

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

October 2019

News

Churches Together in England 'Ecumenism Today' all-Ecumenical Officers Conference was held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire 14th/15th October, attended by over 100 (8 of whom came from Somerset) national and regional county and denominational people with responsibility for developing the churches ecumenical life and witness. Two major features of the conference centred around *New Housing*



Areas and how churches can work collaboratively in ensuring a Christian and church presence and '*Receptive Ecumenism*' - what can I learn from another part of the family of God and what can I offer which would enrich the spirituality of someone else. CTE are already committed to running another of these conferences next year.

What a score: Rugby hymn 'Jerusalem' is Briton's No 1. It is a hymn popular in churches and at England rugby matches and now 'Jerusalem' has been voted the UK's favourite in a poll by the BBC's *Songs of Praise*. The poem by William Blake, set to music by Hubert Parry in 1916, finished in front of 'How Great Thou Art' and 'In Christ Alone'. This hymn, which imagines Jesus visiting England's green and pleasant lands, was voted for by tens of thousands. 'Jerusalem' did not feature on the list of the top ten last time the survey was conducted in 2013. 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' came fourth while 'Abide with me', still sung at the FA Cup final was fifth.

In 2020, The Bible Society will be bringing the Bible to Britain's towns and cities in their most exciting mission project in a generation. Working alongside local churches, they are reaching out to people who might never have engaged with the Bible through a powerful, immersive film called *Home360*. Made in stunning 360° wraparound film and using the latest CGI/Virtual Reality technology, it shows the Bible in a way that people will have never experienced before. Using Scripture and narration, the experience shows us drama in a modern-day home, the parable of the Prodigal Son, and a documentary style overview of the Bible's big story. The experience touches on ideas of love, loss, forgiveness and belonging – themes common to every audience.



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

“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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Events



Heaven Meets Earth Orthodox Arts Festival: Friday 25th – Sunday 27th October at St. John's Church and Church Hall. Please contact Tamara Penwell on 07505 243074 or email tamara.penwell@btinternet.com



Join Genesis Trust and Bath Abbey on an Autumn Prayer Walk around the City of Bath on Saturday 26 October. Seven miles around Bath on a route often one road or pathway back from the noisy streets. The walk starts at Elim Church on Charlotte Street, meeting at 9.30am for a 10am departure and end at Bath Abbey at 4.15pm. They will pause at churches and sacred places along the way for prayer. Please bring a packed lunch. Booking is via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/autumn-prayer-walk-tickets-74846077633>. To join for only part of the day please book and then email hilary.long@genesistrust.org.uk



Christian Aid training event with a campaigning and lobbying theme we'll be holding at **Taunton URC on Saturday 26 October 13.30-16.00pm** – we will hear from Jess Hall from our central Campaigns Team on successful influencing and lobbying of MPs and other public figures, and also on influencing others in our communities to build a movement. There will also be an opportunity for networking with like-minded groups and individuals to help join up our thinking on climate and environmental issues in Somerset, and a 'craftivism' petition reminding the UK government of their commitments to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 despite the current turmoil

Saturday 19th October - 3pm St John the Evangelist, Park St, Taunton - A Come & Sing afternoon with Alan Cook
A blend of Traditional & Contemporary Songs & Chants for Iona & Taize from 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm
Refreshments will be provided. There is no charge, but donations gratefully received. It would be helpful to know numbers in advance, if you are going. contact: Janet Standen 01823 281510 or Revd Jane Eastell: 01823 321069.

20 and 21 October - Riverside Church - Jonathan Conrathe at Riverside Church

Previously with Good News Crusade and now Mission24, Jonathan will speak at Riverside on:
Saturday 19 October, 7.30pm - evangelistic event
Sunday 20 October, 10.30am, subject - giving and stewardship
Sunday 20 October, 7pm, subject - healing

Temple Methodist Church, Taunton. Saturday 26th October 7.00pm. An evening of history and hymn singing with Mr Sankey and Mr Moody. Free admission. Retiring collection

Hidden Voices: Tackling Modern Slavery together. Community working together to ensure that slavery practices don't take root in your area? You are warmly invited to attend "Hidden Voices", an exciting process which aims to inform and support local communities in taking action on the challenging issue of Modern Slavery. **The Taunton event** is on Saturday 2nd November 10:00 – 12:30 St John the Evangelist, Taunton (in conjunction with the URC and Temple Methodist churches). For more details, contact Jane Eastell 01823 321069 or register your interest at allie.white@bathwells.anglican.org

STOP PRESS

In a sun-drenched St Peter's Square, and before thousands of pilgrims coming from all over the world, Pope Francis proclaimed five new saints for the Church, one of which was Cardinal John Henry Newman,



Newman's poetry, hymns and theology continue to have a great influence on modern Christian spirituality.

Wells Cathedral Education Department and the Diocese of Bath and Wells Go Team announce the next **annual Children's Festival** on Saturday 18th January 2020 10.30am-3pm. This year's theme is 'Running the Race' and will feature Olympic themed activities and worship aimed at 4-11 year olds. More details can be found on the Wells Cathedral website <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/learning-outreach/outreach/hospitals-and-hospices/annual-childrens-festival/>



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020. The 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a unique opportunity for mission and evangelisation, with plenty of opportunity to involve children and schools. Do be encouraged to start planning now! Produced by Maltese Christians with the theme of 'Unusual Kindness', the service invites us to include a boat in the place of worship – not something easy to organise at the last minute! [This year's booklet is now available to download](#), and in mid-September more resources will be available at www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

Opportunities.

Actors are needed to take part in One Good Friday – an outdoor passion play in the centre of Bath on 10th April 2020. A workshop and casting is on Sunday 17th November at St Philip and St James Church, Odd Down from 2-5pm – all ages welcome (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult). Sign up and find out more at www.onegoodfridaybath.org where you can also follow us on social media or email bath@onegoodfriday.com

Oberammergau 2020 June 24th - July 1st 2020. The tour operator McCabe Pilgrimages has advised that there are still a few places available to join the Bath Abbey visit to Austria and Oberammergau. (Accommodation is now only available in twin or double bedrooms.) If anyone is interested please contact Jeff Jupp, Tel: 01225 311390 or email jeff.jupp@btinternet.com as soon as possible for further information.

Resources.

STABAL IS LIVE. Stabal Stream is a new global streaming platform that broadcasts live online concerts in real time from unique, beautiful venues. The hosted concerts are designed in collaboration with the artists and are typically immersive in nature, incorporating stories, interviews, unique collaborations, and performance of songs. Find out more at <https://burgessbarn.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d5266b9c5534c7753e0839f&id=4c9614aed5&e=31df61c6d1>

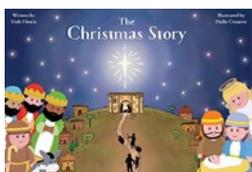
Looking for a Christmas giveaway? '**Christmas – A Chance to Discover**' is a new, high-quality evangelistic Christmas booklet, suitable for giving to church visitors at guest services over the Christmas period. Written by Ian Bunce and Gary Gibbs, this 20-page booklet reveals some seasonal surprises and discoveries. This great resource is ideal to be given out to individuals at your Christmas church service and also in the lead-up to Christmas to help others find the real meaning of the season. [View](#)



CPO Halloween Resources. It's October! This means that shops are starting to decorate their windows with cobwebs and skeletons. As Christians how can we use Halloween as a chance to reach young people and keep them safe? They have [poster's, tracts](#) and [fun giveaways](#) to make your event exciting and engaging for children!

Resources for Remembrance Sunday available to download or order, including an order of service, Power-Point presentations and free eBook versions of 'Beyond Our Tears'. Go to https://ctbi.org.uk/remembrance-sunday/?utm_source=CTBI+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=3cf012f676-CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter+July19+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e94acb8d57-3cf012f676-%5BBLIST+EMAIL+ID%5D&ct=t%28CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter-+July19+COPY+01%29

Christmas HOPE magazine with a centre-spread featuring the Happyland characters telling the Christmas story. This 32-page magazine is packed with topical features to inform, challenge and entertain readers. The cover features Tom Hanks, 'the man behind the honours'; the new *Cats* movie; Alison Becker - the world's best goalkeeper(?), and Street Pastors 'keeping clubbers safe this Christmas'. You [order copies](#) from the HOPE shop to give away with invitations to your Christmas events.



Telling the Christmas story To tie in with The Entertainer nativity scenes, Bible Society is producing a special Happyland edition of its booklet *The Christmas Story*. Oder at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bib-000466/>

CPO Video Resource. Hear the author of '[So Everyone Can Hear](#)' Mark Crosby speak with Elizabeth Neep on the importance and the simplicity of creating a church communication strategy in this [short video](#). This video goes along side the book '[So Everyone Can Hear](#)' – colourful, engaging and practical it will help leaders and members alike be more mindful of how they 'communicate church' both inside and outside of it within our dynamic and ever-changing digital culture. [Get your copy of the book here.](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 (27 January) will mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Inspired by this year's theme Stand Together, the resource reflects on the complex roles of Christians during the Holocaust. It encourages churches in the UK to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in their services and in their communities and includes suggested prayers and commentaries on the readings set for the Sunday closest to Holocaust Memorial Day.. For the first time are included stories of Christians who have been recognised by Yad Vashem as Righteous among the Nations for their work in saving the lives of Jews during the Holocaust. Resources can be downloaded [here](#)

Contact Us

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