

**Churches Together in Lancashire
Annual Meeting November 25th 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 16th 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 12th 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/3OYes2QM0p7hl3zx5eib_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: 24th November 2022 TBC

Churches Together in Lancashire

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st 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
Income		
General Denominational Contributions	20,249	28,612
Other Income		
St. Peter's - Anita		600
CTL expenses		240
ACOS		
Bank Interest		
Total Income	20,249	29,452
Expenditure		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
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	-
Office Costs:		
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
Total Expenses	22,151	25,996
Income Less Expenditure	1,901	3,456
Cleared Liabilities from previous year	-	-
Profit for the year	1,901	3,456
Assets		
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
	71,981	75,077
Liabilities		
General contributions received in advance	-	-
Net Assets	71,981	75,077
Represented by:		
Last years general funds	73,882	71,621
Balance of Income and Expenditure for the year	1,901	3,456
Current Liabilities	-	-
	71,981	75,077