



# NEWSLETTER

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## Summer 2021



This **Newsletter** is a first step on our renewed pilgrimage of Christian unity. We take with us on this pilgrimage our ways of living, trusting and hoping and always the certainty of a loving God. We remembered James the apostle on his recent feastday and all the thousands of pilgrims who have walked the ancient way to Compostela in northern Spain, just as we set off on our pilgrimage of unity and hope now. The pilgrims to Compostela carried a local scallop shell, where the lines on the shell represent the converging routes of the pilgrimage from all over Europe. Groups working for Christian unity often use a symbol of the scallop shell and its converging lines: they also use the sign of a pilgrims' boat at sea. The modern logo of Churches Together in England which WYCT uses combines both boat and scallop

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The coloured patches in our photo represent the diversity we find on our own pilgrim journey.

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**WEST YORKSHIRE CHURCHES TOGETHER** is the intermediate body within Churches Together in England serving West Yorkshire and the districts, dioceses and other groups within and around.

**WYCT Co-ordinator** is **Deacon Nick Shields**- [westyorkshirect@icloud.com](mailto:westyorkshirect@icloud.com) :42 Blenheim Road WF1 3JZ

**WYCT Convenor** (Chair) is **Bishop Tony Robinson** Area Bishop of Wakefield, and Deputy Convenor is **Bishop Tony Parry** of the New Testament Church of God: **Rev Glenn Coggins** is convenor for Denominational Ecumenical Officers & Local Ecumenical Projects in this area: [cogginsglenn@gmail.com](mailto:cogginsglenn@gmail.com)

This newsletter is produced by WYCT: contact the Co-ordinator as above. We would be very pleased to receive your news- and photos- to include here- e-mail as above.

The Coordinator is happy to preach/speak on on WYCT or Christian Unity to your church or group....

**NOTE:** If you do not at any time wish to receive these mailings, e-mail WYCT with "Unsubscribe" in the message or header. If you are representing a body such as a local Churches Together, please then nominate someone to be mailed in your place. Our list is for WYCT information and contact purposes and is kept safe; it is NEVER passed to any other organisation

## WYCT NEWS

**WYCT AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021** This date has been previously notified and we still intend to have a 'real' meeting in the "small hall" at St Columbas Church, Headingley, Leeds LS26 2DH-next door to Hinsley Hall. More soon.

**General Secretary of CTE** Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking an able and inspiring **General Secretary** to provide vision and leadership within CTE, whilst promoting the unity and mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For an Application Pack go to [www.cte.org.uk/GSV](http://www.cte.org.uk/GSV)  
Closing date noon Friday 1 October 2021

**National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast -25<sup>th</sup> June** "Every year, over 700 MPs, Peers



and church leaders gather together in the Houses of Parliament to pray for Parliament, government and politics, to build relationships between church leaders and their local MPs, and to reflect upon the relevance of the Christian faith to our public life" The main speaker this

year online was Professor NT Wright, otherwise Tom Wright, (left) Bishop of Durham from 2003-10, a popular and prolific author and speaker, and well known New Testament scholar. He spoke about 'Life Beyond Covid: A Renewed Hope': His chosen headings (and our keywords) are "Lament, forgiveness, rebuilding and hope."



(Right) Bishop Tony, WYCT Convenor arranged a prayer breakfast at Wakefield Cathedral.

**Climate Sunday** Local churches across Britain and Ireland are encouraged to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before 5 September 2021.

Go to [climatesunday.org](http://climatesunday.org) for more details -Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

**Nourishing the roots** *a chance to refresh our ecumenical vision:*

This is a long-awaited conference for all Ecumenical Officers. It is now at The Hayes, Swanwick in Derbyshire from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September. Please book for the conference via Eventbrite- Tickets until 10.00 am on Monday 6 September (If you are a URC, you will have been sent a special link) Eventbrite usually sends a booking confirmation almost immediately.

CTE invites  
Ecumenical Officers  
to Swanwick... from  
28-30 September

**COP26 Glasgow 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> November is a global United Nations summit about climate change and how countries will tackle it.:** It will be the

biggest summit the UK has ever hosted and "possibly the most significant climate event since the 2015 Paris Agreement". Remember that Humans have increased CO2 in the atmosphere by more than a third by burning fossil fuels like coal and oil.

The Paris Agreement of 2015 included undertakings to: • Reduce the amount of harmful "greenhouse gases" and increase renewable energy like wind, solar and wave power

- Keep global temperature increase "well below" 2C (3.6F) and to try to limit it to 1.5C
- Spend billions of dollars a year in climate finance to help poorer countries

**A toolkit for collaboration** Before the lockdowns Churches Together in England launched a new Toolkit for "A Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission".

-an easy-to use framework helping local churches to collaborate with confidence and flexibility, developing the right agreement for a joint venture

More information on the CTE Website...[cte.org.uk](http://cte.org.uk)

**WYCT** has still been working on **Local Ecumenical Projects** across our area and details of these will be circulated soon. It is intended to include a meeting for Denominational Ecumenical Officers "DEO's" around the time of the WYCT AGM possibly on Zoom.

**Local Churches Together** Do let us know how you are doing and send any news of yourselves to: [westyorkshirect@icloud.com](mailto:westyorkshirect@icloud.com)