

Churches Together in Horwich and Rivington (CTHR)

CTHR continues to involve the 9 churches of various denominations in serving the spiritual and community needs of the people of our Town. Our churches are one in mission to promote the love of God and our neighbour. It does this in a variety of ways to support our different churches in the town.

1. In January our churches share in an Annual Covenant Service based on the Methodist service, when we renew our Covenant with God in Jesus affirming our commitment to be builders of God's Kingdom in Horwich through the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. During Lent we meet in different churches, following this year a course based on 5 marks of mission entitled 'As the Father sent me so I send you'. The evenings which last an hour plus refreshments involve worship, prayer, a talk from one of the church leaders, and group discussion.
3. On the first Friday of March a group of local women headed up this year by Maureen Swift from New Chapel, are organising the International World Day of Prayer. This year at New Chapel on the afternoon of March 1st.
4. We support the work of Christian Aid to raise funds to help those most affected by climate change.
5. We are involved with the Middlebrook and Horwich Angels. They are a group of retail chaplains working to provide a listening ear and support to employers and employees in Middlebrook Retail and Leisure Park and in Horwich Town Centre.
6. Through an annual service of Praise and Prayer in September. The focus is on some words of Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic Priest "Prayer is first listening to God. It is openness. God is always speaking; he is always doing something".
7. In November, we work under the leadership of the Rector of Horwich with Horwich Royal British Legion, Horwich Council, and the Rivington and Adlington Band for the always crowded Remembrance Day Parade.
8. Our website <https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/horwich-rivington> under the care of Robert Forrester has continued to help people find out about the contribution of the churches to our community but it is dependent on people keeping Robert informed so that the website can be kept up to date.

Meetings of Churches Together in Horwich and Rivington with representatives from the churches, meet 3 times a year including an Annual Meeting this year on 16th May. This year Chair, Linda Gillett after three years of service, and Secretary Gloria Long after a number of years of service are standing down. We are fortunate to have a very good Treasurer Susan Preston who is continuing on. So we are seeking a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary. Time wise they are not demanding roles but they do require a commitment for three meetings a year and overall leadership. Might you take on one of the roles or know someone who might be asked? Please speak to Linda Gillett minister at New Chapel on 01204 696424.

Please also note that at the three meetings each year, there is an invitation for people other than the Church Leaders to attend. The Church Leaders already have meetings prior to the CTHR meetings, so new comers would be welcome to give ideas and understand more what is happening not only in our own churches, but also in all the churches within Horwich and Rivington.