

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

January 2019

News

A special locomotive bearing the motto of the **2019 Kirchentag**, Germany's biggest regular Protestant festival, will travel the length and breadth of the country as a "rolling ambassador" for the event that takes place this year in the German city of Dortmund. Painted in the red livery of Germany's national rail company, the Deutsche Bahn (DB), and decorated with the logo of the Kirchentag, the locomotive was presented at a ceremony on 14 January at Berlin's central station marking the start of the DB's official partnership with the Dortmund Kirchentag. More than 100,000 participants are expected in Dortmund from 19-23 June for the Kirchentag, a church festival that takes place every two years in a different German city.



Bishop Declan recently led a visit of Bishops of the Holy Land Coordination Group to the Holy Land in support of local Christians. The group is made up of Bishops from across Europe, North America and South Africa, who have made an annual pastoral visit to Israel and Palestine for the past 20 years. Meetings were held in the City of Haifa, as well as the Palestinian town of Zababdeh, with visits to Christian hospitals, schools and villages. The bishops also took part in Inter-faith encounters. In line with the approach the Holy See adopts everywhere else, the bishops do not seek privileges for Christians, but dignity and justice for them and for others in similar conflicts.

NEW PASTORAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED: Rural Ministries is delighted to announce that Rev. Alison Griffiths will be starting as the new Pastoral Director for the South of England, commencing on 1st January 2019. Her role at Rural Ministries is part-time enabling her to continue her leadership of Lydney Baptist Church in rural Gloucestershire where she has been Minister since finishing her training at Bristol Baptist College in 2011. "Rural and marginal communities are where I've always felt most at home so being called to serve with Rural Ministries is an unexpected delight," said Alison on her appointment. Alison is married to lawyer Ian and they have three teenage children. Prior to being called to full-time ministry she was a solicitor and community mediator.



"That we should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel us to act Separately"

- The Lund Principle

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The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: www.cte.org.uk/news.

Events

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOMERSET FORUM AND AGM

Saturday 23rd February 2018 10.00am - 3.30pm

Bagley Baptist Church, Coldnose Lane, Bagley, Nr Wedmore BS28 4TG.

This event marks a change away from a mid-week meeting to a Saturday – hopefully to allow more people to be free to attend – and with a different format and extended programme to fill the whole day. In place of a ‘talking heads’ the Forum will feature market stalls and interactive workshops (not places where you are talked-at but where you are expected to be involved and challenged in ways that will help to deepen our spiritual life. Badged as part of "Mission Explored", the theme for the Forum will be “**Spirituality for Life**”. If you need more details now please contact me—contact details below.

Ammerdown Courses:

- **Practical Mindfulness** Led by Sue Glanville 26th January, 2019, 9:30am for 10am Until 4pm. Living in the Present, and the Presence, of the God who is the ‘I Am’, not the ‘I was’ or the ‘I will be’. Suitable for beginners as well as those who have some experience. Cost £50.00 (Course includes coffee, lunch and afternoon tea).
- **Elijah** Led by: Rachel Montagu 8th – 10th February. Residential £260.00, non Residential £175.00. Elijah was an extraordinary miracle-working prophet. We will look at his life and consider: what miracles did he perform; why could he not hear the ‘still small voice’; what made him so destructive at the end of his life;
- Quiet Day - the ‘I am’ sayings of Jesus Direction – I am the Light, John 8:12-13 with Jan and Andy Ladhams starting Saturday 9th February 9.30am for 10am until 4pm. Course includes coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, £50

For more details contact Tina Hartnell on tina.hartnell@ammerdown.org

Wells Cathedral Special Service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, and seminar, Sunday 27th January 3.00pm with the theme this year of ‘Torn From Home’. At Evensong the Dean will outline Christian responses to the Holocaust. And in a Cathedral Seminar afterwards, there will be a chance to hear about Jewish responses to the tragedy.

Saturday 2nd February - Christians in Politics Event If you're a Christian and involved in local or national government, or interested in becoming involved in politics, you won't want to miss the Christians In Politics (CiPOL) 'Influence Tour' event in Taunton on 2 February. It's free but please register. Details in the flyers are [here](#) for the afternoon event and [here](#) for the evening event. For more info about the Influence Tour go to [Christians in Politics - Events](#)



Delivering Hope: Christian Aid's Joanna Tom-Kargbo visits the South West

Wednesday 13 March, 4pm-6pm: St Thomas's Church, Wells BA52XG. Sierra Leone is the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum. Ten women die every day in childbirth. Joanna is passionate about bringing change in her country. Come and hear her stories about how your fundraising and legacies are saving lives in Sierra Leone, and find out what more needs to be done in Christian Aid Week 2019. Please visit [https://](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/south-west)

www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/south-west, call 01454 415 923 or email bristol@christian-aid.org for more information.

Taunton Student Mission Day Saturday 30th March at North Street Church, Taunton. Fusion work alongside churches to see every student and young person encounter and know Christ! This is a free event open to anyone who has a heart to reach young adults and students.. Please book online as soon as you know you can come. <https://fusion.eventcube.io/events/15649/taunton-student-mission-day> Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/199504237555174/>

STOP PRESS



Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Initiative 40th May—9th June

Opportunities.

Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking to appoint an able and experienced full-time Evangelism & Mission Co-ordinator. The ideal candidate will have wide ecumenical experience of evangelism and mission networks, take responsibility for evangelism and mission co-ordination, be an able written and verbal communicator in presentations, reports and papers, share in the responsibilities of the staff team. Application closing date: 12 noon on Friday 1st February 2019. Interview dates: Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th February 2019. There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for applicants to be a practising Christian and an active member in good standing of a member church of CTE/CTBI. An application pack can be downloaded at www.cte.org.uk/MissionCoordinator



The Parishes of Creech St Michael, Ruishton & Thornfalcon are recruiting a **Children, Families & Schools Worker**. This is an exciting new post working across 3 rural parishes and alongside 2 thriving church Primary Schools on the outskirts of Taunton. 18 hours per week. Salary £10,840 plus pension & work-related expenses (subject to experience & relevant qualifications). For information pack and application form please contact: Mrs Yvonne Yeoell, Parishes Administrator on 01823 444793 or email: crtparishchurches@outlook.com Closing Date: 1st February 2019 Interview Date: 14th or 15th February 2019. Start Date: Easter 2019 (with some flexibility according to applicant's availability)

Springs Dance Company's deeply moving and captivating performance called **Bread of Life**, is available for churches to book for Lent and Easter 2019. Contact Rebecca Bertram, Tour Booker, T: 07876 752 910 or email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk

The Diocese of Bath and Wells have recently launched a recruitment campaign to help raise the profile of what it means to be a school governor and how people can help their local schools by volunteering. You don't need to be a member of the Church of England, or even a practicing Christian to be a governor in a church school; you just need to have an understanding and appreciation of the Christian Values which the school incorporates. The Diocese provides support and training on this to all new church school governors. To find out more about the campaign, please visit their webpage: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2018/09/could-you-be-a-school-governor/>. Or email the education team: education@bathwells.anglican.org

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Churches Together in Somerset Forum:

Saturday 23rd February 2019
at Bagley Baptist Church

Changed Date and changed format featuring:

Spirituality Fair, Interactive workshops, market stalls.

Book now to Attend

For more details see events section of this newsletter

Resources.

Rural Mission ideas for Spring 2019 Free Webinar 9-930am Saturday 26th January: [link here](#)



The Mystery of God. 2019 Lent course delves more deeply into the mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. We will follow Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God's plan of salvation <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent/>

40 Stories of HOPE. The Lent book '40 Stories of HOPE' has been reprinted. Thousands of people used it in 2018 and found the prisoners' stories to be inspirational. If you didn't use '40 Stories of HOPE' last year – you can order copies to use in Lent 2019 from 6th March [here](#).

Premier Radio new eBook focuses on four issues where Christian agents for change are urgently needed: With prayers and reflections on the current situation, our new eBook "[Prayer for our Divided Nation](#)" will help you to focus your prayers and to be the agents for change that Jesus called his disciples to be in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:13- 16)

Hit the ground running in the New Year with a new course for your home group or church. **Talking Jesus – The Course** includes six practical, video-based sessions to inspire people to share their faith confidently and naturally. The pack includes a DVD or USB with six training videos. Order [here](#).

Thy Kingdom Come **new branding for TKC 2019!** Follow this link to find a holding slide with dates for this year: [TKC 2019 Branding](#)

The United Bible Societies (UBS) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) have released a joint publication entitled **Your Word Is Truth: The Bible in Ten Christian Traditions**. The book is a collection of essays by theologians and historians on how the Bible is used and understood in various traditions. Focusing on ten streams of historic Christianity within the Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions, the experts in this volume showcase the distinctive ways in which encountering the Bible—in all its power and perplexity—has profoundly inspired, informed, and shaped each tradition. [See the table of contents, samples and ordering information](#)

And finally ...

I am the Bread of Life

Contact Us

Give me a call for more information on ecumenical life, witness and mission in **Churches Together in Somerset**, Alan Dixon, 8 Applewood Close, Chippenham SN14 0JG Email sctogether@outlook.com Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

