

# TELFORD CHRISTIANS TOGETHER



Images from the North West Telford Association of Churches party on the Green during One Bright Week in June

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17



# Who is TCT?

TCT is The Executive Committee & Its member Churches which includes all the main denominations

See our website: [telfordchristianstogether.co.uk](http://telfordchristianstogether.co.uk)

## New personnel appointed



**Chris Densham**

**Mission Enabler for Telford and Shropshire**

Chris has been greatly encouraged during this first year in post. He writes "Everywhere I've been in Telford and Shropshire I've met wonderful Christians and Churches that are deeply engaged in their local communities, being Jesus to them. We're not seeing huge amounts of fruit yet, but I believe that as these relationships continue to develop and trust deepens the opportunities will multiply".

**Gillian Taylor**  
**Resources Officer**

Gillian helps TCT provide a link for Telford churches to share with each other in Mission She edits the monthly Newsletter and Resources, TCT website and facebook page. Gillian will be our Local Champion for the 2018 Faith Action Audit.



# TCT Mission Initiatives in 2017



*trypraying is a seven day prayer guide for the non-religious or as David Hill from Trypraying says "It's a pray-er guide that any self-respecting agnostic could use with a clear conscience!"*

## Did your church take part?

33 churches did and several displayed banners outside their church inviting people in to pray! You may have seen trypraying adverts on the buses.

Congregations were encouraged to "use it and lose it"- read for a week and then give away someone as led by the Spirit. Many churches are continuing to use the booklets as part of their ongoing witness, making them available at Coffee Mornings, 'drop-ins' etc.



# TCT Mission Initiatives in 2017

Bringing God's Heart To...  
...Your Area of Telford

One Bright Week  
[www.brightinfo.org.uk](http://www.brightinfo.org.uk)

Special Event Happening Here!

## Tom Elliott Christian Entertainer Schools Project

Tom combines his skills as a magician and comedian to teach young people how to develop positive life skills. 5 of Telford Secondary schools took part -

Wrekin College , Holy Trinity Academy ,  
Abraham Darby Academy, Telford Priors  
and Ercall Wood Technology College.



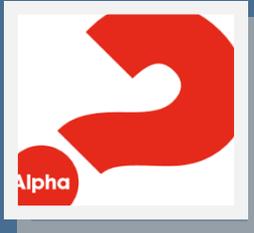
With a few jokes and tricks Tom explained to 640 students how a life with faith is designed to liberate us rather than to burden us. Everyone engaged well with the material understanding the importance of making good choices. The children later fed back as to how much they had enjoyed the sessions – how Tom had made them laugh and feel more positive about themselves. The staff particularly remarked how quite a few of the quieter and less engaged children put them-selves forward and engaged in a positive way that they had rarely seen. Tom's visits continue to generate positivity and goodwill between the churches and local

# TCT Mission Initiatives in 2017

## Kaleidoscope Primary Schools Project

Kaleidoscope provides support for Primary schools in delivering the Religious Education Curriculum for Yr5. It also provides an opportunity to invite the children into Church for a 'spiritual experience'. Many children and families have new engagement with Church. Churches involved this year were St Michaels Madeley, Telford Elim, Dawley Christian Centre and the Salvation Army. This year was a highly successful event and gained lots of positive feedback from the schools and volunteers. Statistically we involved 10 schools, 509 students + teachers and 40 church volunteers. Teachers' comments included: *'An enjoyable day covering the RE Yr 5 curriculum.'* *'Excellent organisation – we were made to feel really welcome.'* Children's comments included: – *'This makes me want to be a Christian.'* *'I thought it was going to be a boring RE trip, but it's really good.'* *'Even better than great.'* Volunteers' comments included: *'Fantastic day – I really enjoyed being part of the Kaleidoscope team – It has helped me find my gifts as well as developing the gifts of the children.'*

# TCT Mission Initiatives in 2017



## Alpha @Telford 2017

Over 50 people from Churches across Telford came together in the Chapel of Christ The King from May to July for an Alpha Course. These included enquirers, people who have been in Church for years and wonder why as well as those wanting to explore their new found faith.

At least two are seeking Baptism as a result of the Course. This was a cross-Telford mission opportunity and the speakers and group leaders represented that, as did the Churches who provided cake each week. The Day on the Spirit was held on a glorious day at Admaston and saw the Spirit move in many ways. Thank you TCT for making it possible.

One key thing is that there was a good representation from both Yellow Ribbon and CAP at the first week but sadly they were unable to come again but this does show opportunities for the future. Putting all this together, Alpha @ Telford 2017 was a really good course and a follow up in 2019 could be worth exploring and implementing the lessons learned.  
Tim Storey



# Looking ahead to 2018



## FAITH ACTION AUDIT

In February 2018 Telford churches, together with other faith groups and voluntary organisation will take part in the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit.

The information provided by an online survey will provide a whole picture of the areas of social action that are being covered by voluntary groups and the specific data related to number of hours provided by volunteers, the number of those benefitting and the areas of strength . It will also identify areas that need greater input and assistance. The audit will recognise the extent of the involvement of faith groups and voluntary agencies in providing care and



## ENGAGE SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROJECT

Following on from the successful visits of Tom Elliot in recent years together with the on-going work of a number of churches in our Secondary Schools we are looking to establish a Secondary Schools Project.

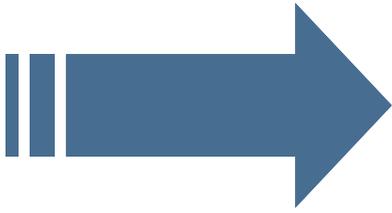
The vision is to give every student in Secondary School in Telford & Wrekin the space to engage with Christian spirituality.

Space might include:

- ☐ Prayer Spaces
- ☐ Reflective Practise
- ☐ Leading Assemblies
- ☐ Taking RE and other lessons
- ☐ Lunchtime or After School Clubs Creating special events
- ☐ Chaplaincy & mentoring

“Engage” would seek to employ a couple of folk and also create opportunities for interns to serve so that we can maximise the opportunities we have. We are currently in the process of establishing a management team to guide the process forward.

# Looking ahead to 2018



## TELFORD 50

With the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Telford approaching comes an opportunity for the Church to be actively involved in the Community.

TCT will be looking for ways to help churches engage with the celebrations to mark Telford's 50th year. We will be setting up a page on our website where churches can share ideas.



# Volunteering with TCT

We are looking for someone to take on the role of Financial Advisor to TCT. We require someone with expertise in accountancy and funding but also vision to assist TCT in using its funds creatively.

Please contact Jacquie Osmund-Smith on 07967 751022