

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CUMBRIA

news January 2012

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC) January 2012 newsletter. Please continue to circulate it as widely as possible within your churches. Thanks and best wishes.

Helen Boothroyd and Ruth Harvey

diary dates

- * 18th – 25th January, **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
- * 24th January, **Three Faults & Three Fixes** – DVD on the banking system and introduction to the Occupy movement. Kendal Quaker Meeting House, 7.15 p.m.
- * 28th January, **Beyond the Church Mice** - free training day from the Churches Trust for Cumbria exploring how visits to places of worship can be part of the National Curriculum & how we can encourage children to be 'Church Detectives'. Led by Joanna Booth, English Heritage. St Andrew's Church, Penrith. Bookings: e: julieb@ctfc.org.uk; t: 07501 469373.
- * 28th January, **The Silence of Love in the Heart of Nothing** - run by the Christian Meditation in Cumbria Network & led by Bob Morley. Tithe Barn, Grasmere, LA22 9SW; 10.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Cost: £12.50; bring own lunch; drinks provided. Info & booking: christianmeditation.org.uk
- * 1st February, **Cumbria Inter-faith Forum meeting with Deputy Chief Constable Stuart Hyde** - Conference Centre, Caldbeck Room, Newton Rigg College, Penrith, CA11 0AH, 5.45 for 6 p.m. All welcome; to book: cif2007@hotmail.co.uk
- * 10th – 12th February, **Compassionate Communication** – a weekend workshop at Glenthorne Quaker Study Centre led by Sarah Ludford about communicating in a way that supports peace. Full board fee: £198. Information: e: sarah@ludford-buric.freeserve.co.uk; t: 01768 774601
Booking: e: info@glenthorne.org; t: 015394 35389
- * 11th February, **Renewing Your Visitor Welcome** - free course run by the Churches Trust for Cumbria encouraging participants to think about the welcome their church gives to tourists, visitors & pilgrims, and offering practical advice & examples of good practice. Led by Joanna Booth, English Heritage. St Michael's Church, Bowness-on-Windermere. Bookings: e: julieb@ctfc.org.uk; t: 07501 469373.
- * 13th & 20th February, **Cumbria Youth Alliance training** – global youth work courses in Penrith offered **free** for the last time. **Booking deadline 12th January:** 01900 822110
- * 23rd – 25th February, **pre-Christian Aid Week roadshows** - led by Christian Aid NW staff. Food provided. All welcome. 23rd St John the Evangelist, London Road, Carlisle; 6-9 p.m. 24th St Johns Church, Washington St, Workington; 6-9 p.m. 25th Kendal URC, Highgate, Kendal; 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- * 2nd – 15th March, **Christian Aid 'Poverty Over' Sculpture Exhibition** – Carlisle Cathedral hosts this Christian Aid touring exhibition. Ideal for school trips, individuals and church groups to deepen their understanding about the issues behind poverty and how we can overcome them.
- * 10th March, **New Approaches to Worship** – led by Rev Dr Janet Wootton, Director of Studies for the Congregational Federation, this day conference is organised by Kendal Ecumenical Group. Castle St Community Centre, Kendal. All welcome; entry by free ticket: e: contactkeg@gmail.com; t: 01539 737432
- * 6th & 7th April, **A Passion for Kendal** (see panel)
- * 9th May, **Domestic Violence Awareness Training Day for clergy & pastoral carers**, Penrith. To book contact Helen: e: hbctic@tiscali.co.uk; t: 0750 393 1196
- * 15th September, **Celebrating Together** – put in your diary!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January

Pray with the world church for the unity
to which we are called.

Resources: www.ctbi.org.uk/569

Please send us news and photos of your services
and events for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Churches Together in Cumbria representatives,
including church leaders Rev Richard Teal & Rt Rev
Robert Freeman, met with Rory Stewart, MP for Penrith
& the Borders, on 3rd December 2011 to discuss the
'Big Society', chaired by Social Responsibility Forum
Convener Susan Aglionby.



A Passion for Kendal: 6th & 7th April

Kendal is to have its own Passion Play in 2012. This will be like the medieval mystery plays still being performed after hundreds of years, and will take place over two days at Easter at several sites in the town centre on Friday, when the last day of Jesus's life will be enacted during the afternoon, and Castle Hill on Saturday with choirs and fire sculptures to accompany scenes of the Resurrection.

<http://apassionforkendal.blogspot.com>

Everyone is welcome to join the project; no formal auditions. Help also needed with stewarding. To take part contact Chris Taylor or Elaine Thomson:
christaylor156@btinternet.com 01539 727424
elaineth@btinternet.com 01539 720347



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The Bethlehem Experience

What an Experience it was! Over 350 people came through the Bethlehem Experience this year which was double the previous year's total. This included four local schools bringing a class each to try out the experience for themselves. Roll on next year when more schools have expressed an interest in taking part!



The team



The carpenter at work

The Belle Vue Church of the Nazarene in Carlisle was completely transformed into a street scene from Bethlehem with Roman guards, money changers, market stalls, even our own Bethlehem Newspaper vendor, an inn, offering food but no rooms I am afraid; all of which leads to the main event of the story told by angels, shepherds and Wise Men which then leads, to some surprise for many, to an empty stable with a Cross in the corner. Although people expect to see a cosy scene of Mary, Joseph and a baby in the manger, we want to encourage people to appreciate that truth of the Christmas story, that Jesus did not stay a child in a manger, but came for a purpose so that the incarnation and the atonement are inextricably linked.



Empty manger explained

We appreciated the partnership working with St Barnabas and Holy Trinity Churches which made it possible to cover all five days. It is good to work together as fellow Christians on such a project, so here's to the next project together.

Barrie Thomas, Church of the Nazarene, Carlisle



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