

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

October 2020

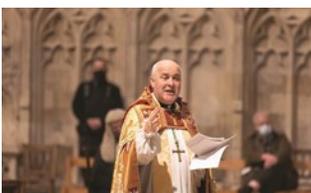
News

The Church of England has provided over 17,000 online services and events since the start of lockdown, a newly published report has revealed. Figures taken from the denomination's [A Church Near You](#) website, which provides a directory for church services and events, now lists thousands of events including Sunday worship, Bible studies, morning and night prayer and many more. The CofE notes that the statistics "do not include the Church of England's national online weekly services broadcast on Sundays and shared on Facebook and YouTube," which they say have garnered nearly three million views. In addition, social media posts about the weekly broadcasts have been seen 23.6 million times.



Baptist scholar involved in British Academy research on COVID-19. Professor Paul Weller has secured British Academy special COVID funding to conduct, together with Dr Sanjee Perera, research on The Organizational, Financial and Human Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Christian Faith-Based Organization Service Sector in Great Britain. The project began at the start of August and is scheduled to run until April 2021. The project's main research instrument is an online survey of Christian FBOs which will take place between October 2020 and January 2021. In March 2021 there will be a project Knowledge Exchange conference to which also FBOs of other than Christian faith will be invited to engage with the project findings also from their perspective.

The Methodist Council have requested their advisory body to recommend disinvestment from all oil and gas companies not currently aligned with the Paris Agreement. They have request its advisory body (the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment or JACEI), to recommend disinvestment by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) from all oil and gas companies which are not currently aligned with the Paris Agreement target of a global temperature rise of well below 2 degrees.



THE Archbishop of York, newly enthroned in York Minster, (the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell) has spoken of the "hope, relief, and practical help" that the Church has brought to communities affected by the coronavirus. In the sermon during his enthronement service on Sunday (18th Oct), he referred to the uncertainty and fear felt by many, especially those in the north, and paid tribute to the work carried out by the National Health Service.

"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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Tackling racial injustice: CTE takes action Churches Together in England has responded to the [Presidents' call for real change](#) to work towards racial justice:

- [Trustees](#) have set up a racial justice working group, under the leadership of trustees Lurliene Miller and Moses Owusu-Sekyere.
- CTE's [Enabling Group](#) will spend a key session at its forthcoming meeting reflecting on the issue and promoting change.
- [County Ecumenical Officers](#) (CEOs) and those with a brief for racial justice within Intermediate Bodies have committed themselves to learning more about racial injustice and to putting into place strategies for combating it.

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

Events (events listed below are virtually based)

Ammerdown Centre invite you to join their **next Zoom on Sunday 25th October, 2-4pm: Continuing the Conversation** about racism. The safe space of this day, allows an honest conversation, discussing themes of racism and privilege and intersectionality If you would like to join us, please email me for the Zoom Link christine.clinch@ammerdown.org

Covid-19 may have caused some major disruptions this year, but one thing it won't disrupt is the **Premier Digital Conference (14th November)** This year's conference will be held ONLINE and will feature top keynote speakers, and most importantly we will provide the guidance and tools needed, to help navigate through the new normal 'hybrid' approach to church life. For the first time, you have the option to **pay what you want** for your standard ticket!. So grab your spot today! <https://premierchristianmedia.co.uk/16DQ-71JRX-NNNB2N-46ZW73-1/c.aspx>

Wincanton Churches Together **Course for Advent 2020** Our Advent course for 2020 will be the **York course Living in Hope**. Due to the restrictions on meeting together and difficulties of keeping our buildings safe for Sunday worship, the course will be held on line only via Zoom. Sessions will be on Tuesday mornings at 10am repeated on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm and the course will run for 4 weeks, commencing 10th November. We do hope that as many as possible will join us for this time of fellowship and learning together. The course book costs £3.80 and can be ordered post free from <https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/>



A breath of fresh air A weekly pause for reflection created by the chaplains for Community and Mental Health Somerset NHS FT. Every Thursday from 13.00 – 13.15 Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95358210013?pwd=N2lrLzRLK3RaaElhQmxZR3o3K1dMdz09> Meeting ID: 953 5821 0013 Passcode: 3V58Kn. You are invited to quietly reflect or bring with you the following items to join in: An electric candle (or a real one if you are able to light this safely) - A shawl, blanket or coat - 6 small objects in the rainbow colours: red, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple



The NHS Chaplaincy Team have produced a video called '**The Apple Tree Project**' - take a look at <https://youtu.be/q6eWBLDLqC0>

Opportunities.

Prayers of Hope - every Sunday at 7pm During the Coronavirus crisis thousands of Christians across Britain are praying together at 7pm every Sunday evening. **To keep the prayer going, Churches Together in England is offering a poster to encourage #PrayersOfHope.** You can download a poster below. There's one for you if you can print in colour, or a black & white version if you prefer, or one to colour in. If you're from another country, there's a version without words so that you can add your own. You can [access graphics files \(and all the PDFs\)](#) here

STOP PRESS

**Final
Announcement**

**Opportunity to
develop a new
way of working
with churches and
groups across
Somerset.**

**Churches Together in
Somerset are looking
at appoint a new
County Ecumenical
Officer .**

**If you would like
more details contact
Alan Dixon on 01249
323475 or email scto-
gether@outlook.com**

**Details in the
Opportunities section
of this newsletter**

**Are you the
inspiring person
for this role?**

Churches Together in Somerset (CTS) is seeking to appoint a new County Ecumenical Officer to work with church leaders, churches and other appropriate groups across the region of Somerset, BaNES and North Somerset from March 2021. They are seeking an able and inspiring person. For further information, including an application pack, please visit www.sctog.org.uk or contact Major Alan Dixon on sctogether@outlook.com **Closing date for applications 12 noon on Friday 30th October 2020, Interviews Wednesday 2nd December 2020**

Churches Together in Somerset are also seeking a Honorary Treasurer— to oversight our finances. The Honorary Treasurer' role includes the monitoring of actual receipts and payments versus budget together with the provision of advice to the Standing Committee on any financial issue For more details contact Major Alan Dixon on 01249 323475 or sctogether@outlook.com

Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations (lay or ordained) Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking an able and inspiring person to lead its work with Pentecostals, Charismatics and multiculturalism. For further information, including an application pack, please visit www.cte.org.uk/PCMR_vacancy To arrange an informal conversation, please contact the General Secretary, Rev'd Dr. Paul Goodliff at paul.goodliff@cte.org.uk Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 30th October 2020 Interview date: w/c 16th November 2020



Christmas Carol Trail around and about Bath Participating Churches create a display in a window or their church grounds that represents a Christmas Carol or Worship Song The display does not directly announce the Carol but has displayed a QR code or Youtube link to the Carol being performed. The organisers will produce a map – showing participating churches and listing the possible Carols to guess and then listen to the Carol and even sing along to it as they go. The displays are up for the whole of December. If your church would like to get involved please email Claire Morrish on children@htcd.church where we can send you a link to a shared document and begin to create the trail together.

The Joint Public Issues Team (Baptist, Methodist, URC and Church of Scotland) new campaign **Reset The Debt**, you can find updates and calls to action, on Reset The Debt and other campaigns. [link here](#)

Resources

Launched last year, **The LecDeck is a Youth Lectionary resource**. Each card/Sunday contains a Bible passage selected from the principal service, along with thought provoking questions, quote, a prayer focus and an action. It offers a 'ready to go' session for a youth group. It is also suitable for churches where they maybe minimal young people and it can be given to the young person to look at and consider in their pew (being aware of Covid restrictions). To order a Year B pack of cards and for links to download the app, please follow this link: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2020/10/new-lecdeck-app-launched/>

Use [pray like never before](#), prayer resource that will inspire and guide your prayers for people in this time and place,



Saltmine Theatre Company feels called to reimagine their show Hark! A Nativity Story (an innovative take on



the Christmas story featuring an angel looking for a lost message, a shepherd looking for a sheep and King Herod looking for an evil laugh) for this new season. Hark will be filmed live in a theatre with a big cast, live band and original festive music. It is expected to last about an hour and a half plus an interval and will include new songs and dance routines and provide comic and heart-warming entertainment for all ages. For details visit: <https://saltminetrust.org.uk/index.php/harkchristmas> Any questions, email creative@saltmine.org or call 01384 454 807.

Helping families discover the Christmas Story HOPE Together and Biblica have published an all-new Happyland Christmas Story booklet. Copies are available to order from the [HOPE shop](#). There's also the specially-made [Happyland nativity animation](#). Share the animation on social media, in schools and in church service. You can also [download additional resources here](#)



CPO Real Advent Chocolate Calendar Bundles! Depending on how you are planning to use the Real Advent Calendar this year CPO have created a pack to help you use them as an outreach resource for groups and families in your community. The pack comes with a thinking of you greeting card which you can write a personal note in to a loved one or neighbour plus a large jiffy bag that fits the calendar in perfectly, meaning you can send it in the post or pop it through someones letterbox as a nice little treat.



Wishing you a Messy Christmas. The Bible Reading Fellowship have produced a new resource to enable churches to embark on its own Messy Nativity Project to run through Advent, Christmas and towards Epiphany. Messy Nativity is available from www.brfonline.org.uk priced £4.99 (plus p & p) The Seasons of Creation resources can be found at [here](#)

Cards are a fantastic way to remind someone that you are thinking of them. This Christmas are there some people that you could add to your card list? Many people will be feeling isolated and lonely this Christmas as a result of the pandemic, a short personal note from you could brighten their day. Follow the CPO link [Christmas card](#)



Wellbeing – a Christmas sermon theme The Wellbeing Journey is a new 8-part video series, which will be ready for churches to launch at Christmas guest services online or in person. Watch the preview video above with presenter Joanna Abeyinka. Jesus is 'the Prince of Wholeness' as The Message version translates Isaiah 9:6. Find out more [here](#) and sign up at wellbeingjourney.org to receive more information as soon as it is available.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th—25th January). Resources available for early planning <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

Contact Us:

Give me a call for more information on ecumenical life, witness and mission

Churches Together in Somerset, Alan Dixon, 8 Applewood Close, Chippenham SN14

OJG Email sctogether@outlook.com Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

