

# An Occasional Newsletter

**W**elcome to Issue 27 (Summer 2023) of our Occasional Newsletter. Please do feel free to photocopy this for distribution amongst your congregation.

**CTIW PENTECOST SERVICE (OEDFA  
SULGWYN) HOSTED BY THE WELSH  
CHURCH OF CENTRAL LONDON  
(EGLWYS GYMRAEG CANOL LLUNDAIN)**

**T**his year's CTiW Pentecost Service held at 6pm on Sunday, 28th May, was kindly hosted by the Welsh Church of Central London at their church in Eastcastle Street, which is located just a stone's throw from Oxford Circus.

The preacher was their Minister, Rev. Rob Nicholls, and the service was held in both English and Welsh. As was to be expected the hymn singing, led by their organist William Thomas, was robust, and the pure, clear voice of soloist Dafydd Jones, filled the church.

After the service we were invited downstairs for refreshments, giving us the opportunity to meet others from the congregation, and to hear more about the history of this interesting building.

The current church came into being in 2006 when the Baptist Church in Castle Street and the Independent Churches at Tabernacle, King's Cross and Radnor Walk, Chelsea united together to form Eglwys Gymraeg Canol Llundain. The Welsh language, tradition and culture are very important to members of the congregation, and they are an "inclusive" church so all services are bilingual.

As well as Sunday services, organ recitals by guest organists from other churches are held regularly. For further information please visit <https://www.eglwysgymraegllundain.org/contact-us> or see [info@eglwysgymraegllundain.org](mailto:info@eglwysgymraegllundain.org) Address: 30 Eastcastle Street, Oxford Circus, W1W 8DL, Tel: 0207 580 6182

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## Contact us

Website: [www.ctiw.london](http://www.ctiw.london)  
Email: [ctiw.net@gmail.com](mailto:ctiw.net@gmail.com)





## COMMUNITY WARDROBE - PRINCES STREET

## THE SALVATION ARMY - REGENT HALL

by Major Geoff Chape

I recently returned from a time of ministry in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world. In Dhaka, I regularly watched children literally playing cricket on rubbish mounds, often without shoes.

When I returned to the UK, and started ministry at Regent Hall, on Oxford Street, I initially noticed the Bentleys, the Rolls Royces, and others being driven and being sold. It seemed all so glitzy and different. I had seemingly gone from the one extreme to another. Even the rickshaws that ran up and down Oxford Street reflected a different world! But had I ?

Relatively, I am not seeing the same obvious poverty in Westminster as in Dhaka. However, also relatively, Westminster in a report of child (and therefore family) poverty by the Child poverty Action Group suggests that, amongst London boroughs, Westminster child poverty is outweighed by only Tower Hamlets and Hackney. Yet these children and their families can remain unseen, hidden behind the glitz.

These are often concealed situations. Struggles behind closed doors. Fraught and at risk in maintaining the basic semblances of ordinary living, families struggle for basic essentials, including the feeding and clothing of children for school and life. The recent global financial situation that has significantly affected most of us, has disproportionately affected those already struggling.

Into this, The Salvation Army, working alongside food banks and other voluntary offerings of support in the area, is now offering a Community Wardrobe at 9 Princes Street, just by Hanover Square for families who are struggling to survive. But not exclusively. We work by referral and appointments. Families can join our scheme for a small donation and find clothing for all their family as we have available. They can come once or again. We are run by volunteers. We are stocked by donations, from individuals and companies. We are grateful to local companies, including Beko, John Lewis and CBRE for their active support in helping setting up this wardrobe facility.

We accept referrals from organisations, churches and individuals. Our contact is:

[regenthallcommunitywardrobe@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:regenthallcommunitywardrobe@salvationarmy.org.uk)

If you are aware or work with those in difficulty and feel that some support in providing help in the incessant costs of child clothing as they grow could make a difference, then contact us. We can see how we can help as a people of Christ for those who are our neighbours!

## PRAYER SERVICE FOR CANCER SUPPORT

On the 25th of June, Churches Together in Westminster, along with St. James's Church Piccadilly and Pause for Hope held a prayer service for cancer support. The first service of this kind was held in Liverpool in 1999 and is held in various locations throughout the U.K. This was the first service held in London.

The Rev. Lucy Winkett warmly welcomed everyone gathered and gave a short reflection. Fiona Castle, OBE, widow of entertainer Roy Castle who died of lung cancer in 1994, shared her thoughts on how she has been able to cope and in fact thrive because of her faith. Members of Churches Together in Westminster led the readings and prayers. Michael Haslam, Venetia Iga and Harrison Knights provided inspirational music throughout the service. Everyone was invited to light a candle for their personal prayers and intentions regarding cancer and its impact on them. It was a meaningful service for all.



Lighting Candles

Thank you to St. James's Church Piccadilly for providing the venue, and to Professor Ray Donnelly, MBE, Chairman of the Board of Pause for Hope, for his guidance and encouragement. We hope this will be the first in a continuing tradition of services in London for cancer support.



Fiona Castle, O.B.E.

Pause for Hope



Fiona Castle, OBE, Stephen Cross, representing Pause for Hope, Rev. Lucy Winkett, Rev. Joan Ishibashi.

Photographs and text by Rev. Joan Ishibashi

For more information about Pause for Hope please see:

<https://www.pauseforhope.org.uk/aboutus>

# ***Volunteers needed!***

## **Join us in supporting prison leavers in London rebuild their lives!**

Change for Good is looking for volunteers across London to mentor men leaving prison.

- Be a part of a passionate and friendly team, receive expert training and share in someones journey.

- We are receiving more referrals than ever before, highlighting a growing issue. Come be a part of the solution!



**“I can assure you that Change for Good changed my life. I think about each of my mentees regularly. I feel blessed that they have been placed in my path.” –**

**Volunteer mentor**

***For more  
information  
contact:***

***Admin@changeforgood.info***

***02078203759***

***www.changeforgood.info***

**CHANGE  
FOR GOOD**  
COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

# CHANGE FOR GOOD

## COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

### Change for Good Volunteer Role Description

#### **Who we are:**

Change for Good is a mentoring community for people leaving prison. For individuals to turn their lives around they need two things: the desire to change and the support to do it. We provide that support: our ethos is that we do not give up on people, we believe in them and we want them to believe in themselves. We work in HMP Wandsworth, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, HMP Brixton.

***“Our mission is to empower those leaving prison and resettling in London to transform their lives through mentoring, advocacy and peer support”.***

#### **What we do:**

##### **Pre-release support**

Our work usually begins 1-3 months before release, this includes preparing a bespoke ‘release plan’ as well as engaging other appropriate agencies for specialist support. Volunteers are often involved at this stage to build a rapport and establish a mentor/mentee relationship.

##### **Through the gate**

Those engaged with Change for Good can receive our ‘through the gate’ support. This can look different for each individual depending on their needs but often will include having someone meet them at the gate, attend probation with them, and support their housing and benefit applications.

##### **1-2-1 Mentoring**

Our mentoring relationships are at the core of what we do. We believe support is best provided through authentic relationships. A trained mentor can provide signposting (giving information about helpful agencies), referrals and ongoing support before, during and after release. This work is informed by the rehabilitation pathways, and (depending on individual circumstances) may include a focus on housing, education, training and employment, and addiction issues.

#### **Next Chapter**

Next Chapter is a weekly peer support group for those living in the community where the participants set the agenda. It provides opportunities for more established participants to have an active role in our project and the community.

**Your role:**

As a volunteer your role will primarily involve mentoring those leaving prison.

You will have the opportunity to assist staff with running Next Chapter.

Work as part of a team in supporting staff and volunteers to assist people to change their lives for the better.

Receive training to better your skills and understanding within this field.

Be willing to travel to meet your mentee. (Travel expenses can be claimed back)

Be able to commit to a fortnightly contact with your mentee

**CfG Expectations:**

To follow relevant policies and procedures as laid down by the service in the delivery of your role

To attend training and supervision meetings. (In person or via Zoom)

To perform your role in line with the aims of the organisation

Develop an understanding of the role, responsibilities, and boundaries of a volunteer mentor.

**Stages:**

Stage 1 - Online application form is completed and returned to [admin@changeforgood.info](mailto:admin@changeforgood.info)

Stage 2 - The project manager will shortlist applications.

Stage 3 - If your application is successful, you will be invited for an interview.

Stage 4 - If you are successful at interview you will be invited to attend training.

Training will take place face to face and via Zoom.

**For a Mentor Application Form please Email [admin@changeforgood.info](mailto:admin@changeforgood.info)**



Churches  
Together in  
Westminster

Churches Working Together  
in Central London

Email: [ctiw.net@gmail.com](mailto:ctiw.net@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ctiw.net](http://www.ctiw.net)



# **“MEET THE NEIGHBOURS”**

## **St Cyprian's Clarence Gate**

**Glentworth Street, London NW1 6AX**



**At 6pm on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

**The visit will begin with Evening Prayer,  
followed by a talk, a walk round the church, and  
light refreshments**

**All are very welcome to join us**

**Email: [stcyprianscg@gmail.com](mailto:stcyprianscg@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 020 7723 0426**

**Website : <https://stcyprians.weebly.com/>**

## NOTICES

### CTiW Membership

The current Annual Membership donation for 2023/24 is £50.00 per annum per church. Extra donations at any time are gratefully received. The financial year of Churches Together in Westminster runs from April 1st to March 31st.

Our current Treasurer is Rev'd Joan Ishibashi, c/o St James's Church, Piccadilly, 197 Piccadilly. W1J 9LL

**"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/wp-content/uploads/Meet-the-Neighbours-Guidelines-rev1.pdf> 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.

### CTiW Executive Membership 2023

**Rev'd Joan Ishibashi** – St James's, Piccadilly – Treasurer  
**Gillian Dare** – All Saints Church, Margaret Street – Minutes Secretary

**Rev'd Canon Dr Peter Babington** - St Mary le Strand

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

**Major Geoff Chape** - Salvation Army, Regent Hall

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

**Alasdair MacKenzie** – Representing London Prisons Mission (LPM)

**Deacon Ali McMillan** - Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

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

**Catherine Slater** – WLM & Hinde Street Methodist Church

**Martyn Watson** – Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

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

CTiW Email: [ctiw.net@gmail.com](mailto:ctiw.net@gmail.com)

Website: <http://ctiw.london/>