

An Occasional Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 26 (Late Spring 2023) of our Occasional Newsletter. Please do feel free to photocopy this for distribution amongst your congregation.

CTiW 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was held at 6.30pm on Monday, 23rd January 2023 in the Chapel at Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster SW1H 9NH, whom we thank for their hospitality, and was jointly chaired by Jonathan Miller and Rev'd Joan Ishibashi. The meeting was attended by approx. 50 people from at least 14 different churches.

An overview of the year was given by Jonathan Miller. Alasdair Mackenzie gave an update on the work and restructuring of LPM, and, as Treasurer, Joan Ishibashi presented the CTiW annual accounts. The American International Church and The Welsh Church of Central London were welcomed as new members of CTiW. The meeting also included a small exhibition of artwork by prisoners.



The panel discussion which followed was chaired by Alasdair MacKenzie. The main speaker was Hannah Rich from Theos Think Tank (<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk>) on the subject of "A torn safety net", followed by other speakers representing various organisations working with homeless, namely Central London Catholic Churches, The Connection at St Martins-in-the-Fields, West London Mission, Salvation Army, who were joined by invited representatives who themselves had first-hand experience of being part of the homeless community.

Issue 26
Spring 2023

Contents

CTiW 2023 AGM	1
2023 Pentecost Service	2
London Prisons Mission	
Update	3
Events	4

Contact us

Website: www.ctiw.london
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CTiW PENTECOST SERVICE

(In English)



**Hosted by
The Welsh Church of Central London
(Eglwys Gymraeg Canol Llundain)**

**30 Eastcastle Street, Oxford Circus
W1W 8DJ**

**Sunday, May 28th 2023
6:00 pm**

Preacher: Rev. R.G. Nicholls (Minister)

Organist: William Thomas

All welcome!



Churches
Together in
Westminster

Churches Working Together
in Central London

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

LONDON PRISONS MISSION UPDATE

Safe Homes for Women Leaving Prison

It has been a little while since I have shared news on what is going on with the London Prisons Mission. Many of you will know the redoubtable John Plummer, and you may know that he has had to retire as co-ordinator of the LPM due to health concerns. However, he has continued to engage with the office of the Mayor of London and key members and committees of the GLA to ensure the recommendations of the Safe Homes for Women Leaving Prison initiative, championed by the London Prisons Mission, are enshrined in the policies of the Mayor's office.

Work by John and others successfully secured a Safer Homes motion put to the GLA in 2022, which was unanimously supported, calling on the Mayor to embed the recommendations of the Safe Homes initiative into his Blueprint for Women In Contact With the Criminal Justice System. The Safer Homes Motion, now formally approved by the Mayor, is a significant policy statement and several leading Assembly Members are striving to convert this into measures for delivery by responsible agencies throughout all London boroughs to address the plight of about 50 vulnerable women released from prison each month and needing to resume residence in London. You can find out more about the Safe Homes initiative here [Safe Homes for Women Leaving Prison — London Prisons Mission](#)

The Future of the London Prisons Mission

Before the COVID 19 pandemic, the London Prisons Mission acted as a network for those in Westminster churches and beyond who wished to explore opportunities to work voluntarily to support those in London prisons, and those leaving them. LPM's purpose is also to make available for churches of all denominations accurate information about our criminal justice and penal system. The pandemic put a stop to a great deal of our work as prisons closed their doors to visitors and enforced often very tough and restrictive regimes, largely keeping visitors out of prisons. Several key members of the LPM have moved away from London in the past year, and as noted earlier, John Plummer has retired as co-ordinator.

In November 2022 and February 2023, I chaired two meetings of a new core group of London Prisons Mission co-ordinators. The November meeting was hosted by Revd Roddy Leece of St George's Hanover Square and attended by Niki White of St Michael's Chester Square, Revd Ayla Lepine of St James Piccadilly, Sarah Jane Vernon an LPM trustee, Ian Pentney of Bloomsbury Baptist Church and myself. In February we were joined by Judith Gardiner from Bloomsbury Baptist Church, and Angela Sheard, from St Martin-in-the-Fields, alongside Ali McMillan from Methodist Central Hall, Jared Jagers of the American Church and Donna McDowell from St Paul's Marylebone.

Ian, Judith, Angela, Ali, Jared and Donna agreed at the February meeting to act as joint co-ordinators of the LPM and I hope that they will be joined by others. We were very happy to be joined in February by Patrick Wright, managing chaplain at Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre who talked about the work of the IRC and his role. We are currently planning a visit for LPM co-ordinators to explore possibilities for volunteering there.

Our next meeting will provisionally take place on Monday 22 May at St Martin-in-the-Fields where we will be joined by Lewis Lzeblan, the managing chaplain at HMP Wandsworth. I will continue to keep Churches Together In Westminster updated on our progress.

The Salvation Army are opening a new Community Wardrobe on 1 June 2023, at 9, Princes Street, especially concerning family working for children and clothing for interviews.

If anyone is interested in being part of the referral process, please contact me on this email.

The wardrobe will be by referral only in these early days.



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LONDON CHURCHES REFUGEE FUND

www.lcrf.org.uk

‘Love the Stranger’

*Rooting our response to refugees & migrants
in the innate worth of each human person*

Bishop Paul McAleenan

*Lead bishop for migrants & refugees
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*

with

Bishop John Perumbalath

*Bishop of Liverpool
Chair of Churches Refugee Network*

Speakers from frontline projects supported
by the London Churches Refugee Fund

Citizens of the World Choir

Followed by refreshments, meeting and greeting

Further details: info@lcrf.org.uk

Wed 24th May 2023 @ 7pm
Church of the Immaculate Conception,
Mount St. W1K 3AH

PICCADILLY ANIMALS FAIR

The Courtyard, St James's Church

Piccadilly, London, W1J 9LL

Saturday 24th June 2023
10:30am - 4:15pm

Gifts | Handicrafts | Bargains
Information

In aid of animal charities

admission
FREE



www.piccadillyanimalsfair.london

London Pause for Hope

25 June, at 14:00

St James's Piccadilly,
197 Piccadilly, St. James's,
London W1J 9LL

**A service for all who have in any
way been affected by cancer**

pauseforhope@gmail.com

c/o Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation,
Cotton Exchange, Old Hall Street,
Liverpool, L3 9LQ

[London Pause for Hope | Pause For Hope](#)