

# Churches Together in Worcestershire

News, views and ideas...bringing together the ecumenical community in the county

October 2011



Listening God

Tune our ears to hear your voice  
amid the clamour of our busy lives  
May our living be the acting out  
of our praying in word and deed

Amen

John Carne



## Viewpoint

Andrew Mottram, **Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer (HBCDO)** in the Diocese of Worcester writes:

The HBCDO post is one of the 25 or so Place of Worship of Support Officers (PoWSO) in England which are 50% funded by English Heritage. The role of the PoWSO is to support faith communities who have responsibility for listed places of worship of heritage value. The PoWSO posts are not limited to Churches – there is one working with synagogue congregations across England and another working with an interfaith community initiative in the northwest of England.

The role of the HBCDO in the Diocese of Worcester is to help individual congregations to understand, maintain and make best use of their church buildings to enable their wider community use and benefit the Church's mission. This includes giving advice and support across a range of building and property related matters including fund raising; managing maintenance, repairs and improvements; generating community support for sustainable future; having buildings that are servants rather than tyrants. My work is not limited to the Anglican congregations

The other aspect of the role is to help diocesan and local authority bodies take a strategic approach to the increased use and conservation of historic places of worship.

A priority of the job is to encourage congregations to adopt a preventative maintenance programme with a 'little but often' approach rather than the 'neglect and crisis' pattern that can cause so many problems. Effective preventative maintenance can save a congregation thousands of pounds in just ten years

The other longer term objective is to get as many of the church buildings in the Diocese open for visitors. The recent Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry revealed that only about 40% of church buildings are open for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week or more.

Overcoming fear of theft and vandalism is a significant factor, but more significant is enabling the PCCs and congregations to appreciate that the buildings do not belong to them. As the Church of England, the buildings are vested with the PCC who hold them on behalf of the residents of the parish and the wider community. Church communities need to have the confidence to let them be available without putting too many barriers in the way.

*Ed: Although Andrew is writing mainly about Church of England buildings, he notes that his work is not limited to Anglican congregations.*

# LOOKING AHEAD



Following the announcement that the Queen's Jubilee Celebration in 2012 will promote the Big Lunch, church leaders are being encouraged to get all churches involved.

To help build a bigger sense of community, churches, small groups and individuals are being encouraged to get involved next June with street parties and lunches on their own streets, wherever they live in the UK..

Roy Crowne, HOPE's Executive Director, said: "This is a calendar moment and an unmissable opportunity to make connections in your area, to be part of building up your community and to use opportunities for outreach through our words and actions. This could be just the start of 2012 community engagement with the Olympic celebrations following on. As followers of Jesus we should be in the business of community-building and sharing our hope with others."

More information at: [www.hopetogether.org.uk](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk)

## THE FOODBANK NETWORK OF THE TRUSSELL TRUST



is a nation-wide project available to Christian wanting to help their neighbours in need: 13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Trussell Trust foodbanks provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK. Last year our UK foodbank network fed over 60,000 people.

We partner with churches and communities to open new foodbanks nationwide. With over 100 foodbanks currently launched, our goal is for every town to have one.

There is currently a Foodbank under development in Worcester, and opportunities to start one where you are.

For more details go to: [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

# *We Will All be Changed*

Change is at the heart of our Christian faith. Saint Paul said that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, and we are called to live as children in the light.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012 comes to us from the churches in Poland, who have reflected upon their own experience as a nation, and in particular how, as a nation, they have been changed and transformed by the many upheavals of their history, and sustained by their faith.

Change is also at the heart of the ecumenical movement. When we pray for the unity of the church we are praying that the churches that we know and which are so familiar to us will change as they conform more closely to Christ. This is an exciting vision, but also a challenging one. Furthermore, when we pray for this transforming unity we are also praying for change in the world.

To view and order material for the Week of Prayer, log on to: [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

*n. b. Dates*

*The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time. To allow for local decision making, the material has only the year on it and the days are denoted by the numbers one to eight, so you can use it at any time of year*

CT Groups get wired !!!!!

CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) are offering local groups a **FREE WEBSITE**; they say:

We are offering local Churches Together groups a free website and hosting, based around an easy-to-use Content Management System (CMS), linked to our new social networking website [Churches Together Connect](http://Churches Together Connect).

A number of features help to keep website content fresh and up-to-date: the website automatically takes news feeds from CTBI and your national Churches Together organisation<sup>1</sup>; and 'plug-in' content allows local groups to quickly add details and direct links to resources available from CTBI, such as for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent, Creation Time, Racial Justice Sunday and Remembrance Sunday.

The website comes with sample content but is customisable to enable local groups to add and edit their own sections and pages as required, as well as upload photos and add videos. A banner and logo, plus a number of themes, are provided, but local groups are free to upload their own.

**You can view a sample website and if you choose to sign up, email CTBI at the address on their website: [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)**

## Housing Justice reminds us of *Homelessness Sunday*

The next Homelessness Sunday will be the last Sunday in January 2012 and is part of  
***Poverty & Homelessness Action Week***  
28 January ó 5 February 2012

**Rich | Poor**  
**Housed | Homeless**  
**Rural | Urban**  
**Migrant | Settled**  
**Homeowner | Tenant**  
**Employed | Unemployed**  
**Private sector | Public sector**  
**Employer | Employee**  
**Bankers | The rest**

Our world is filled with barriers between people. Barriers that prevent us from understanding one another. They are created by unfair benefits rules and inadequate wages. By the stigma attached to being poor or homeless. And by the growing gap between the richest and poorest people in our society.

Churches and community projects can break these barriers. They can challenge prejudice, enable excluded people to live full lives, and build a fairer world.

**Work with *Housing Justice* in Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2012 to break the barriers that trap people in poverty and homelessness. For more information and resources go online: [www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)**

### **More than Gold - getting ready for the Olympics**

The Olympics is coming to a place near you

- 205 nations taking part, 14,700 athletes competing, 10.8 million tickets on sale, 4 billion people watching globally.

The numbers involved in London 2012 are truly staggering. This is the biggest sporting event ever hosted by the UK. The many and amazing opportunities to share in local community events in partnership with other churches and community groups are approaching fast - if we take a moment now and plan creatively.

Everything you need to know is at [www.morethangold.org.uk](http://www.morethangold.org.uk).

### **Personal News**

We are delighted to welcome the Revd Stephanie Moyes as the new Administrator for CTiW. Stephanie is an ordained Priest in the Church of England and brings a wealth of experience from Chaplaincy and Church life in various places to the post.

<b>CTiW Church Leaders:</b>	<b>Denominational Ecumenical Officers:</b>
Anglican: Rt Rev John Inge, Bishop of Worcester	Anglican: Rev. David Ryan 01905 616109
Baptist: Rev. Keith Judson (Chair)	Baptist: Rev. Gordon Brand 01886 880400
Methodist: Rev. Bill Anderson	Methodist: Rev. Jane Wilson
Quakers: Desmond Gamlen	Roman Catholic: Kevin Down 01905 21535
Roman Catholic: awaiting appointment	United Reformed Church: Rev. Jim Brown 01905 453373
Salvation Army: Captain Jenny Forman	Treasurer: Mrs Jo Dowling 01905 424539
United Reformed Church: Rev. Roy Lownes	Administrator: Revd Stephanie Moyes: 07587246474

Deadline for news and copy for the Spring edition of the Newsletter to David Ryan at [dpryangb@aol.com](mailto:dpryangb@aol.com) by February 5<sup>th</sup>.