

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 17th 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 4th 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

31st 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
Income		
General Denominational Contributions	28,612	27,586
Other Income		
St. Peter's - Anita	600	
CTL expenses	240	
ACOS		550
Bank Interest		20
	-	570
Total Income	29,452	28,156
Expenditure		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
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
Office Costs:		
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
Total Expenses	25,996	51,155
Income Less Expenditure	3,456	- 22,999
Cleared Liabilities from previous year	-	-
Profit for the year	3,456	- 22,999
Assets		
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
Liabilities		
General contributions received in advance	-	-
Net Assets	75,077	71,622
Represented by:		
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
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