

Firstly, thank-you for all the kindness shown last year when I was injured. There was the support of those who filled in for me in going, sometimes at short notice, to represent Churches Together at various events. Especially thanks to Helen. Then there were all the cards, messages, visits and prayers... much appreciated!

So, for the past year...It was good to have the united Advent service – and thanks to the Cathedral, and all who supported it. I think we feel, on reflection, that there is less point in holding that, than a public witness, because all churches can hold Advent and Christmas events anyway. The main point of unity can be expressed in our **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January**. This past year this was held at St. Edmund's church led by David Bagstaff, and the preacher was Simon Harvey, again maintaining our tradition of two different denominations to host/ preach.

This past year has been, for Churches Together, at least, more active than the previous two. It was wonderful to be able to have again the Good Friday Walk of Witness. Many people said they had found it extremely good and worthwhile.

The Study and Share groups worked well. Thanks to those who hosted these and to those who led them, and to all who came. I still find it an issue to decide how to do Prayer Breakfasts – or any **prayer events**. I feel they are vital and, so far, have not felt very satisfied with how they work.

The Summer celebration in the Abbey Gardens went well, special thanks to Will and co. for the music, to the Cathedral for service sheets, and to all who participated in any way. I still feel, however, that the Summer event could have a lot more potential. My original vision was that if we are united, if we are all part of the Body of Christ, and if the public sometimes only know about us when we come out of our buildings, then surely just one Sunday a year we could actually worship together! I think, if all our Sunday congregations are added together, we number about 2,000 [I understand that some, of course, would not feel physically able] but, out of so many Christians in Bury.... need more be said?! As for finance – how many of us would expect to pay for a ticket for an event at the Apex, or cinema? - most of us I should think! So why would it be difficult to fund an event, which we do want to be free at the point of access for the public?

I have felt the Chairing of Churches Together in Bury and District to be an enormous privilege. Thanks are due to the Mayor and Council, MPs, other dignitaries. Thank-you to all you who have helped, and who have come to these meetings, and to any of the events. If God can use me to Chair Churches Together, then He can use any Christian!

I have hugely enjoyed the welcome, and the Christian fellowship, I have found in all the affiliated churches. This is also the case with company and conversations (including with non-church people) during the Monday afternoon prayer walking. Let's continue together to proclaim the **Kingship of Christ**.

Thank-you to everyone for love, prayer and encouragement.

Heather.