

## **Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone**



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Deadline for Newsletter submissions: 2nd to last Friday of the month (21st March 2025)

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## CTiC Annual Gathering 2025

The CTiC ANNUAL GATHERING (including AGM) will be held on Saturday, 7th June 2025, at the Carver Uniting Church, Lake Road, Windermere, LA23 2BY from 10am to 3pm.

Our keynote speaker is Doral Heyes: Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations, Churches Together in England and the theme will be *"A snapshot of the ecumenical landscape in England"*.

***Please do book a place if you would like to attend, as we need to know numbers in advance and any dietary requirements. (NB lunch will be provided)***

[PLEASE BOOK HERE](#)

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## Social Responsibility - Modern Slavery



## **CTIC's support of Jo Phillips and her work with Modern Slavery.**

Jo has recently been awarded a grant by the Bishop Radford Trust which is enabling her to organise another Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network event. The following excerpt from her grant application describes the work she has been involved in.

There have been recent disappointments too, with the closure of the Cumbria Modern Slavery & Exploitation Partnership (mentioned below). County steering group dealings with the issue have been relocated to the more general Cumbria Serious Organised Crime Alliance. We hope to continue engagement and assistance in dealing with the issue from this new setting.

Modern Slavery and exploitation are pernicious issues affecting every area of the country. Cumbria is no exception and has some specific issues of vulnerability due to prominent industries, geographic and population factors. Yet until January 2024 it was one of the few counties not to have a Modern Slavery Partnership.

Due to the work of the Social Responsibility Forum we had built relationships with many who encounter this issue on the frontline, and with those who are in a position to make a difference to those most vulnerable, and victims. With the help of experts in national networks (such as that of The Clewer Initiative, and the Human Trafficking Foundation) we organised network training events and gathered a group of those willing to start a Partnership. A weakness in previous attempts to do this was the lack of dissemination of information, resources, reporting and referral pathways. A network of frontline workers addresses this weakness and enables more effective action against modern slavery and exploitation in our region.

We have set up the Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network to be the vehicle for this. We send out monthly emails with information and resources, and we organise network training events to gather these people together to learn, to discuss, to network amongst themselves, to gather feedback on what is being encountered on the ground and are able to pass that to the Partnership. While the Partnership are able to effectively feed plans and information to those who need it most in the region.

The network has nearly 200 members, but many disseminate further to their own teams from there. It is made up of 40 organisations, statutory bodies, third sector, faith communities and members of the public. It benefits them, but also

all those whom they serve in turn, ensuring they know how to report, refer and care for victims.

*Our Aims and Objectives are:*

- 1. To raise awareness of the situation in the region and beyond*
- 2. To equip and inform those dealing with the issue in their various spheres*
- 3. To encourage and support multi-agency relationships and collaborative working*
- 4. To improve care and support of victims/survivors of modern slavery*
- 5. To significantly reduce and prevent exploitation and modern slavery*

*Our Mission Statement is:*

*Getting to Work on Modern Slavery in Cumbria*

We hope the next Network event will take place in late May. We'll share further details as soon as we have them.

Many thanks for your continued support and interest in this CTiC project.

Jo Phillips





# A Window into a CT Group

We invite each CT group to send a short article (max 250 words) for inclusion in the CTIC newsletter. We suggest that you share something of the life and work of your group which will inform, inspire or encourage. Please also include a photograph. We would like to feature one group per month, and at this point you may simply want to choose a month and inform

Dani: [danielle@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:danielle@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk) which month you have chosen. The aim is to raise the profile of the CT groups and to encourage each other in the life and work that God has called us to.

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## Anna Chaplaincy



This last month has been an exciting time for Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria as we welcome three more Anna Chaplains and six more Anna Friends.

In Natland, on the 9th February, Gill Pilling was commissioned as Anna Chaplain at St Marks church in a service led by Reverend Shanthi Thompson and Reverend Lucy Foster. Gill comes with a wealth of experience as a retired GP who specialised in palliative care and care of the elderly. Aside from her Anna Chaplaincy work, she is part of a pioneering project to take medicines out to Malawi where she supports a Palliative Care Clinic, by taking much needed crucial medicines with her. Gill also volunteers at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary as a chaplain.

The Reverend Christine Brown has commissioned six new Anna Friends in the last couple of months to help her with the ministry in Sedbergh and Dent. They will also work alongside Christine in the chaplaincy work at Kendal hospital.

Grassmoor Mission Community are preparing to commission Reverend Nicholas Cole as an Anna Chaplain on the 8th March on GMC leadership day, and Reverend Ruth Illman on the 16th March at St Mary's, Harrington.

by Sam Pester (Anna Chaplaincy Lead for Cumbria)

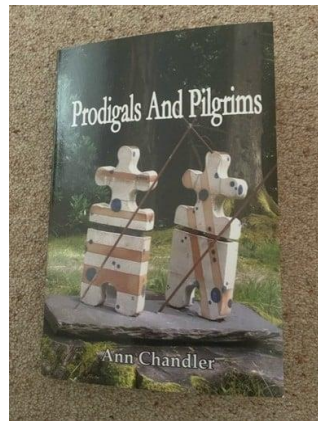




For any enquiries about Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria do get in touch at [ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)  
Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for ongoing news.

Anna Chaplaincy Cumbria Facebook Page

## Prodigals & Pilgrims



### PRODIGALS AND PILGRIMS

We all walk along our paths,  
some chosen, some accidental.

Passing each other in opposite directions,  
we stride, we shuffle, we skip, we nod,

we ignore,  
intent upon a destination of our own making,  
a pinpoint light in the distance.

The prodigal runs down his path,  
one chosen, yet accidental.  
Carrying his burden on back once bent and laboured,  
he runs, he urges, he leaps, he jumps,  
he turns round,  
intent upon a destination of his own memory,  
a pinpoint light on the horizon.

The pilgrim's path is slow paced,  
one chosen, one measured.  
Fellow travellers sharing a holy and common aim.  
They walk, they slow march, they stop, they praise,  
they pray,  
intent upon a destination of their hopeful hearts,  
a pinpoint light in a far place.

Prodigal and pilgrim,  
all chosen, all treasured  
sharing in common a path and a reason.

All move, all strive, all shape, all want,  
all claim,  
intent upon a destination of inner craving,  
a pinpoint light in a chosen land.



By Ann Chandler

(taken from Prodigals and Pilgrims – available on Amazon)

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## Updates from Churches Together in England



*Updates from CTiE by Doral Hayes*

Firstly, I am delighted to welcome the new County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Devon, Sabrina Groschel. Sabrina has previously worked ecumenically in Devon and may already be known to some of you. We look forward to working with you Sabrina.

### ***Congratulations***

Congratulations to Robert Mountford who has been awarded the Lambeth Cross for Ecumenism. It is wonderful that Robert's wonderful work as a CEO in Birmingham, Staffordshire and the Potteries has been acknowledged. It gave us great joy when we heard about it at CTE.

The work of County Ecumenical Officers is rarely publicly celebrated and so I hope this news encourages everyone who works quietly behind the scenes to build Christian unity in different contexts. Congratulations Robert, it is an honour well deserved. You can read more about this news story on the CTE website [here](#).

## ***New Guidance for Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPS)***

New guidance is now available for LEPs who are considering the registration of their buildings for same sex marriages. This guidance has been put together by the National Ecumenical Officers of the Church of England, United Reformed Church, Baptist Church and Methodist Church, who are the four denominations that are involved in a majority of churches that are Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Importantly, a number of other denominations are also partners within LEPs, this guidance aims to clarify the different rules for LEPs that include the four churches that were involved in writing it, and offers a starting point for these discussions where they are happening in local contexts. The guidance will be updated as necessary and the current document is available on the CTE website [here](#).

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

Please do note the following dates in your diary and more information about these events will follow in due course.

- *All Ecumenical Representatives Conference 2025: 29<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU.*
- *New Ecumenical Officers Training 2026: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Highgate House Conference Centre, Creaton, Northamptonshire, NN5 8NN*
- *All Ecumenical Representatives Conference 2026: 29<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU.*

After CTE Forum I will also be planning the online events for ecumenical officers taking place this year and so will be in touch again.

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## **Spiritual Accompaniment**



### ***You, Me and God - journeying together***

For further information contact

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**Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group**

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# **CTiC Trustees and Staff**

## **Our Trustees:**

Revd Richard Snow - CTiC Vice President - [rector@therainbowparish.org](mailto:rector@therainbowparish.org)

Revd Kath Dodd - CTiC Treasurer - [kath.dodd@btinternet.com](mailto:kath.dodd@btinternet.com)

Derek Lacey - Social Responsibility Forum Chair

Bill Bewley - Church Leaders Representative

Paul Burden - Churches Together Group Representative

Revd Alistair Smeaton

## **Our Staff:**

Samantha Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead -  
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General Enquiries - [admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)

Danielle Henshaw - Administrator [danielle@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:danielle@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)

## **Churches Together in Cumbria**

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