships in Lancashire**  
Dr Peter Lumsden

**A. Movement for Recovery** <https://gathermovement.org/>

Funding has been secured in Burnley to continue mapping the provision (food, mental health, family support) being made by faith groups, and separate funding to begin the same mapping process in Hyndburn. This work is part of an approach to the development of partnerships “at place”.

**B. Countering isolation – Places of Welcome**

Community groups, including churches, can provide settings for people to meet, form friendships, and so avoid being isolated and lonely. Such locations can raise their profile, and secure some funding, by registering as a *Place of Welcome*. Any newly registering locations can apply for a small ‘start-up’ grant, of up to £500.

<https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/>

Contact Peter Lumsden, regional co-ordinator for more information (Email below).

**C. Local authority links**

Staff at Lancs CC recognise that the pressures on adult social care are very often a consequence of social isolation (see above), and people not knowing where to go. LCC are working with districts to identify hotspot areas where there is high demand, and how to connect in with their communities. LCC are funding additional ‘Community connector’ posts in all districts. Meanwhile, faith groups can easily engage with local *family hub* networks, and the relevant *community network*,

**D. Engaging with Health**

An example of shifting provision from hospital to community is the Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust (LSCFT) health and wellbeing vehicle, the HARRI (health, advice, recovery, resilience, information) bus. This travels to community settings, where staff offer advice and guidance and routine blood pressure checks – these routinely reveal previously undetected high blood pressure in around 10% of attendees. To book HARRI, contact Hasan Sidat ([hsidat@lscft.nhs.uk](mailto:hsidat@lscft.nhs.uk)).

**E. The VCFSE alliance for Lancashire and South Cumbria (LSC VCFSE)**

The Alliance has recently established a Reference Group to contribute to the ICBs *Transforming Community Care (TCC)* Programme. The TCC programme is committed to co-designing a new model of community care for the future so that more people can be treated and cared for outside hospital settings. The key to successfully transforming community care will be for all health and care partners across Lancashire and South Cumbria, including the NHS, local government and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector (VCFSE) to work better together.

**F. Convention of the North**

This is a hugely significant annual gathering of regional leaders and policy makers which this year is being held in Preston, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

<https://www.conventionofthenorth.org.uk/news/>

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On the evening of Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, the day before the convention, Northern chapters of Citizens UK (including Lancashire, Greater Manchester, and Liverpool) are organising a 'satellite' event, with a particular focus on public transport but will also a wider view of how Citizens' chapters are helping local people to take action to bring about change to improve lives, including successful campaigns like the Real Living Wage. The Northern Chapters and partners have invited MP's, Mayors and decision makers from their areas to attend the satellite to hear the experiences of ordinary people.

*A big turnout from members of the public, including faith groups will increase the impact of this event*

To register interest, reserve a seat and to get more information please use this link:  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/citizens-of-the-north-convention-of-the-north>

Peter Lumsden (pjlumsden58@gmail.com)  
Network partner of CTL (Churches Together), Representing Faith Networks on the LSC VCFSE alliance, and public issues officer NW England Methodist district

## **Resources**

NHS Social Prescribing

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing/>  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/>

Gather Movement

<https://gathermovement.org/>

Places of Welcome

<https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/>

Community Roots HARRI Bus

<https://www.lscft.nhs.uk/communityroots/about-us/harri-bus>

VCFSE alliance for Lancashire and South Cumbria

<https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/VCFSE>

Church Action on Poverty

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>

Christians Against Poverty

<https://capuk.org/get-involved/campaign-with-us>

Convention of the North

<https://www.conventionofthenorth.org.uk/news/>

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**Finance Summary for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Receipts**

Denominational contributions (late from 2023 and all 2024)	<b>£45642.00</b>
<b>Other receipts</b>	
Grants received towards Royal Lancs Show	<b>£ 1750.00</b>
Miscellaneous	<b>£ 1854</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£49246.00</b>

**Expenditure**

CEO Salary	£34363 *includes backdated housing allowance
HMRC	£ 8655
Pension	£ 3704
Officer's Expenses	£ 4288
Office, including insurance	£ 970
Banking costs	£ 60
Meetings, conferences, costs	£ 3916
Royal Lancs Show	£ 2693

**Total Expenditure** **£58649.00**

**Deficit for the year** **-£ 9403.00**

**Account Balance** **£24027.00**

**Notes**

Salary and PAYE costs were inflated by about £9k due to the backdated housing allowance, which more or less accounts for the deficit.

It may be time to make some adjustments to the level and distribution of denominational contributions. Contributions have been static for the seven years that I have been keeping the records indicating that contributions have not increased for a lot longer.

Jim Fisher  
Treasurer

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**Churches Together in Lancashire Chair & Presidents & Trustees**  
<https://www.ctlancashire.org.uk/whos-who/>

The Revd Dr Peter Colwell  
Deputy General Secretary, CTBI  
Chair

The Revd Anton Müller MA  
County Ecumenical Officer  
Secretary

The Rt Revd John Arnold,  
(Fr Peter Hopkinson VG)  
Catholic Diocese of Salford  
(Trustee)

DEO Fr Paul Cannon

The Rt Revd Tom Neylon  
(Canon Peter Stanley)  
Archdiocese of Liverpool  
Lancashire Deanery

DEO Canon Peter Stanley

The Rt Revd Paul Swarbrick  
Catholic Diocese of Lancaster  
(Trustee)

DEO Fr Peter Burns

Fr Jonathan Hemming  
Antiochian Orthodox

DEO Fr Ciprian Bidan  
(Romanian Orthodox)

The Rt Revd Philip North  
Diocese of Blackburn  
(Trustee)

DEO The Revd Stephen Brown

The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff  
Diocese of Blackburn

DEO The Revd Gary Lewis

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The Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy  
Diocese of Blackburn

The Rt Revd Dr John Fenwick  
Free Church of England

(Rep The Revd Tony Ford)

The Revd Phil Jump  
(The Revd Brian Drury)  
Northwest Baptist Association

DEO The Revd Brian Drury  
(Trustee)

The Revd Dr James Tebbutt  
Northwest England Methodist District  
District Chair

The Revd Sharon Read  
Northwest England Methodist District  
Lancashire Mission Area Lead  
(Trustee)

DEO The Revd Stuart Wild

The Revd Clare Downing  
(The Revd Darren Holland)  
United Reformed Church NW Synod

DEO The Revd Daleen Ten Cate  
NW Synod Ecumenical Officer)

Major David Taylor  
(Captain Tracy Collis)  
Northwest Division Salvation Army

DEO Captain Tracy Collis

Roy Stephenson  
Lancashire Quakers  
(Trustee)

DEO Ian Marshall

Churches Together in Lancashire is an Intermediate Body of Churches Together in England. <https://cte.org.uk/>



**Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024  
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## **A prayer of commitment and unity**

We as part of the whole Christian Church in Lancashire confess our faith in One God, the Father, Creator, the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit, guiding His Church, the Body of Christ, into all truth.

We repent of all that is wrong in our past histories and present attitudes. We rejoice in the riches of the traditions we have inherited and seek to share them more fully with one another in the unity which is the will and gift of God.

We commit ourselves to deepening our fellowship with Christ and with one another so that we may know, understand and value each other and together seek through prayer God's will for His people.

We will seek to work together in pastoral care and mission as we reach out with the love of God to the people of Lancashire.

Amen



**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160021

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# Accounts

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# **Churches Together in Lancashire**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Towers + Gornall**  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Garstang, Preston

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts of Churches Together in Lancashire

Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.......... Date...04/09/2024

**Mick Gornall**  
Towers & Gornall  
Abacus House  
The Ropewalk  
Garstang  
PR3 1NS



## Ecumenical Officer's Report 2023-24

I have now been working full time in the role of County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Lancashire for over a year.

The year has been busy arranging the meetings of the Denominational Ecumenical Officers which as you have heard has now been joined by Pastor Stephen Norcross for the Independent Free Churches and Fr Paul Cannon for the Catholic Diocese of Salford.

Alongside my regional and national roles, I have also engaged in some inter-county work with Cumbria, bringing together the DEOs for Lancashire and Cumbria at Rydal Hall to explore the opportunities and challenges of the Ecumenical County of Cumbria which finds expression in the God for All initiative. The Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District gave an overview of the progress which is variable from considerable engagement to none. It is clear that those churches which come together are better placed to enable the continuation of Christian witness, mission and ministry whilst retaining the best of their traditions.

Over the year we have connecting with Housing Justice, Citizens UK, the VCFSE, PLASP, Springnorth, health and wellbeing agencies, the Diocesan Rural Focus group and Lancashire MIND.

Last year I set out a number of priorities for working this year:

*1 To reach out and re-vitalise all of our seventy plus local groups.*

There has been considerable reaching out and some groups have become more responsive and communicative. It has been good to support groups wanting to refresh their work together. Notably St Anne's Lytham, and Ashton on Ribble. Some groups which have been dormant have become active again. There remains a large proportion that do not respond so the work continues.

*2 To visit local groups and LEP meetings*

It has been good to connect with the Darwen Group, North Blackburn, Fylde Coast group, Bacup Fellowship of Churches, Haslingden, Fleetwood, Leyland, Fulwood and Broughton. Most recently I have initiated a review of the Lighthouse Community Church in Knott End LEP, a URC/Methodist partnership. Methodist Synod 22<sup>nd</sup> April

*3 To visit local churches and ecumenical partnerships for Sunday worship.*

It has been good to join with St Annes Lytham for WPCU, various services at Penwortham URC. The DEOs and some of the Church Leaders attended a service at the Romanian Orthodox Church on Romania Day. It was very moving and we were very warmly welcomed. Capt Tracy Collis wrote a reflection on this which was printed in the national Salvation Army news.

*4 To develop the website and media platforms*

Not much progress to date.

- 5 *Develop the directory of Independent Free Churches and especially develop contacts with Black and Asian led churches in Lancashire.*

We have IFC representatives on both the Church Leaders and DEO meetings. There is still a lot of work to do engage with the Black and Asian led churches. More help is needed here.

- 6 Denominational Area Contacts: We are planning to create a point of ecumenical contact in each Anglican & Catholic Deanery, Methodist Circuit, URC Mission Partnership which in turn will create a support communications pathway for each of the Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEOs)

There is still a lot to do here. It will aid the work of the DEOs immensely once established.

### **Ecumenical Working Parties**

Two significant events in 2023 were the meetings at St Catherine's Hospice to explore the role of churches in End of Life matters. We would like to really engage this year in Dying Matters week. 6-12<sup>th</sup> May

The Royal Lancashire Show represents both the mission element and social responsibility. 2024 has been referenced already. I would like to emphasise that we are in need of funding to help with the £3K cost of running the event.

The enabling group for environmental matters is now led by Stephen Garsed who engages in this work for the Diocese of Salford.

### **Ecumenical Resources**

The development of the Module "Ecumenism in Theory & Practice" has the support of Churches Together in England and the Society for Ecumenical Studies. Queen's Foundation and Ripon College Cuddesdon have expressed an interest as has the UK rep on the WCC commission for Education and Ecumenical Formation on behalf of the Ecumenical Bossey Foundation, Geneva.

### **Youth and Young Adults**

Churches Together in England has launched the Bill Snelson Fund for young ecumenists which provides grants up to £5k to enable young adults to engage in ecumenical projects overseas.

CTL is supporting "Surfstage", a family Christian Arts Festival in Parbold. This is managed by two young mums who finance the Festival themselves. It currently attracts over 3,000 people. It has huge potential to become NW Christian Festival and is worth our support.

### **Thank you.**

Finally – I would like to thank your dedicated team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers. None of the above could happen without them and our denominations would be ecumenically poorer without the gentle and constant nudging that they represent. There is still a long way to go and with them I look forward to a time when we can truly talk about the whole Church in Lancashire walking and working, praying and worshipping together as the One Body that we are called to be in Christ.

The Revd Anton Müller, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024



## **Chairman's Report 2023 (On behalf of the Trustees)**

### ***Annual General Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for 2023/34***

My first year in office concluded as it began with Lancashire Sings Christmas, now re-branded as "Carers Sing Christmas". We were not sure whether Lancashire Sings Christmas would continue as the BBC was re-organising its local provisions. We prayed that it would, and it has! The programme took place at midday and opened opportunities to engage with various care agencies who work tirelessly throughout the Christmas period in health and social care programmes, including the Police.

In July Churches Together in Lancashire returned to the Royal Lancashire Show. The numbers attending overall were much lower due to the exceptionally poor weather but there was a steady throughput of visitors to the Church Tent. The main focus was Farming and Modern-Day Slavery supported by Caroline Virgo, the Director of the Church of England's Clewer Initiative. Presentations were given by Caroline and also Douglas Martin with Maxine Rawlings.

The Church Tent was populated with church-based resources for supporting farming and rural communities which this year included PLASP, the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership. We were joined for the first time by the Christian Police Association.

The Diocese of Blackburn Children's Department provided brilliant activities to help children think about issues of slavery whilst the Methodist District Godly Play Bus provided a warm cosy place for all age story-telling. This year, the Church Tent will focus on Farming and Mental Health in partnership with Lancashire Mind and will take place 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July. We are looking for grant funding to help with the costs of running this venue.

The Church Tent service welcomed the Revd Claire Downing, the newly appointed Moderator of NW Synod of the URC. CTL was represented at Claire's Induction on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Also new to the meeting of the Church Leaders is Pastor Pete Baker of Life Church Burnley who represents the Independent Free Churches in Lancashire. + Tom Neylon has also joined the Church Leaders for the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Pastor Stephen Norcross of the Blackburn Community Church has joined the team of Ecumenical Officers. Fr Paul Cannon, the Episcopal Vicar for Dialogue in the Diocese of Salford replaces Fr Peter Hopkinson as the DEO for Lancashire. Fr Peter will continue to be part of the Church Leaders meeting.

Since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the cost-of-living crisis following on as we emerged from the crisis of the COVID 19 Pandemic we have also witnessed the tragic events unfolding in Gaza and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. Churches Together in Lancashire has joined with other regions to call for a cessation of the war and the pursuit of peace and reconciliation for all.

Churches Together in Lancashire has also supported opposition to the Rwanda Bill and the withdrawal of Government Funding for the Inter Faith Network.

We continue to pray together across these areas which has seen many churches working in unity to support their local communities.

Churches Together in Lancashire continues to be active in the VCFSE, Volunteer, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise raising profile of Faith alongside other faith groups in Lancashire.

The focus on health and wellbeing turned to the role of church and faith groups in End of Life Care with an event held for health, civic and faith leads at St Catherine's Hospice earlier this year. CTL has been invited to assist with the implementation of Integrated Care Board for Lancashire and South Cumbria's End of Life Strategy.

Building on the relationship with the Lancashire Constabulary and the Christian Police Association, Bishop Philip North will be addressing the National Conference of the CPA which takes places in June this year at Salmesbury Hall.

In specifically Methodist news, the Methodist Church is working towards the establishment of the NW England District by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The Chair of the new District is the Revd Dr James Tebbutt (currently Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District). The NWE District will comprise four Mission Areas with a Deputy Chair and Assistant Deputy Chair.

It has been a busy year and I am grateful to our County Ecumenical Officer, the Revd Anton Müller, and our brilliant team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers.

They have all worked hard to enable Churches Together in Lancashire to be visible and actively involved across so many areas of life and worship amongst the people we are called to serve across our beautiful County of Lancashire.

The Revd Phil Gough  
Chair of the Lancashire Methodist District  
Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire.  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2023				
Churches Together in Lancashire	2023		2022	
<b>Income</b>				
General Denominational Contributions		13,969		31,783
<b>Other Income</b>				
St. Peter's - Anita				
CTL expenses				
ACOS				
Bank Interest		-		-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>13,969</b>		<b>20,249</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Ecumenical Development Officer:</b>				
Salary and Pension	27,688		17,246	
Travel and home telephone	5,952		422	
Consultations, courses and resources	-	33,639	-	16,793
HMRC Payments - PAYE, Tax, & NICs		4,317		2,471
Forums, conferences & local review expenses		8,560		5,991
<b>Office Costs:</b>				
Equipment	394		257	
Insurance	292		292	
		687		550
Affiliations		1,198		16
Grants		300		1,000
Other Expenses		1,392		4,370
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>50,093</b>		<b>22,151</b>
Income Less Expenditure	-	36,124	-	288
Cleared Liabilities from previous year		-		-
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>36,124</b>		<b>288</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
HSBC Current Account	35,568		71,692	
HSBC Deposit Account	-	35,568	-	71,692
CAF Cash Account	1		1	
CAF Gold Account	-	1	-	1
Churches Together In Scorton		35,569		71,693
<b>Liabilities</b>				
General contributions received in advance		-		-
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>35,569</b>		<b>71,693</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
Last years general funds	71,693		71,981	
Balance of Income and Expenditure for the year	-	36,124	-	288
Current Liabilities		-		-
		<b>35,569</b>		<b>71,693</b>

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160021

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# Accounts

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## Ecumenical Officer's Report 2022-23



The big change for me in my role is that from November 1<sup>st</sup> I have been working full time in the role of County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Lancashire. It has been a great privilege to serve as Vicar of the United Parish of Scorton, Barnacre and Calder Vale over the last seven years but it was getting harder to manage this role and the ministry across three churches.

This has freed me up to engage more fully as the representative for the North West Region of Churches Together in England and to take on with confidence the role of Moderator of the CTE Forum which is the National Conference of Churches Together in England that takes place every three years.

You have heard about the wider CTL work in the Chairman's report, so I won't repeat any of that other than to say that it has been great to work with such a strong and dedicated team of ecumenical officers on these programmes.

The big events are great, but the real work of ecumenism is rooted in the local and in the every day. Ecumenism is about local churches recognising those things which are best done together to serve their communities. Most important is the time committed to praying together and finding ways to support one another's mission and ministry.

My work with the team of DEOs and network partners is to support and encourage the local churches in their work together. So, with this gift of extra time... what am I doing?

### **I have set a number of priorities for working this year.**

- 1 To reach out and re-vitalise all of our seventy plus local groups. The contact database is long overdue an update.
- 2 To visit local groups and LEP meetings – I was doing this before COVID so it's good to be picking this up again. Since November I have enjoyed meeting with the North Blackburn group, the Rossendale Group, and the Fylde Coast Churches group.
- 3 To visit local churches and ecumenical partnerships for Sunday worship. It was a great joy to be back with the Lytham Churches for the annual covenant signing during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- 4 To develop the website and media platforms – we have contracted Dan Morrell of Media4Ministry to assist us in this.

- 5 Develop the directory of Independent Free Churches and especially develop contacts with Black and Asian led churches in Lancashire. CTL is lacking in this area. Any help with both these areas would be appreciated.
- 6 Denominational Area Contacts: We are planning to create a point of ecumenical contact in each Anglican & Catholic Deanery, Methodist Circuit, URC Mission Partnership which in turn will create a support communications pathway for each of the Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEOs)

### **Ecumenical Working Parties**

These are groups based around the Five Marks of Mission. The membership of the groups includes one or more of the DEOs working with contacts engage in these areas of mission and ministry. The most significant progress has been with the Working Party for Social Justice and Responsibility, and we will hear something from that group later. CTLs commitment to "Care for Creation" found expression in the Church Tent at the Royal Lancashire Show which also gave expression to the those first and second marks of mission which are to with proclamation and discipleship. The EWP for Social Justice will be invaluable this year as we explore Farming and Modern-Day Slavery.

### **Ecumenical Resources**

I have always had an interest in ministerial formation and have at various times served as tutor in lay and ordained ministry training. The area that is lacking across existing lay and ordained training is this important area of ecumenical studies. There are modules in ecumenical studies which are part of the Common Awards training schemes for lay and ordained training, but they never see the light of day. This means that we rely too much on the ecumenical agenda being pursued by a few enthusiasts. I want to see ecumenism embedded in lay and ordained ministry training across the denominations.

### **Youth and Young Adults**

We had a young adult represent Churches Together in Lancashire at last year's Forum. Verity Wild was a brilliant advocate and will be part of a group that explores developing opportunities for ecumenical gatherings for youth and young adults. Again, anyone with a desire to this area develop please let me know.

### **Thank you.**

Finally – I would like to thank your dedicated team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers. None of the above could happen without them and our denominations would be ecumenically poorer without the gentle and constant nudging that they represent. There is still a long way to go and with them I look forward to a time when we can truly talk about the whole Church in Lancashire walking and working, praying and worshipping together as the One Body that we are called to be in Christ.

The Revd Anton Müller  
County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in Lancashire 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2022

Churches Together in Lancashire	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>		
General Denominational Contributions	31,783	20,249
<b>Other Income</b>		
St. Peter's - Anita		
CTL expenses		
ACOS		
Bank Interest		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31,783</b>	<b>20,249</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Ecumenical Development Officer:</b>		
Salary and Pension	17,246	15,452
Travel and home telephone	422	1,340
Consultations, courses and resources	-	-
	17,667	16,793
HMRC Payments - PAYE, Tax, & NICs	2,471	842
Forums, conferences & local review expenses	5,991	1,038
<b>Office Costs:</b>		
Equipment	257	-
Insurance	292	292
Rents		
	550	292
ACOS grants	-	-
ACOS expenses	16	15
Lancashire Agricultural Show		
Donations		
Grants	1,000	2,360
Other Expenses	4,376	811
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>32,071</b>	<b>22,151</b>
Income Less Expenditure	- 288	- 1,901
Cleared Liabilities from previous year	-	-
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>- 288</b>	<b>- 1,901</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
HSBC Current Account	71,692	71,979
HSBC Deposit Account	-	-
	71,692	71,979
CAF Cash Account	1	1
CAF Gold Account	-	-
	1	1
Churches Together In Scorton		
	71,693	71,981
<b>Liabilities</b>		
General contributions received in advance	-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>71,693</b>	<b>71,981</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Last years general funds	71,981	73,882
Balance of Income and Expenditure for the year	- 288	- 1,901
Current Liabilities	-	-
	71,693	71,981

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022  
for  
Churches Together in Lancashire**

Towers + Gornall Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
River View  
96 High Street  
Garstang  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR3 1WZ

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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Independent Examiner's Report	2
Statement of Financial Activities	3
Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5 to 7
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	8

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Objectives and aims

The object of Churches Together in Lancashire is the advancement of the Christian faith and other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.

#### Significant activities

Churches Together in Lancashire operates through local groups across Lancashire. Groups promote unity through prayer, worship & community service. Activities include food banks, action against poverty, parish nursing, street pastors. Churches Together in Lancashire works collaboratively with Together Lancashire, Farming Community Network, local and County council, other faith groups.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### Financial position

The charity made a small loss of £287 in 2022 compared to a small loss of £1,901 in 2021. There are however significant reserves of £71,692 at the year end (£71,979 - 2021).

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

#### Registered Charity number

1160021

#### Principal address

St Peters Vicarage  
Snowhill Lane  
Scorton  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR3 1AY

#### Trustees

Rev P Gough (appointed 3.11.2022)  
Mr R Stephenson (appointed 3.11.2022)  
Rt Revd P Swarbrick  
Rt Revd J Arnold  
Rev B Drury

#### Independent Examiner

Michael Gornall  
FCCA  
Towers + Gornall Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
River View  
96 High Street  
Garstang  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR3 1WZ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev P Gough - Trustee

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Churches Together in Lancashire

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## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Churches Together in Lancashire

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Churches Together in Lancashire (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Gornall  
FCCA  
Towers + Gornall Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
River View  
96 High Street  
Garstang  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR3 1WZ

9 March 2023

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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	Notes	2022 Unrestricted fund £	2021 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies		<u>31,458</u>	<u>20,249</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Other		<u>31,745</u>	<u>22,150</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		(287)	(1,901)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		<u>71,979</u>	<u>73,880</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>71,692</u></u>	<u><u>71,979</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Balance Sheet 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted fund £	2021 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank		71,692	71,979
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>71,692</u>	<u>71,979</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		71,692	71,979
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>71,692</u>	<u>71,979</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	4		
Unrestricted funds		<u>71,692</u>	<u>71,979</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>71,692</u>	<u>71,979</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9 March 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Rev P Gough - Trustee

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

### 2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

#### Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

### 3. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>	
Donations and legacies	20,249
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>	
Other	22,150
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(1,901)

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 3. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>	
Total funds brought forward	73,880
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>71,979</u>

### 4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	71,979	(287)	71,692
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>71,979</u>	<u>(287)</u>	<u>71,692</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	31,458	(31,745)	(287)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>31,458</u>	<u>(31,745)</u>	<u>(287)</u>

#### Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	73,880	(1,901)	71,979
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>73,880</u>	<u>(1,901)</u>	<u>71,979</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	20,249	(22,150)	(1,901)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>20,249</u>	<u>(22,150)</u>	<u>(1,901)</u>

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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### 4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	73,880	(2,188)	71,692
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>73,880</u>	<u>(2,188)</u>	<u>71,692</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	51,707	(53,895)	(2,188)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>51,707</u>	<u>(53,895)</u>	<u>(2,188)</u>

### 5. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022.

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	29,495	20,249
ACOS funds	1,963	-
	<u>31,458</u>	<u>20,249</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	31,458	20,249
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
Grants	1,000	811
ACOS expenses	16	15
Other expenses	3,989	2,360
Office costs	257	-
	<u>5,262</u>	<u>3,186</u>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	61	-
<b>Other</b>		
Wages	15,505	13,553
Pensions	1,741	1,899
Forums, conferences etc.	5,991	1,038
Insurance	292	292
Travel & home telephone	422	1,340
HMRC payments	2,471	842
	<u>26,422</u>	<u>18,964</u>
Total resources expended	<u>31,745</u>	<u>22,150</u>
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<u>(287)</u>	<u>(1,901)</u>

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160021

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# Accounts

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**Churches Together in Lancashire  
Annual Meeting November 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm  
MINUTES/Notes of Meeting**



1 Welcome: The Bishop of Blackburn, The Rt Revd Julian Henderson

2 Apologies: Mike Hart URC, The Revd Simon Cox

3 Opening Prayer & Worship

Bible Reading: Major David Taylor (NW Div Commander TSA)

That they may be one John 17v20-26

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

1 A Bond of Unity In The Body Of Christ

Said by Sue Grubic (Faith & Justice Worker, Diocese of Lancaster)

Sovereign Lord Jesus, You are our Prince of Peace and You prayed for unity in the body of Christ, that we may be united in love just as You are united with the Father in love. Give Your children the desire to love one another as You have loved us, and let the world know that we are Your disciples by our love for one another. Give us a hunger to live in union with each another, and may we be united as one, in the bond of peace and fellowship, in the Spirit. This we ask in Jesus' name,

2 Christians United In Heart And Voice

Said by Jane Callow, New Life Church and Moderator of Lancaster Churches Together

Father God, We pray that You will help every member of the Church to live in harmony with each other. May we be united in love and enable us to pray with the mind of Christ, to be guided by the Spirit of God and to glorify You with heart and voice. Keep us from worldly ways, but rather may our lives be a witness of Your love, not only in what we say but in all that we do. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ my Lord,

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previously circulated. No matters arising.

5 Chairman's Report for 2020/21 given by Rt Revd Julian Henderson

At AGM held last December we commissioned the Revd Brian Jolly as the chair of the Churches Together in Lancashire. Unfortunately Brian was not able to take up role due to ill health and so it was agreed that I would continue as Chair. My period of office extended to July of this year at which point our next Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire, Bishop Paul, took on the role and will be formally commissioned in few moments.

The Church Leaders for Lancashire have continued to meet on Zoom. This has been well supported and a valuable time for growing our life of faith together.

Earlier in the year the Diocese of Blackburn was able to re-launch Whalley Abbey with a new vision under a new Director, the Revd Adam Thomas and a small residential community.

The team of Ecumenical Officers for Lancashire have already met at Whalley. The Church Leaders for Lancashire will be meeting together again for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic next week.

We are fortunate that in Lancashire we have a full team of ecumenical officers which gather every month under the leadership of our County Ecumenical Officer, the Revd Anton Müller.

The role of the Denominational Ecumenical Officer (DEO) is to encourage their denomination to engage in collaborative working wherever possible. This may be by meeting to pray and worship together through the network of local churches together groups, covenanted groups and other partnerships. You will hear more on this shortly.

A new way of working ecumenically is developing through the emergence of the Ecumenical Working Parties "EWPs" based around the Five Marks of Mission. The Working Party set up to help churches and groups engage with Environmental issues has been in place for over a year under the chairmanship of John Rodwell, the Diocesan Environmental Officer. There is now an EWP for Social Justice and Responsibility under the chairmanship of Mike Hart, a member of the NW Synod of the United Reformed Church. The EWPs both support and are supported by the team of DEOs.

Perhaps the most complex area is working collaboratively in Mission and Discipleship – this requires of us all a level of ecumenical generosity. The main areas where we can come together to grow in faith are through the resources and events for Advent, the Week of Prayer, Lent and Holy Week & Easter, Pentecost and more recently Thy Kingdom. In 2022 it is planned to renew our presence at the Royal Lancashire Show and to create the opportunity for mission and outreach at this county wide event.

And finally... Lancashire Sings Christmas. This is more than a carol service – it is an opportunity to work ecumenically by inviting the community to share in the story of 'God with us' at local venues, where safe to do so as well as to reach out to the most vulnerable and isolated in our communities. Lancashire Sings Christmas will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> in partnership with Radio Lancashire.

6 Commissioning of The Rt Revd Paul Swarbrick, the Bishop of Lancaster, as Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire (CTL) 2021/22

This was conducted by Rex Ambler, Lancashire Quakers. Bishop Paul formally accepted the role of Chair of CTL and continued the meeting from this point.

7 Report from the County Ecumenical Officer with updates on

- i) DEOs The Revd Brian Drury (NWBA)
- ii) LEP's and Groups: The Revd Daleen Ten Cate (URC)
- iii) Ecumenical Working Parties & Inter Faith Dr Peter Lumsden
- iv) Lancashire Sings Christmas – Capt Tracy Collis (Salvation Army) The Revd Stuart Wild (Methodist DEO)
- v) Thy Kingdom Come 2022 The Revds Stephen Brown/Gary Lewis (CofE)

## **Ecumenical Officers' Report**

Despite the constraints of COVID it has been an immensely busy year in the County and wider afield.

Starting with wider afield: I represent the NW Region on the Enabling Group of Churches Together in England. The NW Region covers Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Liverpool, Lancashire & Cumbria. We have returned to being able to meet in person. It is encouraging to see how Churches Together in England is growing with many new church groups and associations joining. In March 2022 Churches Together in England will be holding its Forum at Swanwick and we have good input from Lancashire – I have been appointed as the Deputy Moderator, The Revd Kevin Huggett, the Lancaster University Chaplain is co-ordinating the music and we hope to send a young adult to represent the young people of Lancashire.

In the County the ecumenical work is carried on through the team of DEOs. Earlier in the year we said farewell to Ray Borg, the DEO for the Lancashire Methodist District. Ray, with his wife Karen, have taken up a missional posting in France. It has been great to welcome Stuart Wild to the team.

This year I have invited some of the DEOs to give a brief outline of the areas of ecumenical engagement. So first of all, let me introduce The Revd Brian Drury who is the both the Church Leader Representative and Ecumenical Officer for the NWBA – I have asked Brian to share a few snippets of the life a DEO. Brian

The Revd Daleen Ten Cate joined the team last year as the DEO for the NWSynod of the United Reformed Church – I have asked Daleen to share with us some of the work that she has been doing: Daleen

### **Trinity Great Harwood LEP**

The Rededication of the Trinity Great Harwood LEP took place on the 3rd October 2021.

Three Churches amalgamated exactly ten year ago in September 2010. Two Methodist and one URC. They looked around for a new site for their Church but costs continued to rise and they decided about seven years ago to refurbish the largest established Church, Central Methodist Church now Trinity URC Methodist Church.

With a lot of blood, sweat and tears, despite financial setbacks and a Pandemic to deal with they now became a state of the art community hub in Great Harwood where they welcomed old and new community groups back to the building.

Huge gratitude goes to Rev Geoffrey Hayes (Methodist Minister) and Mr. Geoff Grundy (project manager and member of Trinity Great Harwood) for steering this very successful refurbishment project.

## **Eco Matters**

As the NW Synod's Green Apostle and member of the Environmental Working Group I have lead three Eco Church Workshops via zoom in order to enable churches across the Synod, as well as LEP's and Ecumenical friends, to become Eco Churches by engaging with Arocha Resources. In the last year 10 churches in Lancashire became Eco Churches and many more churches are in the process to become Eco Churches. Many churches engaged with Climate Sunday and Creationtide services. An interfaith group in Clitheroe hosted the Camino to Cop Pilgrims, on their way to Glasgow.

Ecumenical Working Parties and LFF: In addition to the team of DEOs Churches Together in Lancashire also relates to other community groups – we are doing this through the formation of Ecumenical Working Parties based around the five marks of mission and also looking at how work in partnership with other faith and community groups. Dr Peter Lumsden, inter faith advisor for the Lancashire Methodist District is one of our network partners and brings encouraging news on the development of the EWP for Social Justice & Responsibility. Peter Lumsden

### **Ecumenical Working Parties & Inter Faith (Dr Peter Lumsden )**

Churches Together in Lancashire 'ecumenical working party' set up to cover two of the 5 (Anglican) marks of mission; social justice and social responsibility. Essentially this is 'migrating over' what was happening under Together Lancashire, but with the emphasis on guidance and advocacy rather than delivery and project support. This is being led by Mike Hart (URC) and Peter Lumsden (Methodist), with ideas being discussed directly at meetings of church leaders and DEOs - rather than creating a formal working party. It is thought that it will be more efficient and effective to operate without a formal working party, but the importance of having some input from a range of experienced "advisors" – this is happening already, involving for example canon Michael Wedgeworth and Mark Wiggan (ex chief executive of Caritas).

A key element of this work relates to the connections that have been made through the pandemic between faith leaders, voluntary sector, local authority and health leads, exploring with them how the faith sector can engage on issues of social action, community cohesion, and, uniquely, emotional and spiritual well-being. A series of webinars and meetings have been convened, under the joint auspices of CTL and the Lancashire Forum of Faiths.

Post-pandemic, there is likely to be significant funding directed towards social support, and mental wellbeing. The likely default is that much of this funding will come through a contractual route. This will be difficult for many individual churches and faith groups to engage with, either through lack of skills / capacity or more fundamentally the lack of a recognised organisational structure, i.e. charity

registration etc. This will apply at least as much to local church / faith groupings which tend to be informal in Governance with no resources of their own. What they DO have though are premises, volunteers, and experience of offering spiritual and emotional support. One approach is for CTL and the LFoF to partner with appropriate voluntary sector groups, bringing together the capacity of the one with the unique offering of the other.

In addition to the development of such partnerships, planning has started for a one-day event to show case examples of church (and other faith groups) engagement in social action from around the county - May 26th, at Whalley Abbey. The intention is to invite some key speakers at the level of e.g. chief executive of one of the health foundation trusts, together with some case studies, and a series of workshops, on topics such as social prescribing, and places of welcome. At the same time, a start has been made on producing case studies from around the county, with the first being the @home café, West Preston Methodist church.

Christmas is coming and that means.... Lancashire Sings Christmas, a partnership event between Churches Together in Lancashire and Radio Lancashire. We think this is 12<sup>th</sup> year... because of COVID things were done quite differently last year and this year things will again be cautious.. Capt Tracy Collis our DEO and acting church leader representative for the Salvation Army in Lancashire is on the planning team and is here now to explain how things will work this year. Tracy:

This years LSC takes place on 16th December on Radio Lancashire. Due to the ongoing concerns of Covid and winter flu, the BBC made the decision not to broadcast the event live. In previous years the bands and choir would go to the BBC studio. The BBC felt they could not responsibly encourage gatherings at this time. This year's event will thus follow the same pattern as 2020, when recordings of the carols from previous years was used. The stories of hope will be pre-recorded and edited for use on the night and some subsequent radio programme towards Christmas.

Taking up the mantle from Ray Borg, Stuart Wild joins us this evening to give an example of the kind of areas that this year's LSC will bring to show how local Christian groups are inspiring hope in their communities. Stuart:

Earlier this year people in Kirkham noticed that some asylum seekers had been moved into the area. They were from different countries and cultures and in a sense the only thing they had in common was that they were strangers in a strange land. A group of Christians gathered together and New Roots was born. It seeks to help with social and practical needs. It's a learning curve for all who are involved but above all it is offering hope to people in our country. There are many stories of hope around and the New Roots story and several others will feature this year in Lancashire Sings Christmas as we celebrate the Hope that the birth of Jesus still brings to the world.

A few years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, launched the national programme "Thy Kingdom Come" – a period of prayerful expectation between Ascension Day and Pentecost. This is an initiative that has been adopted across Churches Together in England and we have encouraged to engage in this time of prayer and reflection across the whole Christian community. We two DEOs for the Diocese of Blackburn, the Revd Stephen Brown is the DEO for the Blackburn

Archdeaconry and the Revd Gary Lewis is the DEO for the Archdeaconry of Lancaster. Stephen is here this evening to share something of the hope for the next Thy Kingdom Come programme. Stephen

This is the annual, global, inter-church initiative which invites Christians to come together in praying that more people will come to know Jesus Christ. It focuses on the ten days between Ascension Day and Pentecost (which in 2022 will be between 26th May and 5th June).

Over the last few years the material produced to resource it – both nationally and locally – seems to have become dominated by the Anglicans, and other denominations have either taken to producing some limited resources of their own or nothing much at all.

Following the experience of 2021, the Lancashire DEO group gave a mandate to the two Anglican officers in Lancashire (in the Diocese of Blackburn) to approach Bishop Julian, to ask whether responsibility for compiling 2022 material could be handed over to CTL (working through the DEOs), in the hope that the results could then be promoted officially by all the Church leaders across Lancashire across their respective denominations. Whilst the aims of TKC are distinct and different from, say, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, nevertheless the ecumenical foundation for a national and international novena of prayer for evangelism is, for us, something crucial.

Bishop Julian has indicated that he is agreeable to this approach, and it is intended that the two Anglican DEOs will meet with him in the new year after further consultation with the group. It so happens that there are ten denominations represented in our DEO team, and with ten days of TKC to plan for, it may be that each could offer a different contribution each day.

So far, a national lead for TKC 2022 has not appeared from CTBI or CTE, and we wait to see if any particular themes will be forthcoming. But if not, the idea would be to create a common thread for contributions, perhaps with the suggestion of a short video being made for each day based around a focus for Bible study and prayer. Any central acts of worship will also need to be considered.

That concludes the report from the ecumenical officers for Lancashire. You haven't heard from all. Along with Brian, Daleen, Tracy, Stephen, Gary I would like to thank Fr Ciprian (Orthodox), Tom De Lacey (Free Church of England) Fr Peter Burns (Catholic Diocese of Lancaster), Fr Peter Hopkinson (Catholic Dioc of Salford) Canon Peter Stanley (Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool)... for all their work and support... but especially I would like to thank those who in each local place and local group meet faithfully to pray, work and worship with share vision for one church, one faith and one Lord.

Thank you

8 Financial summary for year ending December 31st 2020 Mr J Fisher, Treasurer  
End of Year Accounts for 2020 previously circulated. The following summary was shared on screen

Income		Expenditure	
General Denominational Contributions	£28,612	• Salaries and Pensions	£16,851
Contribution to Secretarial	£ 600	• Travel and Telephone	£ 1,788
Refunded Expenses	£ 240	• HMRC	£ 968
		• Other expenses	£ 614
		• CTE Subscription	£ 350
		• Insurance	£ 292
		• Grants to Projects	£ 4,300
		• ACOS expenses	£ 832
TOTAL.....	£29,452	• TOTAL.....	£25,995

The meeting was invited to accept the accounts.

Proposed: Bishop Julian, Seconded: Ian Marshall (Lancashire Quakers)  
Accepted unanimously

#### 9 Presentation from Churches Together in England

The Revd Dr Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches Together in England  
Into the future - Re-imagining Ecumenism : The Strategic Plan for CTE

This presentation can be viewed by following this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3OYes2QM0p7h13zx5eib\\_cXiowL0S9P75ka-2l\\_9hRT1hXZOEYfckIHEY1v-0BG.GwK8semLZXB9HYMy](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3OYes2QM0p7h13zx5eib_cXiowL0S9P75ka-2l_9hRT1hXZOEYfckIHEY1v-0BG.GwK8semLZXB9HYMy) PW: 1nfDZ+@y

#### 10 Any Questions

Those attending were invited to submit questions to the Ecumenical Officer for Lancashire

#### 11 Closing Reflection & Prayer by The Revd Paul Swarbrick

#### 12 Closing Worship

We have a Gospel to proclaim  
Prayer of Unity and Commitment to one another

We as part of the whole Christian Church in Lancashire confess our faith in One God, the Father, Creator, the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit, guiding His Church, the Body of Christ, into all truth. We repent of all that is wrong in our past histories and present attitudes. We rejoice in the riches of the traditions we have inherited and seek to share them more fully with one another in the unity which is the will and gift of God.

We commit ourselves to deepening our fellowship with Christ and with one another so that we may know, understand and value each other and together seek through prayer God's will for His people. We will seek to work together in pastoral care and mission as we reach out with the love of God to the people of Lancashire.

Blessing was given by Bishop Paul

Date of next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 TBC

# **Churches Together in Lancashire**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Towers + Gornall**  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Garstang, Preston

**Independent examiner's report on the accounts of  
Churches Together in Lancashire**

**Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....  ..... Date 28/10/2022

**Mick Gornall**  
Towers & Gornall  
River View  
96 High Street  
Garstang  
PR3 1WZ

Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2021

Churches Together in Lancashire	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>		
General Denominational Contributions	20,249	28,612
<b>Other Income</b>		
St. Peter's - Anita		600
CTL expenses		240
ACOS		
Bank Interest		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,249</b>	<b>29,452</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Ecumenical Development Officer:</b>		
Salary and Pension	15,452	16,851
Travel and home telephone	1,340	1,788
Consultations, courses and resources	-	-
	16,793	18,639
HMRC Payments - PAYE, Tax, & NICs	842	968
Forums, conferences & local review expenses	1,038	-
<b>Office Costs:</b>		
Equipment	-	72
Insurance	292	292
Rents		-
	292	365
ACOS grants	-	-
ACOS expenses	15	832
Lancashire Agricultural Show		-
Donations		-
Grants	2,360	4,300
Other Expenses	811	892
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>22,151</b>	<b>25,996</b>
Income Less Expenditure	- 1,901	3,456
Cleared Liabilities from previous year	-	-
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>- 1,901</b>	<b>3,456</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
HSBC Current Account	71,979	73,882
HSBC Deposit Account	-	-
	71,979	73,882
CAF Cash Account	1	1
CAF Gold Account	-	-
	1	1
Churches Together in Scorton		1,194
	<b>71,981</b>	<b>75,077</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
General contributions received in advance	-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>71,981</b>	<b>75,077</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Last years general funds	73,882	71,621
Balance of Income and Expenditure for the year	- 1,901	3,456
Current Liabilities	-	-
	<b>71,981</b>	<b>75,077</b>

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160021

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# Accounts

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## **Chairman's Report for 2020**

If one had to choose to be chair of anything... 2020 would not be the Year! However – despite the challenges that the Pandemic has brought to World and to our own County of Lancashire – what we have seen has been real growth in ‘unity in mission’ as churches have come together to respond to the crisis and serve their communities.

There are many wonderful examples – from larger scale programmes such as The Pantry in Fleetwood – a partnership between the Healthcare Trust with the Catholic and Anglican churches of Fleetwood, to single acts of random kindness such as the “Slice Guy” in Preston donating a 100 pizzas to needy families in the community.

We are aware of the work of our chaplains who work ecumenically in high risk environments such as Hospitals and Prisons. One of our most recently ordained Priests in the Diocese of Blackburn, the Revd Susan Salt, chose to return to her work as a Doctor in order to serve on the frontline of the NHS in the battle against COVID.

The Salvation Army has always been in the forefront of community support and it has been heartening to hear of churches across the denominations giving support.

Some of the stories of hope and good news will feature in this year's Lancashire Sings Christmas which will be broadcast on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm on Radio Lancashire.

The Churches in Lancashire have been full participants with the Lancashire Resilience Forum, working with civic leaders and with leaders of the other Faith communities. We have been represented across a number of sub groups such as recovery group, the faiths group and the volunteer and community group. In November members of the Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Bahai communities along with civic leaders met with the Christian leaders for Lancashire and most recently a Webinar, organised by CTL and the Lancashire Forum of Faiths was held to explore “Hope” in our communities. This coming together will continue.

The meeting of the Church Leaders through the year has been especially valuable. This year Churches Together in Lancashire welcomed Bishop John Fenwick to the meeting. Bishop John is the Bishop for the Northern Province of the Free Church of England and is a Trustee of Churches Together in England.

It is always a challenge to get all the Leaders together but in this time of Zoom the meetings have been well supported and have been a time of much needed encouragement. We are also encouraged to hear of many local groups coming together ecumenically by Zoom, in prayer & study, fellowship & worship.

We are all in unprecedented times and unprecedented times calls us all to do unprecedented things. The Church in Lancashire has been called to action together and is responding: that work will and must continue as together, in prayer and in hope, we work bring light to the darkness – trusting in the One who is the Light of the World.

## **County Ecumenical Officer (CEO) Report 2020**

The Revd Anton Müller continues represent North West Regions (Intermediate Bodies) of Liverpool, Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria on the Enabling Group of Churches Together in England. These meetings have taken place via Zoom. The Enabling Group has facilitated discussion around the 4<sup>th</sup> Presidency of CTE (the Empty Chair, in the light of the nominated candidate being in a same sex marriage); discussion forums on church responses to Black Lives Matters – Bishop Joe Aldred has been pivotal in this work; The CEO has been appointed Deputy Moderator of the 2022 Forum, the national conference of Churches Together in England.

The CEO with some of the DEOs (Denominational Ecumenical Officers) are serving as Ecumenical Observers on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's Synod.

Throughout the Pandemic the CEO and DEOs have participated in meetings of the Lancashire Resilience Forum and sub groups.

The CEO has continued to develop the Ecumenical Discussion platform working with the Lancashire Theological Society, Lancashire Forum of Faiths and A Company of Speakers. The most recent event was an interfaith webinar on Hope

Development of the Ecumenical Working Parties (EWP) was put on hold earlier in the year but work on this has now resumed. Representatives from each of the denominations have been invited to come together to share thoughts and ideas around: Mission and Discipleship (Marks 1 and 2); Social Care (Mark 3), Social Justice (Mark 4), Environment (Mark 5) – in addition there will be EWPs on Children, youth and young adults, spirituality and pilgrimage. An ecumenical "Emergency Planning" working party was suggested last year – we never knew how quickly this would come to pass with the DEOs deployed to various groups within the Lancashire Resilience Forum.

### **Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO's)**

Lancashire has developed the most complete team of DEOs with representation across all the church groups in Lancashire.

The Revd Stephen Brown has been appointed as the DEO for the Archdeaconry of Blackburn; The Revd Liz Jewitt has stepped down as DEO for the URC NW Synod – a replacement is being sought.

### **(Local Ecumenical Partnerships) LEPS:**

**Trinity Accrington:** The Revd Paul McNally appointed last year as Curate in Charge is to be licensed as the Incumbent.

**Churches Together in North Blackburn:** is beginning a period of affirmation and review following changes in the team.

## **Ecumenical Project Funding 2020**

Grants of £1,000 were awarded to:

“Transforming Lives for Good” group in Blackpool – a project to provide meals in the holiday to children who would receive free school meals in term time.

“The Well Community Café” – an evangelism programme around a hot breakfast also in the Blackpool area.

# **Churches Together in Lancashire**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**Towers + Gornall**  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Garstang, Preston

Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2020		
Churches Together in Lancashire	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>		
General Denominational Contributions	28,612	27,586
<b>Other Income</b>		
St. Peter's - Anita	600	
CTL expenses	240	
ACOS		550
Bank Interest		20
	-	570
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,452</b>	<b>28,156</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Ecumenical Development Officer:</b>		
Salary and Pension	16,851	23,503
Travel and home telephone	1,788	3,590
Consultations, courses and resources	-	700
	18,639	27,793
HMRC Payments - PAYE, Tax, & NICs	968	1,944
Forums, conferences & local review expenses	-	5,168
<b>Office Costs:</b>		
Equipment	72	1,062
Insurance	292	364
Rents	-	-
	365	1,426
ACOS grants	-	6,689
ACOS expenses	832	-
Lancashire Agricultural Show	-	337
Donations	-	3,785
Grants	4,300	
Other Expenses	892	4,014
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>25,996</b>	<b>51,155</b>
Income Less Expenditure	3,456	- 22,999
Cleared Liabilities from previous year	-	-
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>- 22,999</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
HSBC Current Account	73,882	70,427
HSBC Deposit Account	-	-
	73,882	70,427
CAF Cash Account	1	1
CAF Gold Account	-	-
	1	1
Churches Together In Scorton	1,194	1,194
	75,077	71,622
<b>Liabilities</b>		
General contributions received in advance	-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>75,077</b>	<b>71,622</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Last years general funds	71,621	94,620
Balance of Income and Expenditure for the year	3,456	- 22,999
Current Liabilities	-	-
	75,077	71,621

**Independent examiner's report on the accounts of  
Churches Together in Lancashire**

**Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.......... Date..19/10/21..

**Mick Gornall**  
Towers & Gornall  
Abacus House  
The Ropewalk  
Garstang  
PR3 1NS