

Light a Candle

Liverpool Hope University Creative Campus
Sat 5th & Sun 6th December 2015

We at Voice Assembly would like to share our Festive tunes with you. Anyone can join us and is welcome - young or old. There is no need to be able to read music, just join in and have fun. There are no auditions. Enjoy the experience of performing for family & friends in the concert on the Sunday evening or simply come and enjoy our Gospel sounds. Anyone wishing to join us please send an email: voiceassembly7@gmail.com or ring us on 07854 870 167. **Workshop:** 10:00am till 4:00pm, cost: £25.00; **Concert:** 6th Dec at 7:00pm, tickets: £10.00; concession: £7.00; children under 15: free.



Pentecost 2016

Sunday 15 May 2016

Plans are already well under way for our **Two Cathedrals Celebration** at Pentecost 2016. This two-yearly event took a significant turn in 2014, when Hope Street came alive with musicians and dancers, seeking to capture and express something of that sense of God's dynamic Spirit coming anew upon his people. It was a particular delight to see many passers-by joining in the celebration, and, like the people of Jerusalem centuries ago, asking questions about what was happening. It was also a time when as a Christian community we prayed together for God's peace, presence and healing across our Merseyside Region. Next year's celebration looks as though it will be even bigger, establishing itself as a significant event in the life of our city – more details will emerge in the New Year, but please book the date now.

Ecumenical NewsBrief
is published for Churches Together in the Merseyside Region
(Registered Charity No. 519061)
by the Ecumenical Co-ordinator: Elisabeth Hachmöller
at the Ecumenical Office, Quaker Meeting House,
22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT

Tel: 0151-709-0125

e-mail: office@ctmr.org.uk

www.ctmr.org.uk

Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

Ecumenical NewsBrief

December 2015



Changes at CTMR

Welcome to our latest newsletter which comes with our greetings and good wishes for the season. In a world where sadly, faith and religion are so often associated with violence and division, it remains a priority for us to demonstrate our unity in Christ, reaching out to all people in a spirit of respect, friendship and common humanity.



Recent months have been eventful for CTMR; most significant has been the departure of Ian Smith as Ecumenical Development Officer after many years of faithful service. Ian's role came to an end through a process of restructure, which we expect to make us a lighter, more responsive organisation, equipped to bring God's people together for mission in our contemporary world. I speak for many when I express appreciation for all that Ian has done, particularly the way he has graciously enabled things to move forward throughout this process. We were able to make a small presentation to Ian at our Management Council in September.

Ian's former role has been combined with that of Office Administrator to appoint a new Ecumenical Co-ordinator. This enables the basic operations of CTMR to continue, while also overseeing the work of a number of Project Co-ordinators who will take key initiatives forward. We are delighted to announce that Elisabeth Hachmöller has been appointed to this role, and look forward to working with her. Elisabeth is already well-known to us through her former role as Administrator; she brings significant experience and vision for contemporary Christian ecumenism.



Rev Phil Jump, North Western Baptist Association Regional Minister

Make Christ part of your Christmas tradition



Everyone has a Christmas tradition. When to decorate the house, when to put the tree up, how to have Christmas lunch. What to eat, watch, and drink. Who to meet up with, where to go. Small traditions, unique to every family making Christmas special for each of us.

For the second year running Churches Together in the Merseyside Region with Together for the Harvest and other church partners are supporting the national Christmas starts with Christ campaign.

Like last year churches across our region join in the Christmas campaign with a unified message to 'Make Christ part of your Christmas tradition'. With posters adorning Liverpool Central station, on buses and importantly outside churches, united we make an impact, successfully competing with the retail industry and their large advertising budgets.

Plans are in place to make this year bigger and better than before. The central image will remain the same. We will be funding a similar campaign on buses and on billboards. We are also supplying posters, artwork and resources that you can use for your church. Together we can show the people of Merseyside that Christmas starts with Christ and Christ can be part of their Christmas tradition. We want the campaign to build and grow over the next 3 to 5 years.

The main way you can be involved is to display the poster and mage. Put it on your noticeboard, your service sheets, your invitations. There are free resources on www.merseychristmas.com and you can buy posters, banners and Christmas Cards on the online store of Liverpool Diocese.

To find out how you can get involved contact: Stuart Haynes, Director of Communications T: 0151 705 2150 M: 07534 218 122

E: stuart.haynes@liverpool.anglican.org

Support for Asylum Seekers

Support for Asylum seekers [SAS] in conjunction with Asylum Link Merseyside [ALM] is providing humanitarian aid to asylum seekers and refugees in our local community. SAS is an ecumenical project under the auspices of CTMR and we provide financial support to ALM who deliver the project on the ground.

Currently we make breakfasts and hot lunches available Monday to Friday at St Anne's Centre Overbury Street, Liverpool. On Fridays the destitute are also offered extra food, clothes - if necessary - and toiletries.

Support is given for individual bus passes and costs of travel for tribunals and court appearances.

Four houses provide emergency accommodation for about 18 destitute people. If funds allowed we would be accommodating 250+ destitute people.

Occasionally we are requested by the Probation Service for small personal grants to help people out on licence who have no financial means of support.

The demands are rising weekly. In September 2015 we had over 3,000 visitors to the Centre. On one day alone recently we fed 250 people for lunch out of one small kitchen. Amazing!

Recent Government reforms from August 2015 and planned for July 2016 will effectively mean more people becoming destitute sooner, including families with children.

On a happier note in the summer SAS funded the cost of meat during the Refugee Week barbecue which was enjoyed by a few hundred asylum seekers and refugees. We will give similar funding for food at the Christmas lunch.

SAS has a newsletter in April and October so if you wish to be included on the circulation list or learn how you could support SAS please email sas@ctmr.org.uk or office@ctmr.org.uk

For further information please contact Neil Cunningham, SAS Co-ordinator. Email: neilscunningham@yahoo.co.uk

