



NEWSLETTER

PENTECOST 2018

Greetings from West Yorkshire Churches Together

Questions...?

One purpose of this newsletter is to maintain contact with Churches Together, but we are happy to include individuals and other groups upon request.

Many of us have recently received e-mails about maintaining subscriptions, or rehashed privacy rules: some are relevant, many not. Some are from people we have never heard of. It seems that individuals- *to whom this legislation actually applies*- do not need to "reconsent" to mailings of the same sort that they already receive- like this. So we will continue mailing to CT group addresses and individual addresses BUT... if you do not at any time wish to receive these mailings, all you need do is e-mail WYCT with as little as "Unsubscribe" in the message or header. If you are representing a body such as a Churches Together, please then nominate someone to take your place. Once again, our list is for WYCT information and contact purposes and is kept safe; it is NEVER passed to any other organisation, company or individual. I would like to check and confirm that our mailing list is active and functioning: if you are receiving this as a Churches Together Could I therefore ask you to

Reply to me (WYCT- this e-mail) to confirm this contact with your CT. Any other comments welcome.



Do you have a website? Can WYCT glean some idea of your activities from it, or can you provide this information? It would also be good to know which CT's are involved in social outreach (Foodbanks, Night Shelters, Help for Immigrants...) Perhaps we can then compile a register? *Nick Shields*

Thy Kingdom Come

This special time between Ascension and Pentecost seems to have been a great success- again- both together and personally. Can you tell us more about your area?

There was a "massive" and very successful gathering in Leeds, sponsored by the Methodist Church.

Archbishop Welby said

"For 11 days across the UK, and in over a hundred countries from Bangladesh to South Africa, we came together in prayer for the third year of this movement we call Thy Kingdom Come.

We asked God to pour out his Holy Spirit on his united people - to empower us share the revolutionary love of Jesus Christ with our friends, our families, our communities and our nations.

I've heard so many wonderful stories - from churches holding 24-7 prayer for the first time, to cathedrals packed with joyful crowds, to people giving their lives to Jesus after being prayed for the Thy Kingdom Come community.

And of course, what an incredible blessing it was to hear Bishop Michael Curry share the good news of Jesus with a global audience of millions in his Royal wedding sermon - before joining us for a Thy Kingdom Come event at St Albans Cathedral.

I'm filled with joy at how God is working so powerfully through this global movement of prayer. This year, it really started to feel like it was all of us. Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Pentecostals... joining together in this one clear and joyful cry out



to God: send your Holy Spirit that we might share Christ's love! When we are united in prayer, it's a clear sign of the Kingdom. Another sign of the Kingdom is the compassion that is firing up the Church. That means loving and caring for the poor and struggling - and for each other. Jesus calls us to be part of a revolution of love. In our prayers, we are being drawn into the very heart of that revolution.

I'm more excited by Thy Kingdom Come than anything I can remember for many, many years. Praise be to God!"

Refugee Week 2018

This year's Refugee Week takes place from 18-24 June 2018. It is a UK-wide programme of events and activities celebrating the contribution of refugees to the UK promoting better understanding of why people seek sanctuary. The theme for 2018 is "Different Pasts, Shared Future".

See the Refugee Week website for more information, details of events and resources. <http://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

Churches to help stop car wash modern slavery- with app !

Anti-slavery charities suspect many victims to be in car wash businesses and support the churches' app.

The National Crime Agency thinks there are tens of thousands of people being exploited in the UK, forced to work long hours, for little or no pay, and under threat of violence. They suspect many of them are working in terrible conditions in car washes as police have unearthed this kind of exploitation in garages throughout the country. To combat the problem, drivers are being encouraged to join a national information-gathering campaign launched by the Church of England? and the Catholic Church in

an app. The Safe Car Wash app will allow drivers to log where they are washing their car and answer a series of questions which could help identify if the staff have been trafficked.

This could vary from saying whether the workers have suitable protective clothing to any personal indicators

Ecumenism (1)

In his recent document "Gaudete et Exsultate" Pope Francis mentions people who set us all an example: who show "an exemplary imitation of Christ.... We can think, for example, of Maria Gabriella Sagheddu, who offered her life for the unity of Christians." Maria Gabriella has a local connection with the Community of the



Resurrection at Mirfield. She was a Trappist Nun in Vitorchiano in Italy and died at the age of 25 of TB in 1939, having offered her life in the cause of Christian Unity. Members of the Community have visited Vitorchiano and maintain contact. Fr Geoffrey Curtis CR visited as long ago as 1950, accompanied by the legendary Ecumenist, Abbe Couturier.

Ecumenism (2)



Wakefield born Bernadette Farrell receives a Lambeth award for her outstanding contribution to music in Christian worship, from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Her most popular hymn is probably "Christ Be Our Light" but many more are sung regularly in churches of varied

denominations. Bernadette was also much involved in the formation of London (now UK) Citizens.



Spirit of Windrush service *to be at Westminster Abbey*

A special service is being held at Westminster Abbey on 22 June 2018 to mark the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the MV Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948.

A thanksgiving service, 'Spirit of Windrush - Contributions to Multicultural Britain' will uniquely reflect on the impact Caribbean people have had on the UK, particularly since the Windrush's arrival. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Revd Dr John Hall, will officiate at the service and will wear the Windrush Cope that has been specifically created to mark this Windrush 70th anniversary year. The service will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship (0810-0848) on Sunday, 24th June.



Week of Action on Climate Change

Everyone is being encouraged to talk to their MPs about climate change during the Climate Coalition's Speak Up Week of Action from 30 June-8th July 2018.

Churches and local groups are being asked to hold an environmentally focused event in the community - anything from having a street party, organising a local nature walk, screening a film, showing off great local environmental initiatives, or just / arranging a meeting with the local MP. Whatever the event, the idea is to invite your local MP to show there is broad support for / climate action and to build support for stronger UK climate



targets. You can find out more about the campaign, sign up to organise an event and download resources, including an organiser's guide, on the Climate Coalition's website.

Members of the Climate Coalition include A Rocha UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Church of Scotland, Eco-congregation Scotland, Green Christian, the Iona Community, the John Ray Initiative, Justice and Peace Scotland, Operation Noah, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, the Salvation Army, SCIAF, Scottish Episcopal Church and Tearfund.

Asylum Applications and Christian Belief

A briefing for ministers called to give evidence in support of asylum applications and has recently been updated in May 2018. Produced by the Joint Public Issues Team, (see below for link) made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, working together for peace and justice.

Many people seek asylum in the UK on the grounds that they fear persecution as Christians or as converts to Christianity in their country of origin. Some may have entered the UK as Christians or have experienced a conversion to Christianity after they have arrived. Some of these worship in our local churches and participate in the life of the congregation. As a result, ministers and members of our congregations are confronted, possibly for the first time, with the complexities of the asylum process.

See the paper:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Asylum-Applications-and-Christian-Belief.pdf>



About us: WEST YORKSHIRE CHURCHES TOGETHER is the county ecumenical or intermediate body for West Yorkshire- **the county and those parts which are covered by West Yorkshire Dioceses and Districts.** Our website is at westyorkshirechurchestogether.com

And our e-mail: westyorkshirect@icloud.com

WYCT was one year old on 1st January. We held our AGM in March. We reviewed the progress that has been made in organising our Local Ecumenical Projects (LEP's) where DEO Convenor Glenn Coggins has done a lot of work in bringing the proposals for simplification from Churches Together in England into a workable shape. In future formation and review will be less complicated!

The "Forum" is the successor to the Council of West Yorkshire Church Leaders (WYEC) now WYCT. It meets three times a year, one meeting being residential.

Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield, has been elected chair for 2018/19.

The Deputy Convenor is Bishop Tony Parry of the New Testament Church of God.

NEWS

for

The Methodist District News -click [HERE](#)-

The latest Leeds Anglican Diocese Newsletter-click [HERE](#)

Mirfield- events at the Centre and Community- click [HERE](#)



LINKS OF INTEREST:

JPIT YORKSHIRE

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Yorkshire brings a Christian voice and vision to public issues that affect the people of Yorkshire -environment, social justice, politics

It is the northern offshoot of national JPIT and is sponsored by the regional bodies of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches. You can find more on

<https://jointpublicissuesyorkshire.org.uk>

LEEDS J&P

The long established Leeds Catholic Justice and Peace Group has a regular newsletter on these issues; Newsletter can be viewed [here](#)

NETWORK LEEDS

it carries latest news, events, jobs and volunteering opportunities from across the Christian communities of Leeds <https://networkleeds.com/news>

Thanks for all you do for unity...

Jesus our peace, if our lips keep silence, our heart listens to you and also speaks to you. And you say to each one of us: surrender yourself in all simplicity to the life of the Holy Spirit; for this, the little bit of faith you have is enough. *Taize*



We would be very pleased to receive your news- and photos- to include here. The Administrator is happy to preach/speak on Unity to your church/ group....

This newsletter is produced by WYCT: Administrator Nick Shields