

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

February 2019

News

The Presidents of Churches Together in England, together with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, are calling the churches to prayer as we approach the date when the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union. From Wednesday 28th March to Sunday 31st March the Presidents urge churches in our nation to find ways to pray, and to enable church buildings to be opened for any in their communities seeking a space for prayer. Churches Together in England supports every opportunity for local churches to pray together and urges Churches Together Groups and other expressions of Christian unity to take hold of this moment to pray together for our nations. This builds on other calls to prayer from member churches over recent months and reflects the increasing urgency of the moment as Brexit approaches.



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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOMERSET FORUM AND AGM held on Saturday 23rd February at Bagley Baptist Church, Nr Wedmore brought together Church Leaders, member of Churches/Christians Together Groups and individual members of congregations to share in an interactive ‘Spirituality for Life’ event. The event marked a change away from a mid-week meeting to a Saturday with a different format and extended programme to fill the whole day. In place of a ‘talking heads’ it featured market stalls and interactive workshops. This was a great event, which hopefully will be repeated in two years time.



- The Lund Principle



“Heart Talk” with Bishop Declan on Shalom World TV. Bishop Declan has recently made a programme with Shalom World TV. Through the ‘heart-to-heart’ interview you’ll learn about his childhood, vocational discernment, spirituality, and the challenges he faces as a Diocesan Bishop. You can see the full 26 minute programme on <https://cliftondiocese.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=781a8c6dc291f3a24922ac2c5&id=b205e0fa40&e=19f1d8955d>

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

In This Issue

- News
- Events
- Opportunities
- Resources

In his own words, **Pope Francis** said his recent pilgrimage to the United Arab Emirates wrote a "new page in the history of the dialogue between Christianity and Islam" and in promoting world peace based on brotherhood. While in Abu-Dhabi, Pope Francis signed a document with the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, the ancient seat of learning in Sunni Islam, condemning religiously motivated violence and other violence, The Associated Press reported. "The document is a vibrant appeal to respond with good to evil, to reinforce interreligious dialogue and to promote mutual respect in order to block the road to those who add fuel to the fire of the clashes between civilizations," said the director of the Holy See Press Office, Alessandro Gisotti, after the signing. "The document is courageous and prophetic because it confronts, and calls by name, the most urgent issues of our day on which those who believe in God are encouraged to question their conscience and to confidently assume their responsibility to give life to a more just and united world."

Events

Tuesday 5th March - St Michael's Church Galmington Pancake Party with Celebrity Chef. 7.00pm for 7.30 £5 a head.

Sunday 10 March, St George's RC Church - Taize Service, 5.00pm There will be an opportunity for the congregation to sing through the Taize chants from 4.40pm. Please do come along and join in you will be very welcome. If you wish to join the choir or play an instrument please contact the Parish Office: Tel: 01823 272700 or e-mail: taunton.stgeorge@cliftondiocese.com

Wells Cathedral "Christian Spirituality Explored". A series of engaging and stimulating addresses for Lent during Evensong, with follow-up seminars on certain dates, plus displays and hospitality. Different themes and speakers over five weeks, starting on Sunday 10th March. Click on the link for more details including how to RSVP for hospitality. <https://wells cathedral.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=14724b2ee1a08dd48e1387ef0&id=c20da5d370&e=2c230f4c4c>




starting March 5th Every Tuesday
(except April 2nd)
9 am to 12 noon
at **St Thomas's Church BA5 2UZ**
Welcome Everyone!

A place to enjoy coffee and cake in a relaxed atmosphere
Plenty of space for wheelchairs, buggies and prams
Play area for young children




Saturday 9th March 2019
in **Greyfriars Hall**

Mahola Project Day

providing health care and education in Cameroon
www.maholaproject.org



3-3.45pm African drumming/percussion - Session 1
4-4.45pm African drumming/percussion - Session 2
5-5.45pm African drumming/percussion - Session 3
6-7.30pm Mass (Clergy)7.30-10pm African food, photos, music/dance & dancing...

Please come with the whole family, or as your own (all ages from 0-100+). All are welcome (no need to register). If you just want to watch and listen, just drop in at any time. Instruments will be provided. Buffets after each drumming/percussion session. All are very welcome to join in for mass/worship. Enjoy the exciting afternoon and evening in great company!! A taste of Africa awaits you!!



For more information, contact the Parish office or Deacon Mario.
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,
7 Marine Hill, Clevedon BS21 7PP
www.clevedoncatholics.org.uk

Free entrance, but donations for the project would be highly appreciated. Looking forward very much to seeing you there...

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



Wednesday 27 March - Taunton Team Chaplaincy AGM 7:30pm at Rowbarton Methodist Church featuring a report about the last year and hearing Dawn Holmes talk about her book 'Freed from Shame' addressing the church about its treatment of people with mental health issues.

STOP PRESS

Presidents of Churches Together in England and other church leaders are meeting to pray at 10.30 am on Saturday 30th March in central London, as we approach the date when the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union.



Why not join in similar expressions of prayerful concern—or spend time alone in prayer—for the future of the peoples and nations in the British Isles and Ireland, and beyond, during that morning.



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

Opportunities.

Jeremy Hunt, The Foreign Secretary has announced a review into how the UK Government helps persecuted Christians overseas. He wants to hear from you and other Christians to find out what they should do. You can join with Premier Radio who have launched their *Stop Christophobia* campaign to call the Christian community together to answer this call. A recent report by Open Doors showed that over 245 million Christians face high levels of persecution in their daily life. [Add you name now to the campaign](#) and in a few clicks we'll pass your message on the Foreign Secretary and your local MP.

Vacancies for Choristers. Do you know a boy or girl in school year 4, 5, or 6 who would like to be a chorister at Wells Cathedral? They currently have vacancies. To find out more about auditioning for the choir, please contact the Admissions team at Wells Cathedral School via admissions@wells-cathedral-school.com or 01749 834213.



SPRING HARVEST



accommodation, 3 meals per day and a contribution towards their travel costs. Follow link <https://www.springharvest.org/volunteer/>

Spring Harvest are in particular need of **stewards** and **helpers** in their 8-11s children's programme this year. Volunteers receive free per day and a contribution towards their travel

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

A letter for general distribution from the Churches Rural Group. The Churches Rural Group have issued a letter, highlighting the difficulties of the farming community over the last year, with a call to pray and support. Devon is largely rural and many of our churches will have farmers and agricultural workers as part of their congregations. Please take a look at the letter, and above all pray and support. [Download the letter for general circulation far and wide](#)



Resources.



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](#). Also available is the 2019 *HOPE at Easter* magazine. This 32-page magazine is devised by HOPE for churches to give away – ideally door-to-door with an invitation to Easter services. *HOPE at Easter* is available to [order from the HOPE shop](#)

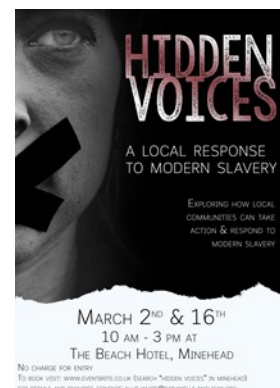
Are you prepared for Easter? CPO Worthing have many ideas for mission and outreach. <https://www.cpo.org.uk/catalogue.aspx?cat=2310>

A new introductory video on the 'About' page of www.cte.org.uk by CTE General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Paul Goodliff, is here Video link: <https://vimeo.com/314464201> Do use the Vimeo link to show this video to anyone interested in the question, 'What is Churches Together in England?'.

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

A two Date Hidden Voices course in Minehead on Saturday 2nd and Saturday 16th March

And finally ...



I am the light of the world

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

