



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

This Report sets out the key areas of work for Churches Together in Herefordshire over the past year, and for Anna Nugent, the County Ecumenical Officer (CEO), employed by CTiH for 45 hours per month (increased by 5 hours per month this year).

Churches Together Groups

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

Christians Together in Orleton are sharing services,



alternating Sundays between the Anglican and Methodist churches. They are working together towards becoming EcoChurch and are

undertaking a review of their work together, chaired by the County Ecumenical Officer in 2022.

Churches Together in Ross & District have continued to meet regularly, churches talking with each other, without a break. They produced a Pentecost Service online in 2021 (instead of their usual lunch and Pentecost get-together in person).

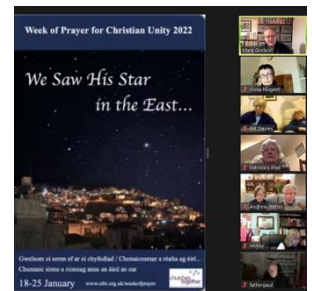
<https://www.ctrd.org.uk/>



Churches Together in Hereford held a very well attended Walk of Witness in 2022 on Good Friday, and are looking at ways to capitalise on the goodwill between the churches in the city to move forward.



Churches Together in Ewyas Harold have successfully managed to maintain a presence online through the year, with an Advent Prayer series and Night Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, regularly attended by Christians from different churches. They are currently looking at new ways of working, including support for Ukrainian refugees.



Churches Together in Leominster have held Lent Lunches again this year, raising money for Christian Aid and CAFOD and a Lent Course in person. They

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEOMINSTER
GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL
WALK OF WITNESS



were happy to be able to reinstate the Walk of Witness, with each church contributing to the liturgy as they made their way around the town.

Churches Together in Weobley have this year given £1000 to the Disasters Emergency Fund for Afghanistan – money that could feed 20 families for 45 days.



They have also held Lent Studies and have a Retreat planned for later this year.

Churches Together in Kington & District are



working together and continuing to meet, with their Lent Course this year the York Course 'Superstar' attended by people across the town.

Organisations with whom CTiH works

LEAF – Ledbury churches

The CEO is a Trustee of LEAF – ‘Locally Encouraging All to Flourish’. This charity, was set up to manage the existing and future social action



projects that are run ecumenically already in Ledbury, overseen by Rev Tony Hodder, the ecumenical minister. These activities include pastoral and marriage counselling, a Christians Against Poverty money course and debt counselling service, Alpha, Messy Church, Family Fun days, Open the Book and newly this year – GP chaplaincy.



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

Venventure

CTiH continues to support, publicise and actively work with this ecumenical organisation, including publicising their need for more Christian volunteers and Link Workers from all churches. The organisation expanded and has moved into its own building in Vicarage Road, St James, Hereford.



www.venventure.org.uk

Herefordshire Houses of Prayer / Church Leaders Together Hereford / Prayer for Youth

The CEO has regularly joined Christians from all over the county and beyond, for an hour of online open prayer ‘Zooming for Revival’. It is a supportive group which continues to meet every Monday night to pray for current issues and for the Holy Spirit to move in Herefordshire.



Another prayer initiative is continuing on Zoom – a regular monthly ecumenical hour of prayer for Youth and the various young people’s projects and chaplaincies working across the county. Zoom links

for either of these prayer groups available from the CEO herefordshireceo@gmail.com

The CEO joins with Church Leaders of Hereford monthly for a lunch meeting and prayer time, via Zoom and now again in person. The time is used to share news about individual and joint projects as well as offering support and prayer for each other’s ministries.



Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

The CEO sits on this Herefordshire Council Committee representing CTiH. She provides a brief report of each meeting to the CTiH Standing Committee, as well as encouraging churches to volunteer people to go into schools as part of the RE curriculum.

Other groups

The CEO has also met with **Marches Anti Slavery Partnership and Hereford Food Bank.**

Work with individual denominations

The Methodist Church

The CEO was happy to contribute to the consultation process of the Methodist Church Herefordshire (South & East) Circuit to extend the ministry of Superintendent Minister, Rev Phil Warrey. Phil has taken over the Chair of CTiH this year, and continues to work with a number of CT groups.



The CEO was invited to Green Lane Methodist Church to welcome Rev Paul Arnold as Minister of 10 churches in the Methodist **Shropshire & the Marches Circuit.** Paul has already contributed to a number of CT groups in his area.



The Moravian Church

The CEO was happy to attend the consecration of Rev Lorraine Shorten as Presbyter at Leominster Moravian Church. Lorraine is currently the secretary of CT Leominster.



The Anglican Diocese of Hereford

CTiH was invited to a Bishop's Staff meeting to talk about existing ecumenical partnerships in the county and potential opportunities. The CEO has been co-opted onto the Diocesan Synod by the Bishop of Hereford.

The CEO has publicised and attended online meetings of a new 'Building Bridges Schools Network', initiated by the Diocese Education Department to support all churches and individuals with their work with schools.

Hereford Cathedral

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

The CEO joined with Hereford Cathedral Ecumenical Companions, at the installation service for Dean Sarah Brown in October 2021.



Churches Together in England (CTE)

The CEO has attended **CTE webinars**: 'Living Church: God's Gift & Calling' responding to the report of the International Reformed / Anglican Dialogue; 'Meet the Pentecostals' webinar, with the new Pentecostal and Charismatic President Bishop Tedroy Powell and other leaders of other streams of the Pentecostal churches in Britain.

Phil Warrey attended the **CTE Forum** (the broadest ecumenical gathering of Christians in England,



usually meeting every 3 years) in Derbyshire this year representing CTiH. At the Forum, the new General Secretary, Bishop Mike Royal was commissioned into his role.



Churches Together in Herefordshire

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service

Once again this year to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, the CEO organised a Zoom service, The service was well-received and attended by Christians around the county.



Church Lifeline Zoom Meetings

CTiH took over the hosting of monthly calls for church leaders around the county from Vennture, set up to share information and resources about social action projects within and outside churches. Guest speakers from the Hereford Food Bank, Vennture projects, Herefordshire Mind and The Cart Shed were well received by the regular attendees through the year.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of Churches Together in Herefordshire meets 4 times a year, receives a report from the CEO and reviews her activities and initiatives.

The Committee is made up of representatives from each of the sponsoring denominations and has been chaired by Rev Richard Shaw, retiring this year as the Anglican Denominational Ecumenical Officer. We are very grateful for his years of service to ecumenism in the Diocese of Hereford and specifically for his work with Churches Together in Herefordshire.



Open Meetings

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



Dean Sarah Brown spoke at the November meeting, held in person at the Bishop’s Palace, Hereford. The meeting was recorded and can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/prFIMY2eiaQ>

Newsletter

CTiH publishes a newsletter 11 months of the year, sent electronically via MailChimp to 194 recipients (from whom permission has been explicitly obtained). It is also available as a double-sided A4 pdf for recipients who like to print and share it in their churches. Archive of newsletters [here](#)



Website

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

Facebook



The CTiH Facebook page has 505 followers. The page is regularly updated with events and news and sharing where Christians and Churches are working together.



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

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