

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

June 2019

News

The Wall of Answered Prayer is a piece of public art with one million bricks, each representing an answered prayer. It has been likened to the Angel of the North. It



has been revealed the structure will be situated on a 10-acre site between the M6, M42 and HS2 at Coleshill Manor on the edge of Birmingham, and is expected to be seen by more than 500,000 people every day. The aim of the project is 'to preserve and celebrate the UK's Christian heritage' as well as inspire prayer. The architectural sculpture will use state of

the art technology so that visitors can use their phones to read the answered prayers which each brick relates to. www.thewall.org.uk/press for more information.

Religious education given OFSTED boost. There's hope the teaching of religious education (RE) in schools will improve thanks to changes made in the way regulator Ofsted inspects. It's understood two-day long inspections will now put greater emphasis on the broad curriculum, while a small number of subjects will also be chosen as a focus for examination. These subjects could include religious education. Guidelines for inspectors now require schools to ensure pupils can reflect their own religious beliefs as well as having knowledge and respect for others. (Premier)

God is off the guest list! They are weddings that are, officially speaking, not even legally recognised. But such a small detail, it seems, is not stopping increasing numbers of couples from opting for humanist marriage ceremonies across England and Wales. Such weddings have risen by 250% in the last 15 years, according to figures from the Office of National Statistics. Couples who have a Humanist wedding must go through an 'official' process at a registry office either before or after. The figures look set to add weight to a campaign for such marriages to be recognised in England and Wales as they already are in Scotland and Northern Ireland. (The Independent)

Young Catholics Prepare for Holy Land Pilgrimage 2019. A number of the young Catholic adult pilgrims travelling together to the Holy Land in July visited Downside Abbey recently as part of their preparation for the trip. Director of Vocations Fr. Matt Anscombe, and Dom Anselm Brumwell of Downside, spoke about the spiritual aspects of the pilgrimage, and Dom Anselm assisted in trying to "unpick" the complicated history of Jerusalem.



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

- The Lund Principle

In This Issue

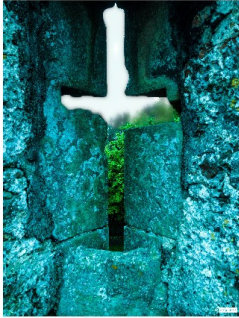
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The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: www.cte.org.uk/news .

Events

Taize service: At St. Dunstan's Church, (Bristol Rd, Keynsham BS31 2BQ) on Tuesday 25. June 7-7.45 pm, a quiet prayer service with live played music and candles around the altar. All welcome.

Bath Abbey Summer Evening Choral Concerts in support of the Footprint project: Each concert features a different choir led by Shean Bowers - Melody Makers on 28 June, and Aquae Sulis Chorale on 12 July. Tickets from Bath Box Office: £10 Adult, £5 Children. All money raised, including ticket sales, will automatically be doubled thanks to the Brownsword Charitable Foundation.



SEEKING STILLNESS

A JOURNEY OF THE HEART

Bagley Baptist Church, Wedmore, BS28 4TG

6th July 2019 10.00am to 3.30pm

With guest leaders Libby Dobson and Sarah Chabowska

'Be still and know that I am God' Ps 46:10
A day for rest, reflection, and restoration

Sarah (Poet and photographer) and Libby (composer and singer) invite you to join them.

They will be offering:
Original music and song
Art work and visual images
Poetry
Guided reflections
Scripture
Personal space to relax and reflect
Time to be still

Come and take some time to step aside from the busyness of life, to rest and be restored in the presence of God.
No advance charge for the day, but your donations are invited, as you feel able to give.
If you are inspired to join us, we look forward to welcoming you

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed (SLAMS) UK
The Men's Shed
for Bridgwater and surrounding area



OPEN DAY

Wednesday 26th June 11:00 to 15:00

Guys!

Time on your hands? Bored? Lonely?

Come to our Open Day, chat to our friendly Shedders over a cuppa, and tell us what you would like to do



The Canal Workshop, Canal View
Old Taunton Road BRIDGWATER TA6 3NS

Website: www.slamsshed.org Email info.slamsshed@gmail.com
Facebook: somersetlevelsandmoorsshed



The Bishop Bekynton Lecture
on Law and Religion 2019

at Wells Cathedral

Sunday 14th July at 4:15pm

"Canon Law in the service of the Church"

by

Professor Mark Hill QC

Professor Mark Hill will reflect on how a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of canon law can contribute to a deeper appreciation of the nature of the church and help renewed impetus to the ecumenical movement.

Professor Hill is a specialist ecclesiastical barrister practising at the Inner Temple in London. He holds associate chairs at Cardiff University, King's College London, Pretoria University and Notre Dame Law School, Sydney.
He is a very engaging speaker.

Earlier in the same afternoon, **Professor Norman Doe**, Professor of Law, School of Law and Politics, University of Cardiff, will speak at Evensong (3pm) on **Richard Hooker**, one of the founding geniuses of Anglicanism.

All are invited

John Davies

John Davies
Dean of Wells

RSVP by Monday 5th July 2019
paula.denyer@wells cathedral.uk.net

The Time Is Now - 26 June. Join thousands of people on 26 June in London's Westminster to demand our politicians take urgent action on climate change. Organised by Christian Aid and supported by all denominations, 9.30am-11.30: Workshops at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square. 11.30am Whitehall Walk of Witness 12-1.15pm: Interfaith speaker event (including Rowan Williams) at Church House, Westminster 1- 4pm: Mass Lobby of Parliament. For more information contact bristol@christian-aid.org or Chumphries@christian-aid.org



Tue 4 Jun-Mon 1 Jul - A Brighter Day - Prodigal Arts Art Exhibition When: Tuesday 4th June - Monday 1st July 2019 **Where:** Steak of the Art, Canons Way, Bristol, BS1 5LW. A Prodigal Arts exhibition featuring high quality original artwork and prints for sale, produced by prisoners from HMP Leyhill Prison as part of their rehabilitation.

Exploring Chaplaincy For anyone interested in exploring a vocation within Chaplaincy, or understanding more about chaplaincy. **Dates:** Tuesday 2nd and 16th July 2019 **Time:** 09:30 - 16:00 **Venue:** Woolavington Church, Church Street, Woolavington. TA7 8DP **Cost:** Free. For more information about the sessions [click here](#) or contact [Mike Haslam](#)

Saturday 20th July - St James Church Fun day - 10:30am - 4pm St James, Taunton, have their fun day this year on Saturday 20th July but this year it's with a twist. "Journey into Space" will be blasting off from 10.30am until 4pm. Come on a "discovery" with us as we will be marking the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing with demonstrations, hands on activities, crafts, refreshments and a "space" to reflect on God's amazing universe. We hope there'll be something for everyone so put the date in your diaries.

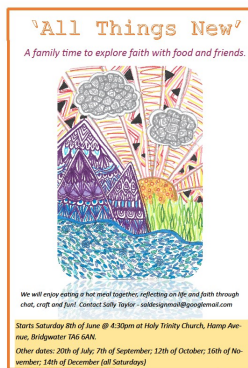
STOP PRESS

Did God speak to Chris Evans?



Veteran TV and radio presenter Chris Evans swears it happened. God spoke to him: Evans felt a “universal force” had taken him over. So The Times and several other newspapers reported a few days ago

How does God “usually” speak to people?



Come and join us for our Holiday Club

PYRAMID ROCK Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd Aug

9.15 am to 1.00pm at Manor Court School - Chard

A time to have fun, to learn about God and Joseph through stories, games and crafts

Lunch will be provided

For children from reception to year 6

Costs nothing to attend but if you would like to give a donation that would be great.

If you would like more info or to book places please contact: 01460 65904 (24-hour answerphone) or <http://chardchurchestogetherholidayclub.weebly.com/>

Pyramid Rock Holiday Club is organised by Chard Churches Together



Homeless Sunday has been part of the Christian calendar for more than a quarter of a century. It is an opportunity for churches of all denominations and people of all faiths to unite and show solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and to reflect and plan practical action on homelessness.

Opportunities.

Aggie Weston's (www.aggies.org.uk) is a Christian charity that supports the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and their families. They are seeking to recruit a Part-Time Pastoral Worker to support 40 Commando Royal Marines based at RM Norton Manor near Taunton. Closing date for applications 24th June. Further details from John Bazley Operations and HR Manager T: 02392 650505 E: john.bazley@aggies.org.uk **ACT QUICKLY if interested**

If you need funding for a church maintenance or repair project, or want to improve community facilities by, for example, installing a toilet or kitchen, then the Somerset Churches Trust grant schemes could help you. Grant application forms can be downloaded from their website at <https://www.somersetchurchestrust.org> where you can find out more about what they do, and in particular, details about the grants policy. Applications are welcomed from any church denomination.

Allchurches Trust - grants for churches. A new programme from the Allchurches Trust makes grants of up to £25,000 available to help churches and Christian organisations to connect with children and young people and forge lasting links with families in their area. Find out more at www.allchurches.co.uk/growinglives



Ministry Experience Scheme. The Diocese of Bath and Wells are excited to offer a Young Vocations Ministry Experience Scheme for two trainees to explore their calling in a ministry context. The Ministry Experience Scheme will provide a local church placement of 18 hours per week that will include 10 hours in a variety of work experiences to explore calling; 6.5 hours spent at St Paul's (Weston Super Mare) to study, reflect and worship in community with other trainees; 1.5 hours working alongside the Diocesan Go Team to gain a wider perspective and diocesan experience and for exploring vocation. They have two paid placements available from 9 September 2019 to 10 July 2020. [Visit their website](#) for more information and to find out how to apply



Resources.

Refugee theology resource for churches and church groups. This resource is for churches and groups of Christians to begin to think more deeply about the work of God in relation to refugees, asylum seekers and all kinds of displaced people. It looks especially at children and young people who are refugees and what their lives and their futures mean to us. Access here: <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/refugee-theology-resources.pdf>



Together for Good is a FREE Bible study course designed to resource churches in taking a community approach to wellbeing. The course invites us to see that growing wellbeing isn't just an individual practice, but also a call to a way of living as a community. Explore the [Livability resources here](#).

New undated HOPE magazine. This issue is undated so you can give it away at any events you are holding this summer and autumn and use it to start conversations about how to find the hope God gives to Jesus' followers. Copies will be available at the end May – pre-order at hopepublishing.org.uk



Introducing Ben Aldous @ CTE The new coordinator for Mission and Evangelism at Churches Together in England: [link here](#)

Booster videos From Connect4Life for a spiritual lift off! <https://connect4life.org.uk/c4l-boosters>

Videos4Life latest videos from Connect4Life about life's pressures and questions: <https://connect4life.org.uk/c4l-videos-4-life>

Latest from the Great Commission website 'Tell the children they're special': [link here](#)



Inspire has recently been relaunched as a mini magazine giveaway, available for you to use offering encouraging content with a seasonal theme – stories, jargon-free, designed to be given away. You can now Overprint your own details for packs of 100, Find out more about these editions and future issues at <https://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/>

And finally ...

I am the Resurrection and the 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 sctgether@outlook.com Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

