



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

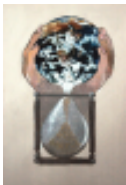
• Diocese of Nottingham
• Diocese of Lincoln • Lincoln and
Grimsby District of the Methodist
Church • East Midlands Baptist
Association • East Midlands Synod
of the United Reformed Church
• East Midlands Division of the
Salvation Army • The Lincolnshire
Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends • Churches of
the Congregational Federation •
Ground Level Network

CTAL serving Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire

Introduction

At the meeting of Presidents and Deputy Presidents of CTAL held in December 2007 the group were reminded of the commitments made in the Churches Covenant back in January 2004. These commitments underpin all that goes on informally and formally in the name of Churches Together in All Lincolnshire. Much of the work reported in this annual report wouldn't have happened without the initiative, involvement and dedication and of key individuals and groups for which we are grateful. "What is CTAL?" is a question that has been asked. Well CTAL does have an Office with an Administrator and hopes to appoint a new Ecumenical Officer during 2008 but primarily CTAL is about you – Christians from various church backgrounds in every part of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire working together to fulfil the commitments made in the Churches Covenant. This report highlights some of the things that 2007 will be remembered for which happened under the CTAL "banner".

The *Common Ground Conference* was a major consultation which took place in Horncastle during Fairtrade fortnight in March. Issues of Farming and Fairtrade were explored in the broader context of global trade justice. Colin Tudge, well known for his books and essays on farming and environment was the speaker.



The Churches Environmental Group working with BBC Radio Lincolnshire produced the Lent course "Earth in Our Hands" and accompanying CD which later in the year went on to win the Environmental Category of the 2007 Jerusalem Awards for religious broadcasting. Well done to Chaplain, Terry Miller and his team.

Several hundred people came to the "Earth our Home Event" in April. The Cathedral was set up with displays, events, workshops and activities on an environmental or conservation theme. The event concluded with an ecumenical service in which the Framework for Action was launched. School children packed the Cathedral on the Friday for a schools day on the same theme.

Following its launch in April the "Environmental Framework for Action" was distributed widely to every church in Lincolnshire with the aim of every Christian in Lincolnshire having their own copy. This colourful and thought provoking action guide focuses on the themes of energy, transport, water, waste, purchasing, and biodiversity.

Almost 600 people of all denominations packed the Cathedral for the "Fresh Expressions Vision Day" in March to be informed, inspired, encouraged and equipped to think about and start Fresh Expressions of Church. The day was hosted by Bishop John with Dr Steve Croft and Rev Peter Pillinger, members of the national Fresh Expressions team, as key note speakers. The first "Mission Shaped Intro course" took place in the autumn as a follow up to the Vision Day.



County Ecumenical Officer ~ vacancy
Administrative Secretary ~ Alison McNish

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Lincolnshire played host to the “*March of the Abolitionists*” as they passed through various areas of the county in March. The white walkers accompanied by Africans and descendants of enslaved Africans donned yokes and chains for the walk recalling the gruelling journeys of enslaved Africans during the period of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

Reports from several *Churches Together Groups* indicate that many are alive and active. Churches in the areas of Stamford, Gainsborough, Skegness and Sleaford all hosted schools festivals during the summer months, Churches in Boston reported that they were looking forward to Hope 2008, a Street Pastors scheme was launched ecumenically in Lincoln and Sleaford shoppers are now able to use homemade shopping bags in an attempt to reduce their use of plastic bags.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships – the absence of an ecumenical officer has meant that some of our 18 or so LEPs in the area remain in need of support however it is encouraging to see new partnerships forming at Old Brumby, Kirton in Lindsey and Grantham.

The *Churches Roads group* continued an active involvement with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and this year St Bernadette’s RC Church in Scunthorpe was the venue for a moving service of remembrance planned in conjunction with the North Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. Services of prayer and dedication for the drivers who grit our roads were held in December.

Lincolnshire Chaplaincy Services which is now a company limited by guarantee seeking charitable status works as the agent of all the churches in the area of Chaplaincy provision. The 17 strong team of paid and voluntary chaplains engage with the wider



community in places of work, education and leisure. A separate report from LCS available in May will give more details. Of course many of the events and projects written about in this report would not have been possible without the initiative and input of the Chaplains.

Starfish Project at Grimsby Institute which seeks to respond to the needs of Tsunami affected communities in South India continued to grow and flourish under the leadership of Chaplain, Rev Dr Mike Ward. A fitting reward came later in the year when the Grimsby Institute were awarded “Outstanding Project of the Year” in the Higher Education Academy Volunteering Awards in London.

The *CTAL Development Fund* was able to give financial support during the year to the Fresh Expressions Vision Day and the Earth our Home event. CTAL was also able to support the Churches Tent at the Lincolnshire Show which is a very visible sign of Christian presence at the Show.

A separate report from the *Tírunevelí Link Committee* is available.

The CTAL AGM will be held at the start of the next Presidents Meeting at 10am on Monday 23rd June.

For more information on CTAL please consult the CTAL website at www.ctal.org.uk or call the office 01522 504070.

Revd Canon Chris Lilley
Chair of the CTAL Executive
March 2008

Presidents

Rt Revd Dr John Saxbee (*CofE*)
Rt Revd Malcolm McMahon (*Catholic*)
Revd Dr David Perry (*Methodist*)
Revd Steve Mantle (*Baptist*)
Revd Terry Oakley (*URC*)
Major Jonathan Roberts (*Salvation Army*)
Pastor Stuart Bell (*Ground Level*)
John Crompton (*Quaker*)
Wendy Gwatkin (*Quaker*) ~ from Nov '07

Deputy Presidents

Rt Revd David Rossdale (*C of E*)
Very Revd Michael Moore (*Catholic*)
Revd Jennifer Park (*Methodist*)
Mrs Heather Grierson (*Baptist*)
Mr Bernard Stonehouse (*URC*)
Dr Peter Atkins (*Ground Level*)

Denominational Secretaries / Executive Committee Members

Very Revd Michael Moore (*Catholic*)
Revd Canon Chris Lilley (*C of E*) - **Chairman**
Revd Jonathan Hustler (*Methodist*) - from Jan '08
Mrs Heather Grierson (*Baptist*)
Revd Eric McDonald (*URC*)
Revd Hamish Temple (*URC*)
Captain Sue Betts (*Salvation Army*)
Brian Gelsthorpe (*Quaker*)
Dr Peter Atkins (*Ground Level Network*)

Ecumenical Co-ordinator for Mission

Vacancy ~ from May '06

Administrative Secretary

Miss Alison McNish

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Margaret West