



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Registered Charity Number 1139356

Furthering Ecumenical
Co-operation
within the
City of Leicester
and the
County of Leicestershire.

Cover Picture. Sing Christmas at The New Plough Inn at Hinckley.
Churches Together in Hinckley and District.
Photograph by Jim Tomlinson.



FOREWORD

'Build up, build up the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.' Isaiah 57:14

We are grateful to God for another year of working together as his people and seeing obstacles to mission and unity being overcome as we seek to join in faith, service and love. Vic works tirelessly among us to keep a spiritual focus and his cheerful approach to everything is always refreshing.

Of course there is much more to do to create communities with hope and peace at their heart but we are on the road, making progress and being encouraged and inspired as we put Gospel values at the heart of all we are.

Praying for God's grace upon us all

Dianne

Revd Dianne Tidball

Regional Minister, East Midlands Baptist Association (EMBA)

Chair of Churches Together in Leicestershire Enabling Group

Churches Together in Leicestershire (CTiL)

Three significant events in 2011

The start of 2011 saw the holding of the first Forum of CTiL for some time.

The Forum was held at Leicester College who helped to prepare and equip the venue as well as its students preparing for us an excellent meal for all those who attended.

Over 100 people came along from Churches Together Groups and those we are in partnership with. We must thank here Revd Barry Hill Mission Enabler for the Diocese and Revd Tim Woolley Director for Mission in the Northampton Methodist District for helping to ensure that this event went ahead.

We had a key note speaker who was Roy Crowne of Hope Together, Executive Director since March 2010 who spoke about Hope08 and taking the vision of what happened then forward. He was able to share with us the latest publication hot off the press 'Hope for Easter' everyone who attended was given a copy. Barry Hill spoke about More than Gold as we started to prepare for the Olympics in 2012 and explore the opportunities for our churches.

Tim Woolley spoke about Bible Fresh the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and how we could celebrate this locally.

The Chair of CTiL Bishop Tim, Bishop of Leicester gave a vote of thanks and commended the opportunities shared with us to help us with a confident heart go out into our communities.

In February the County Ecumenical Development Officer (CEDO) was part of a team who took 12 young people to our Link Diocese of Trichy in the Church of South India. It was the first time that young people had been taken to India as part of the link. The visit was an amazing experience for everyone who attended and we thank very much our hosts in India for looking after us so well and for a full and varied schedule which took us to many parts of the Diocese. Bishop Paul met us twice while we were in Trichy and on our leaving we left an open invitation for young people from Trichy to come and visit us. This is being planned for 2012.



Top picture. CEDO and young people with a congregation from a small village outside Dharapuram after Sunday service.

Picture left. Two of our young people enjoying a welcome break.

The third significant happening was the Lubbesthorpe planning application. CTiL had no specific opinion about the application itself but thought that we should consider what the Churches of Leicestershire could be doing.

Following on from a meeting with Blaby District Council (BDC) CTiL confirmed its desire to be part of the conversation and to that end we were charged with submitting a report to BDC by Christmas. We are most grateful that the Diocese were able to offer a secondment of Revd Phil White who was between posts and who had experience from Hamilton in the area we needed knowledge. Phil kindly took on the task of completing interviews with people and ensuring that the report did in deed get submitted on time. We are now anticipating what the next step will be and when that might be, but with thanks to Phil White we are still involved in the process where the church could be part of a project building new communities and not just more houses.

4,000-home estate plan is submitted

COUNCIL officials are considering newly-submitted plans for a large housing estate.

A group of developers have drawn up proposals to build 4,250 homes in Lubbesthorpe.

Davidsons, Barratt, David Wilson and Hallam Land Management are behind the scheme.

It was first reported in the Mercury in October when the outlines of their plan were unveiled.

Now a full set of designs including schools, motorway bridges, shops and business sites have been lodged with Blaby District Council.

The land proposed for development is off Beggars Lane and borders Leicester Forest East, Enderby and Braunstone Town.

The planning application must now be checked to ensure there is sufficient information for the council to process it. This is expected to take two to three weeks.

Once this is done, full details of the proposals will be made available and the council will begin an extensive public consultation exercise.

Although planning applications are usually expected to be determined within 16 weeks the council says this application will take longer because of its complexity and scale.

It is expected the council will make a decision on whether to approve or reject the application by the end of 2011.

People will be able to view full details of the application, once it has been checked at:

www.blaby.gov.uk/lubbesthorpe

Churches Together in Leicestershire.
A reflection of many years involvement in ecumenical relations by
Daphne Beale.

I have been a URC representative on CTLeics since 2002 but I was involved some 20 years earlier when I was representing the URC on the Leicester Diocesan Area Ecumenical Sponsoring Body (ESB) which was the forerunner of the present CTLeics. The early 80s was a heady time for ecumenism. Many different strands were coming together and Local Ecumenical Projects were being set up in many different spheres. At that time church leaders and church reps met together and woe betide the church leader who missed a meeting for new initiatives were on the go continually and commitments of money, housing and clergy were needed for each.

By 1987 John Slow (Moderator East Midlands Province of the URC) could say, "The ESB already 'oversees' Industrial Mission, the North East Leicestershire Coalfield Chaplaincy, LOROS Chaplaincy and work with Radio Leicester. But what about an ecumenical response to Hamilton, Highfields, Belgrave, 'Faith in the City', Rural Areas, Ministerial In-Service Training, Lay Training, Evangelism, Social Responsibility, Youth?" He also asked where we were on the ecumenical continuum: Competition - Co-existence - Co-operation - Commitment - Communion. These are questions we could still ask today, 25 years later. Interestingly he also advocated appointing an Ecumenical Officer and we have benefited from this recommendation.

I have found the increasing separation between the CTLeics Enabling Group and the Church Leaders sad. Both groups need the other for inspiration and to make things work. The commitment of the Church Leaders to ecumenism and to each other is much appreciated, and this commitment is echoed by those of us in the Enabling Group, but sharing the work of both groups in Mission is crucial to the future of the Church and our churches.

One area of work that I feel should be done ecumenically is inter faith relations. After much initial enthusiasm for sharing in this work, and many valuable initiatives being taken over the past 20 years, such work seems to be only at the periphery of the denominational agendas and so no longer a crucial part of the CTLeics agenda. Also our 1992 Constitution included the facility to work together over 'evangelism, ecumenical

theology, inter faith matters, local broadcasting, health care and chaplaincy work, industrial mission, social responsibility, children's and youth work, adult education, the Leicester Review Panel (and similar bodies) and communications between Churches Together in Leicestershire and its members'. Some of these are now dealt with ecumenically but there may be room to consider others as part of the Group's development.

During my 10 year spell on CTLeics I have appreciated the dedication and mutual support given by all those involved. Acting as a sort of secretary, from February 2003 when Frank Rinaldi had to resign until December 2004 when John Downing was appointed, gave me a deeper insight into the work being done nationally as well as locally. I have felt over this period that we are consolidating and reviewing work already being done but there is less emphasis on initiating new ecumenical projects. That is why I am excited by the prospect of work with Blaby Council Officers on developments at Lubbethorpe and by the new church partnerships being planned.

Churches Together in Leicestershire is an extremely valuable body and has the potential to continue to enrich and inspire our ecumenical life and our denominational bodies. Long may it last!

Daphne Beale
February 2012

Church Leaders and Enabling Group of CTiL

The Church Leaders held their two meetings again in 2011 at Bishops Lodge by kind invitation of Bishop Tim.

A variety of speakers were welcomed to this meeting amongst others those covering such topics as The Trichy Link, Christ in the Centre, More than Gold and the August 2011 riots in England.

It was good to see Church Leaders together for the 2011 Christ in the Centre. Bishop Malcolm RC Bishop of Nottingham was invited to conclude the Good Friday act of witness and gave the blessing. Church Leaders were also present at the CTiL Forum

The Enabling Group held 4 meetings in 2011 these took place at Christchurch Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) on Clarendon Park Road. It is this Group in particular that support the CEDO.

Our Focus for 2012.

- 1.** To keep Mission and the sharing of its opportunities at the top of our agenda.
- 2.** To extend our relationships with Independent Churches and Black Majority Churches when and wherever we can.
- 3.** Our website www.churchestogetherinleicestershire.org went live in 2011. In 2012 we will ensure that it is kept up to date and provides information to share and links to other useful sites.
- 4.** To continue visiting Churches Together Groups. Still Groups to be visited by the CEDO for the first time.
- 5.** To keep in touch with LEP's and to ensure that the Review processes requested are prepared and put in place.
- 6.** To work closely with partners and those in association with us keeping ecumenical concerns and considerations on the agenda.
- 7.** To work with the Treasurer to deliver for CTiL a balanced budget.
- 8.** Continue to develop relationships with colleagues in the East Midland Region and also at national level.
- 9.** To offer support to those churches wanting to explore closer working relationships with one another.

Churches Together in Leicestershire
Accounts for year end 31.12.2011.

Income 2011

From the Denominations	£15,601
Donations from Groups	£902
Faiths in Action	£3,800
Bank Interest	£11
Total Income for 2011	£20,314

Expenditure 2011

CEDO Stipend/Expenses/Insurance/Pension	£14,959
Communications	£1,677
LEP Reviews	£566
Churches Together in England	£320
Administration	£56
Training	£150
2011 Forum	£490
Room hire for Meetings	£125
Miscellaneous and Contingency	£149
Faiths in Action	£3,800
Total Expenditure for 2011	£22,292

Deficit for the year ended 31.12.2011 **(£1,978)**

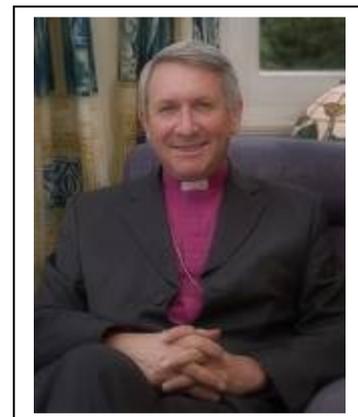
Bank Balance as at 31.12.2011 **£21,388**

These accounts have been independently examined and submitted to the Charity Commission.

Michael Hockaday
Treasurer

Church Leaders Group.

- Rt Revd Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester (**Chair**) CofE
- Rt Revd Malcolm McMahon, Bishop of Nottingham RC
- Lt Col Mike Caffull Salvation Army
- Moderator Terry Oakley URC to 16.9.11.
- Moderator Peter Meek URC from 17.9.11.
- Janet Perry The Society of Friends
- Mrs Marlies Adam, Lutheran Church in Great Britain
- Rt Revd Christopher Boyle Assistant Bishop of Leicester CofE
- Revd Dianne Tidball, Regional Minister East Midland Baptist Association (EMBA)
- Revd Peter Hancock, Chair Northampton Methodist District
- Revd Tim Woolley Methodist Director of Mission for the Northampton District
- Revd Loraine Mellor, Chair Nottingham and Derby Methodist District
- Mr Michael Hockaday, Congregational Federation
- Mr Vic Allsop CEDO and Secretary



Enabling Group.

- Revd Dianne Tidball (**Chair**) EMBA
- Janet Perry The Society of Friends
- Mr Michael Hockaday (Treasurer) Congregational Federation
- Venerable David Newman Archdeacon of Loughborough DEO CofE
- Revd John Anderson DEO Methodist
- Mr Stan Mackley DEO EMBA
- Revd Lynn Fowkes DEO URC
- Major Rudi Bruinewoud DEO Salvation Army
- Mrs Heidi Rimington German Lutheran Church
- Mrs Joyce Percy RC
- Mrs Maureen Jones RC
- Revd Suresh Kumar Trichy Link Group and Church of South India (CSI)
- Mrs Daphne Beale URC
- Mrs Lesley Dryell Congregational Federation
- Mrs Suzanne Kelly Methodist
- Mr Vic Allsop CEDO and Secretary





Trichy Link Annual Report for 2011

2011 has proved to be a very fruitful year for the Churches Together in Leicestershire Link with the diocese of Trichy Tanjore in the Church of South India. There were two exchange visits.

The first took place in January a group of Anglican curates accompanied Bishop Tim on a two week trip which involved visits to a variety of settings across the diocese and some theological reflection arising from those experiences.

The second visit was again two weeks in February 2011, this was an ecumenical group of young people accompanied by Vic Allsop, Anne Speight and Alison Roache. The young people visited many places in the diocese and were able to make excellent contact with other young people taking part in a variety of events from a wedding to a sports tournament. This group have been involved in raising their own funds and through this they have contributed to the publicity of the link including creating a new logo which was greeted very positively in Leicestershire and by Bishop Paul when he last visited from Trichy. In raising their own funds the young people have taken news of this link into their own cultural spaces such as college, supermarkets, nightclubs and of course cyber space in the form of social networking sites amongst others.

The young people have also been able to involve others, for example a fundraising event at Rothley was attended by 60 people including Mandula Sood and Freda Hussain, as well as by David Wilson. This all builds the possibility of interfaith conversation in the common support of the link. This trip energised the faith of the young people from the UK and challenged their theological and cultural understanding.

In March when these groups both returned there was an evening entitled 'Trichy Tales' at which some of the stories were told and many photographs shared. This was a very successful evening with around a hundred people attending.

During this year we have received financial support from the Anglican church and the Methodist church, as well as donations from individual church congregations from collections taken at events and services and individuals who have given towards the work of the link.

There have been a variety of events at which the Trichy Link members have presented or displayed aspects of our work. These include: The

opening of the newly refurbished Launde Abbey, the opening of St Martin's House in Leicester, Methodist Women in Britain regional road show and a Circuit service in Melton Mowbray and a long running display at St Annes, Leicester organised by the Mothers Union there.

Members of the link committee also spoke at the Church Leaders meeting which was a very encouraging meeting with much interest shown in the link. Members also attended the Dalit Conference held at St Martins House, Leicester along with others this was a valuable time to reflect on the theological riches which come to us from our link churches.

We have been very pleased to welcome onto the committee representatives from the Mothers Union and a new Christian Aid member of Staff, Nick Thorley. These broader perspectives have been very helpful to the committee.

The committee have begun preparations for the celebration of the Link's 10 year anniversary in September 2012, this will include a service at Leicester Cathedral on 23rd September 2012 and a Celebration including worship, arts and food at the Salvation Army centre in South Wigston on 30th September 2012.

Revd Alison Booker
Chair, Trichy Link Group

TRICHY LINK ACCOUNTS TO 31st December 2011
Held by LEICESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE

Income

Funds brought forward from previous year	6,697.00
Funds brought forward from previous year St Peter's Oadby for St Peter's Tanjore	2,500.00
Contribution from Leicester Diocese	2,200.00
Contribution from Northampton Methodist District	500.00
Funds Raised by S Rowland, Melton Mowbray, for Trichy Link	146.50
Market Harborough PCC	350.00
St Mary's Hinckley PCC	252.00
Melton Mowbray Methodist Circuit	220.00
Loughborough Baptist Church	25.00
St Martins House and Launde Abbey opening collections	1,068.33
Donation for St Peter's Tanjore from St Peter's Oadby	2,000.00
Curates Trip to Trichy	14,315.00
Youth Trip to Trichy	7,861.66

Total Income

38,135.49

Expenditure

Transfer for St Peter's Tanjore (to Trichy Diocese)	3,500.00
Bank Charges for transfer	15.00
Refreshments for Trichy Tales Reception	60.00
Trichy Youth Trip costs(Deficit on trip £1,336)	9,197.65
Trichy Curate Costs (Deficit on trip £29.10)	14,343.60
Bishop Paul's Visit to Launde & St Martins House opening event (including Bank Charges)	1,015.00
Trichy Link Leaflets	271.00
Design of Trichy Link Leaflets	200.00
Stationery for Trichy Link	18.56
Gazebo for Trichy Link Group	48.99
Display Boards for Trichy Link Group	93.54

Total Expenditure

28,763.34

Funds available at 31 December 2011

9,372.15

Note: £1,000 designated for St Peter's Tanjore, £1,068.33 designated for Valparai Girl's Hostel,

Annual Report for 2011 Leicestershire Churches Media.

Leicestershire Churches Media is our new name! We have been an association of CHAD, a Christian media organisation based in Coventry and Warwickshire. For some years, although, acting independently, we felt the need to be part of a charitable Churches organisation in the county and Churches Together in Leicestershire (CTiL) was the obvious one! Thanks to Vic Allsop for arranging the transition. This was one of the major changes during the year. Our mission remains the same, but being part of CTiL should improve our relations with the churches and make our task of encouraging engagement with the media more effective. The media and how we communicate in the public sphere is vitally important and more so now as technology almost forces us to find new ways of communicating. Web sites, Facebook and U tube cannot be ignored! Our main focus for the year was Sing Christmas Building on the link with BBC Radio Leicester this has been such a success story and shows what can be achieved in partnership - Churches, broadcasters, community and pubs. Jeff's report covers fully this project.

Our other main focus was to review our remit and talk through what our aims should be and how to make those a reality. Churches traditionally have not had strong links or expertise in the Media. What should our priorities be especially with limited resources? Having discussed this in some detail at the end of the year and suggested some ways forward. Our task at the beginning of 2012 is to continue to thrash these out, liase with CTiL and see what best fulfils our mission and uses our skills and gifts.

Our committee members are drawn from a variety of denominations and jobs.

Sandra Herbert (Chair) Alan Hodkinson (Treasurer) Jeff Bonser (Sing Christmas) Liz Oliffe- Hudson (C of E Communications) Jonathan Wheeler (Freelance journalist) Andrew Fewster (BBC producer) Vic Allsop (CTiL)

Sandra Herbert

Sing Christmas 2011

Sing Christmas is a community sing-along carol service across Leicestershire and Rutland organised by Leicestershire Churches Media and BBC Radio Leicester. In 2011 thousands of people in over 100 pubs, clubs, community centres, care homes etc, and at home joined in with the live broadcast on Monday 19 December from St Martins House, Leicester.

Sing Christmas celebrated the real meaning of Christmas and brought people together in towns and villages across the region and in the city of Leicester - helped by churches supporting many of the venues. Ten carols were sung in popularity order following an online vote, the Christmas story from the Bible was read by national and local celebrities, and Bishop Christopher Boyle gave the Christmas Thought.

People in participating venues were invited to text in during Sing Christmas and over 250 text messages were received - an amazing response.

Here are just three of the many positive responses received:

The Tudor Hotel was bursting at the seams! About 150 people squeezed in, sat on window sills, sat on the stairs, sat everywhere and some had to stay standing because so many came to the first ever Sing Christmas at the Tudor Hotel, Castle Donington. A brilliant event. *Rev Dennis Smith and Rev Andrew Micklethwaite from the 4 local churches*

We had a very friendly pub in Wigston this year: The Navigation Inn, Kilby Bridge. The regulars, visitors and our church group all joined in together meaning 50-70 people. Great atmosphere. Pleased with broadcast. People sharing, talking, building community.
Matthew Gough

The residents, relatives, staff and friends of Marwood residential home in Shepshed, had a fantastic night singing the carols and listening to the readings. There were about 50 people there. Thank you so much so putting on the event it was nice to know that we were joining in with people all over the county and possibly beyond to celebrate Christmas together.

Emma Lowe

*Jeff Bonser. Sing Christmas co-ordinator Leicestershire Churches Media.
Web site www.singchristmas.org.uk*

Sing Christmas 2011 from St Martins House.



Clockwise: Bishop Christopher giving his Sing Christmas Thought. Dave Andrews and John Florance of BBC Radio Leicester & The Choir of St Thomas Church South Wigston.



Leicestershire Churches Media

Financial Report to 31.12.2011.

	Balances	General	Sing Christmas	Grand Total
Incomings				
Donations		674.61	875.00	1,549.61
Interest Earned		0.60		0.60
Incomings Total		675.21	875.00	1,550.21
Outgoings				
Mileage & Travel			(72.60)	(72.60)
Printing, Postage, Stationery			(32.26)	(32.26)
Project Management			(1,482.00)	(1,482.00)
Sundry				(0.00)
Telephone, Internet etc			(47.50)	(47.50)
Outgoings Total			(1,634.36)	(1,634.36)
Surplus / Deficit Total		675.21	(759.36)	(84.15)
Balances				
Net Assets				
Bank Current Account	384.88			384.88
Bank Deposit Account	0.20			0.20
CAF Bank Current Account	450.64			450.64
CAF Bank Gold Account	1,150.00			1,150.00
Balances Total	1,985.72			1,985.72
Funds				
Funds b/fwd		2,069.87		2,069.87
Surplus / (Deficit)		675.21	(759.36)	(84.15)
Funds c/fwd		2,745.08	(759.36)	1,985.72

About £350 of the general fund donations came from churches involved in the carol singing in Highcross. It could equally have been considered as 'Sing Christmas' income.

I am currently closing down the Nat West accounts and transferring the balances to the CAF accounts. At the year end we had both.

Alan Hodkinson - Treasurer.



Boys from the school at St Peters Thanjuvar which the young people visited on the first full day of their visit to India.

Contact details:

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(CEDO)**

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