



Churches
Together in
Westminster

An Occasional Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 18 (Winter 2019/20) of our Occasional Newsletter. Please feel free to photocopy this for distribution amongst your congregation.

REPORT OF CTiW GENERAL MEETING held at 6.30pm on Monday, 20 January 2020 at Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1U 3QJ

The meeting, which was attended by over 50 people from at least 14 different churches., was opened by Rev Peter Cornick, from Hinde Street, with a prayer for faith and spirituality. He quoted the hymn “Jesus, we look to thee” written by Charles Wesley in the middle of the 18th century, but still relevant today.

Report given by Rev’d Jonathan Evens as Chairman

As usual our year in CTiW has focused around our three areas of activity; education and getting to know one another; worship and social action. Alongside these, however, we have also been reviewing our activity and approaches using the consultation questionnaire you have been given tonight. We would be most grateful if you could fill it in and return it, ideally this evening if possible.

We pursue our first aim largely through “Meet the Neighbours” and “Join the Neighbours” – inviting people to join in regular events at various churches. This year we have had a MTN at Crown Court Church and JTNs at St Martin-in-the-Fields for the Memorial Service for those who have died Homeless in London in the past year, organised by The Connection at St Martin’s, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Housing Justice, and to Farm Street for their Ecumenical service for World Day of the Poor. There have been less of these events this year as we have been reviewing the extent to which they continue to be useful, and because fewer churches are offering to take part.

Our AGM in 2019 was also on this theme as we heard from several CTiW churches about HeartEdge, an ecumenical and international movement for renewal within the broad church. HeartEdge uses a model of mission that connects compassion, culture, commerce and congregation. We heard about initiatives from Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, Notre Dame de France, St James Piccadilly, and St Martin-in-the-Fields in relation to each of these 4Cs.



Photo by Roddy Leece

Issue 18
Winter 2019/20

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Contact us

Website: www.ctiw.london
Email: ctiw.net@gmail.com

Rosa has prepared three Newsletters which have focused on our AGM, the consultation, Prisons Week, and the events we have run.

Our second aim invites us to worship together regularly, and we did this on Advent Sunday at St James's Church, Piccadilly, where Ivan Khovacs led us in Advent reflections, and at Pentecost, when we shared in a Thy Kingdom Come service at St Martin-in-the-Fields. This service was a celebration of Pentecost using music drawn from the Choral and Gospel traditions, that featured the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir. We also shared in the Cross on Victoria Street; a Good Friday Walk of Witness. In October our Brexit Prayer Vigil took place at St Martin-in-the-Fields, where we prayed into the current political situation on the day when the Government had said we would be leaving the EU. Our prayers were not politically aligned, but instead sought areas of common ground between remainers and leavers, such as the unity of our nation and good relations with the EU whether we leave or remain.

Our third aim involves us in the prison ministry about which we will hear more later in the meeting. This involves work in support of the multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams of HMPs Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs, and HMP & YOI Bronzefield, as well as The Immigration Removal Centre at Heathrow. Away-Days for entire members of multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams have proved very effective in developing new forms of relationship between churches and prisons. One of these events was run in partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields, and was the first off-site function ever attended by the whole team of Bronzefield prison. Art shows of Prisoners' art held in CTiW churches have been a highly effective means of highlighting the crisis in prison for congregations and the wider public. One of the causes of distress for chaplains is the knowledge that many women are discharged from prison to No Fixed Abode meaning that the risks of violence, abuse and reoffending for such women are much higher. A Summit Event addressing this issue was chaired by the Rt Rev Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, at St Martin-in-the-Fields in November. The event was attended by many public, private and voluntary sector organisations with responsibilities in this field.

Our theme for the AGM usually reflects an aspect of mission and ministry in Westminster. This year we will hear from Kevin Hyland OBE, former UK Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner, who will speak on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Major Heather Grinstead, Deputy Director for The Salvation Army's Modern Slavery Unit, and Abigail Lennox, Local Programme Coordinator - Modern Slavery Post-NRM Survivors Support Service will also contribute. The Salvation Army provides a specialist sup-

port for all adult victims of modern slavery in England & Wales. In addition we are grateful to Caroline Virgo from The Clewer Initiative, Dr Julia Tomas, Anti Slavery Co-ordinator at The Passage, and the campaigner Elizabeth Matthews for the information that they have brought on Modern Slavery.

The Executive this year has been: Rev'd Canon Anthony Ball (Westminster Abbey), Rev'd Matthew Catterick (St Saviours Pimlico), Gillian Dare (All Saints Church, Margaret Street), Rev'd Joan Ishibashi (St James's, Piccadilly), Rev'd Roderick Leece (St George's Hanover Square), Majors Richard & Caroline Mingay (Salvation Army, Regent Hall), Rev'd Dominic Robinson S.J. (The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street), Rob Thompson (Hinde Street Methodist Church), and myself. John Plummer (St George's Church, Hanover Square) stood down from the Exec at the last AGM, but was subsequently persuaded to re-join, and Martyn Watson (Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church) also joined us this year. I have agreed to become Chair of CTiW, and Joan Ishibashi has become our Treasurer. I am very grateful to Joan for her willingness to take on this important role and also for the very effective way in which it is being undertaken. The Exec has been ably supported, as in recent years, by Rosa Postance who, as Administrator, keeps CTiW running and looks after our communications including our website and Newsletter. My thanks to everyone who has served on the Exec this year for the tremendous contribution they have made.

Why do we do this and why is it necessary that we continue to this? The church has no deeper work than reconciliation, between people and God, creation, one another and themselves. Every calling of ministry and mission is but an element of reconciliation, which involves telling a truthful story, proceeds through apology, penance and repentance, and issues in forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and resurrection. Justice isn't a virtue in itself – neither is truth, or even mercy: each finds its true meaning as a step on the way to reconciliation. When we weary of the ministry of reconciliation, exasperated that it's slow, or embarrassed that it's necessary, all we do is turn our hand to a more pliable or plausible context for reconciliation. There isn't anything else.

Yet the church is currently getting smaller; and the church is becoming narrower. Those who regularly attend worship are fewer; and the church's reputation and energy are becoming associated with initiatives that are inverted and often lack the full breadth of the gospel. The days when we could forget about the world and concentrate on our arguments with other Christians are passing. Ecumenical discord is a luxury of the complacent church. We need each other. If we feel the church is weak, it's because we've limited what we're looking at when we use the word church.

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WESTMINSTER, 20th JANUARY 2020 by John Plummer, Co-ordinator, London Prisons Mission

New Arrangements

The recent CTiW Newsletter – Issue 17 – reported “The Prisons Mission Grows up”. This recorded the fact that since beginning to operate “under the auspices” of CTiW in 2013, the Prisons Mission had been largely autonomous and developed in response to the needs and requirements of the multi-faith Prisons Chaplaincy Teams, and in accordance with the skills, competences and capacities of volunteers, drawn from several central London churches. Regular reports of activities and concerns were given to the CTiW Executive and questions and discussions invited. The project has not been formally accountable or received any funding from CTiW. Member churches have been encouraged to mark Prisons Week effectively, with advice, materials and volunteers provided by the Prisons Mission. Churches were also enabled to become better informed about the very grave crisis within the British prison system by shows of art by prisoners and the frequent inclusion of articles on the subject in the CTiW Newsletter.

During these years, the Prisons Mission has continued to grow, slowly and cautiously, in terms of the number of churches actively involved, the prisons with which we work, and the range of functions undertaken by volunteers. It has also raised funds to support new developments and activities. It will be noted that there are no prisons within the London Borough of Westminster and churches outside the diocese of Westminster are engaged with the Prisons Mission.

In these circumstances, it has been decided that the project should in future be known as the London Prisons Mission and become an independent registered charity. A new management structure will be established for public accountability and fundraising will be facilitated with the benefit of Gift Aid. The valuable relationship with CTiW will be retained, with the Coordinator continuing to serve on the Executive, regular reports submitted and discussed and the Newsletter reporting and supporting developments. All the churches, prisons and volunteers which have formed and enabled the London Prisons Mission to make a modest, but worthwhile contribution in the past, value the period of incubation under the auspices of CTiW and look forward to a different, but mutually beneficial relationship in future.

Work for Prisons

During 2019, the London Prisons Mission has continued to work in support of the multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams of HMPs Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs and HMP & YOI Bronzefield, as well as The Immigration Removal Centre at Heathrow – a place of indefinite detention without trial. This requires considerable patience, persistence and determination, as it is often frustrating and challenging, but also very rewarding. We have also mounted another Show of Art by Prisoners and Families, this time at the Methodist Central Hall Westminster. The booklet of resource material for Prisons Week 2019 was widely considered to be the best and most useful to date and circulated by churches far beyond London, and even overseas.

Chaplaincy Away Days

Another initiative which has been found to be a very effective and new form of relationship between churches and prisons is the Away-Days for entire members of multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams. One of these events

was run in partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields and was the first off-site function ever attended by the whole team of Bronzefield prison, now the biggest prison for women in Europe. Very candid conversations took place between members of different faiths as they explored their contrasting approaches to some of the sensitive issues which confront chaplains, at the interface with some very vulnerable and often troubled inmates, every day. The London Prisons Mission has been asked to run similar Away-Days for the Chaplaincy Teams of additional prisons.

Safe Homes for Women Leaving Prison

Just one of the causes of distress for chaplains is the knowledge that many women are discharged from prison to No Fixed Abode. The risks of violence, abuse and reoffending for women without a safe and suitable home is very serious. In many instances, a chaplain would be well aware that a woman was making encouraging progress towards recovery, possibly after a lifetime of crime and as a victim of violence, before being released to nothing better than a sleeping bag under one of London's bridges.

Growing awareness of this grave failure of the criminal justice and penal system caused volunteers to examine how the London Prisons Mission might make a constructive contribution. After extensive consultations a partnership was formed with the management of Bronzefield prison, the Prison Reform Trust, St Martin-in-the-Fields and MOPAC (the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime which is responsible for policing the capital outside the City of London and is equivalent to the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners outside London). The purpose is to identify and strive towards realistic and sustainable solutions to the plight of women presently discharged from prison to homelessness.

This is by far the biggest, most expensive and demanding initiative yet undertaken by the London Prisons Mission. A great deal of effort has been invested alongside many public, private and voluntary sector organisations with responsibilities in this field. A Summit Event, attended by a hundred of these was Chaired by the Rt Rev Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, at St Martin in the Fields in November. Modest, but encouraging progress has been made, but this is clearly only the beginning of a difficult, but very important journey.

Additional Regular Volunteers Needed

The London Prisons Mission urgently needs to recruit more regular volunteers to work inside prisons, as well as to support a wide range of interesting and very useful functions outside.

Volunteers are given suitable preparation and training and are closely supported by Prison Chaplains. They also attend bi-monthly Review Meetings, at which they share learning, experiences and difficulties with other volunteers. The work requires commitment and is sometimes challenging and frustrating, but many volunteers also find it absorbing and rewarding. Please contact the Coordinator for further information.

The London Prisons Mission also needs more churches to take steps to ensure that congregations become accurately informed about the crisis within the criminal justice and penal system. This suffers chronic overcrowding, inadequate staffing, poor education and rehabilitation services. The present arrangements fail the victims of crime, the offenders, the tax payers, those who work prisons and the wider community.

John Plummer
Coordinator. London Prisons Mission
020 7272 1639

“MODERN SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING”

Talk given by Kevin Hyland O.B.E.

Kevin Hyland was a police officer for 30 years, and is the former UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Kevin began by saying that we live in uncharted times. We have modern benefits but the cost is negative as we have lost the value of human life and dignity. Traffickers seek victims, and there are over 40 million people in slavery today including children. Trafficking is the exploitation of a person, and this is frequently British nationals. We have various powers and legislations, but this crime still succeeds. Young people are used by traffickers who take advantage of their vulnerability which can take many forms. In the U.K. there are 130,000 violations of modern slavery. However, the Home Office can take up to 5 years to make a decision on whether a person is a victim of crime.



Photo by Roddy Leece

We all remember the shocking case at the end of last year of the 39 people who froze to death shut in a refrigerated lorry in Essex. Sadly, he said, this had not been picked up on by the authorities. Churches have a part to play by asking the question “Why isn’t more done?” Many trafficked people are destined to work in places like car washes, nail bars, forced labour or as sex workers. Faith leaders should look outwards, and raise awareness - reset the moral compass - and so should we all. Trafficking is a crime.

Kevin ended with a story of a visit to Nigeria, where many of the people used to suffer from leprosy. One such old lady welcomed him into her house and gave him tea. She said you came here from the West years ago, you cured us of our leprosy, and you made our children healthy and free, and we were grateful. But now you’re back again, and you’re taking our children to be your slaves in brothels, factories and fields. They’re going to the West seeking a better life, but instead they are deceived and exploited and their lives are ruined.



Slides courtesy of
Kevin Hyland
Twitter: @KevinHyland63



Action (What is done)	Means (How it is done)	Purpose (Why it is done)
Recruitment Transportation Transfer Harbouring Receipt of persons	Threat Use of force Coercion Abduction Fraud Deception Abuse of power Abuse of vulnerability Giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim	For the purpose of exploitation, including: Sexual exploitation Labour exploitation Domestic Servitude Criminality (e.g. begging, shoplifting, selling drugs, cannabis cultivation) Sham or forced marriages Benefit fraud Forced adoption Forced military service Removal of organs.



Human Trafficking

- Legal, illegal or no border crossing
- Coercion or repeated exploitation
- Commodity – an individual

A Crime Against an Individual

People Smuggling

- Illegal border crossing
- Voluntary
- Commodity – a service

A Crime Against the State

It is important to remember that people smuggling can turn into human trafficking

Talk given by Major Heather Grinstead (Deputy Director for the Modern Slavery Unit) and Abigail Lennox (Modern Slavery Post-NRM Survivors Support Service) of the Salvation Army

Heather spoke of the networks to move people into servitude or sexual exploitation, and the need for vigilance. For example, the case of a house with lots of people moving in and out, which was raided by the police. It proved to be a cannabis farm, right there in her local street, with two men chained up inside.

From 2011 the Salvation Army with partner organisations have had a Home Office contract to care for adult victims of human trafficking in England & Wales and to give them specialist support. This work has mushroomed. What can churches do? They must be careful not to become vigilantes, but we can keep our eyes open and go into shops and ask about their supply chain, and raise awareness, write to our MP or councillors. There are also many male and female volunteering opportunities such as being drivers, translators, or first responders, as well as other sensitive roles in prisons or hospitals.

Nail bars and car washes are examples of places that use slave labour. They are often set up in an ad hoc way, and although the local authority should check, this may not happen. Look for signs and the behaviour/appearance of the staff, and again, if we are not happy about the set up, we were urged to report it.

For further info see <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/supporting-adult-victims-0>

THE SALVATION ARMY confidential referral helpline is on 0300 303 8151 and is open 24/7 if you suspect someone is a victim of modern slavery and in need of help. Call Helpline 08000 121 700 for advice.

If there is an immediate danger to the suspected victim or if you think that the suspected victim is under 18, call 999 as a matter of urgency and inform the police.

The following are just a few other organisations working in this area. Please do see their websites to learn more about their invaluable work.

SANTA MARTA GROUP <http://santamartagroup.com/>

Kevin Hyland helped to develop the [Santa Marta Group](#) which is an alliance of international police chiefs and bishops from around the world working together with civil society, in a process endorsed and launched by Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2014. The Group was developed by the RC [Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales](#) in collaboration with the London Metropolitan Police, and is led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster.

THE CLEWER INITIATIVE enables Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to raise awareness of modern slavery, prevent vulnerable people from being trafficked, identify victims, and care for the survivors. <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/letstalk> Posters, leaflets, and resources to raise awareness of modern slavery on <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/resources>

ANTI SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL have been fighting slavery since 1839 <https://www.antislavery.org/>
MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE 08000 121 700 <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report>

ELLAS providing independent long-term aftercare for women who have experienced abuse through trafficking and sexual exploitation <https://www.ellas.org.uk/>

KALAYAAN Justice for migrant domestic workers <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/>



MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE 08000 121 700
 to get help, report a suspicion or get advice

CTiW 2020 Executive Members

Members of the Churches Together in Westminster Executive

Rev'd Jonathan Evens – St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square – Chairman

Gillian Dare – All Saints Church, Margaret Street – Minutes Secretary

Rev'd Joan Ishibashi – St James's, Piccadilly – Treasurer

Rev'd Canon Anthony Ball – Westminster Abbey

Rev'd Matthew Catterick, St Saviours Church, St Georges Square, Pimlico

Rev'd Roderick Leece – St George's Church, Hanover Square

Major Richard Mingay & Major Caroline Mingay – Salvation Army, Regent Hall, Oxford Street

John Plummer – Coordinator. Prisons Mission.

Rev'd Dominic Robinson SJ, - The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street

Rob Thompson – Hinde Street Methodist Church

Martyn Watson – Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

Rosa Postance – Administration & Communications (inc Website & Newsletter)

CTIW REVIEW

CTiW is currently reviewing its programme of activities to assess their appropriateness going forward and whether changes or new developments are required. We need to consult member churches in CTiW both on their views on the value of CTiW, and what kind of events and initiatives they would like to see in order to understand what people want, what motivates them and what prevents them from participating.

A questionnaire which had earlier been sent to all member churches asking them to complete the questions with groups from their congregations was also distributed at the AGM. The questionnaire explores the impact of popular CTiW events such as "Meet the Neighbours" while also exploring scope for working alongside other existing or developing networks and the extent to which our focus should be on face-to-face meetings or side-by-side working. Questionnaire returns are invited from all churches in Westminster, so if you have yet to see a copy please request one from Rosa Postance ctiw.net@gmail.com or see Newsletter No. 16 on our website <http://ctiw.london/newsletters/>

- **"Meet the Neighbours"** - If your church is interested in hosting a future event, we should be very pleased to hear from you. See also our Guidelines for Hosts on <http://ctiw.london/meet-the-neighbours/> As well as being happy, sociable events, they are excellent Ecumenical opportunities for the hosts to showcase their church and for everyone to visit other congregations, join with them in prayer, and learn more about their church organisations & activities.
- **"Join the Neighbours"** - If you are holding a special event, Patronal festival etc to which you would care to invite people from other CTiW churches, please do let us know and we will pass on the invitation.