

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

November 2020

News

Mayflower Fest The 400th anniversary of the sailing of the **Mayflower**, which took



place in September 1620 from Plymouth in Devon across the Atlantic to the New World as been mark by the Congregational Federation. The Congregational Federation has produced a collection of short films to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. This event is significant in their tradition as the Pilgrims were congregationalists, and many congregational churches were formed in America after they had settled. Explore [Mayflower Fest online](#) or [read the full story on the CTE website...](#)

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The Reverend Helen Cameron, Chair of the Northampton District of The Methodist Church, has been elected as **the next Moderator of the Free Churches Group**. Helen will take over from the Reverend Hugh Osgood, who has been Moderator since 2014. The Free Churches Group comprises twenty-six denominations which seek to promote faithful Christian witness in the public square. Speaking about her election, the Reverend Helen Cameron, said: I am confident that we are stronger together in our commitments to work for human flourishing, for justice and peace for all, and in our expression of a confident Christian witness in the public square”.



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

- The Lund Principle

Open Letter to PM calling for buildings to remain open for public worship. Church Leaders and leaders from other faiths have sent an open letter to The Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson, calling for buildings used for public worship to remain open for that purpose. The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the two Anglican Archbishops, CTE President Pastor Agu and leaders from Jewish, Hindu, Sikh and Moslem faith communities, among others, have signed this letter. The faith leaders set out how public worship can play a vital role in supporting social cohesion and mental health and offer “an essential sign of hope”. [Read the full letter here.](#)



Congratulations. Warm congratulations to Stephen Girling! The Bishop of Taunton has announced that Revd. Stephen Girling, in addition to his important role as Abbey Missioner, is also to be appointed as the next Area Dean of Bath. This is a senior position of leadership within the City Deanery. Please do remember him in your prayers, as he looks forward to being commissioned later this month for this exciting new responsibility.

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CTE Member Churches discuss action on racial justice, The session on racial justice at the Enabling Group began with [a video, sharing a series of heartfelt personal reflections on racism](#). These reflections were shared by representatives of CTE's 50 Member Churches, including Pentecostal, Salvation Army, Church of England, Quaker and Orthodox traditions.

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)

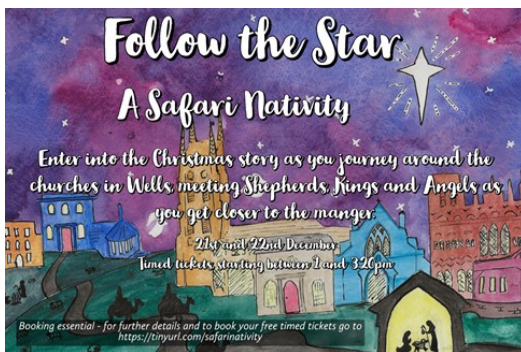
Meet our Neighbours: A Conversation with People of Different Faiths about **being a Person of Faith Today** Monday 23rd November, 7-8.30pm During Lockdown, you are invited to Meet our Neighbours via Zoom. Please email: interfaith@ammerdown.org for the Zoom link which will be sent out 48 hours prior to the event.

Advent Sunday (November 29th) at 6:30pm CPO Worthing invite you to share a short video on social media all themed around the idea of **Sharing The Light**. This short video will highlight the amazing message of hope that is wrapped up in the birth of Jesus. By signing up you are agreeing to CPO sending you a message on Sunday 29th November to remind you to share the video online and use the hashtags #ShareTheLight #LightUpTheNation. Sign up [here](#)



Join South West Carols LIVE on 5th & 6th December for a Christmas like no other. Celebrate with people all over the South West tuning in from their home for a free festive online production featuring home grown talent and headline acts. The first ever South West Carols event will be a celebration of all the GOOD things that take place at this wonderful time of the year as we remember the reason for the season. Featuring London Community Gospel Choir, Wildwood Kin, Joe Hardy & South West Musicians, Lucy Grimbale, and more to follow. Watch Live on <https://www.southwestcarols.com/> Also on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) Find out more [here](#)

Send a Cow's Online Christmas Celebration: Thursday 10th December / Time: 6.55pm The online celebration will feature: Carols from Noctis Choir, at St Michael's Without, Bath + A reflection from Pamela Ebanyat, Ugandan Country Director (with a live Q&A afterwards) + Prayers for their work from Rev Stephen Girling, Bath Abbey. To reserve your free online seat [click here](#).



CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

* **SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER**
5:30PM

Join us for a National carol sing on your doorstep with your neighbours.
It's so easy to join in....

- *Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from www.premierchristianradio.com. or www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org
- *Pop them through your neighbours' doors inviting them to join you
- *5:30pm on 20th December tune your radio to Premier Radio or Freeview 725 or download the Premier Radio app on your phone, then sing along to the Carols played. Why not wear your festive jumpers too and even bring out something to shake or rattle?

<https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep>

We are taking part in




SAVE THE DATE!
1 - 8 DECEMBER 2020

WELCOME CHURCHES



STOP PRESS

Churches Together in Somerset have called four people for interview on the 2nd December for the role of County Ecumenical Officer .

Please pray for the right person to be appointed



Thy Kingdom Come invite you to join them over the next 4 weeks of #PrayerfortheNation

Every day we will pause and pray at 6pm for those impacted by the pandemic.

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

Volunteers are needed to enable provision of Victim Support. Hidden Voices Somerset (HVS) HVS are looking for a range of volunteers to help victims of modern slavery and exploitation in Somerset. Initially the main work will be supporting people in the first seven days after referral, but they will also work longer term with many of the victims. This is a local response to Modern Slavery and all forms of exploitation with a primary focus on building asset-based community resilience through grassroots local groups using tools and resources provided by The Clewer Initiative (the national Church of England's anti-slavery programme). A cross-agency consultation are running a six month pilot (1st October 2020 – 31st March 2021) Victim Support project for victims and those at risk carried out in partnership with The Clewer Initiative and the National Victim Support Helpline. For further details contact Sian Owen, Hidden Voices Project Coordinator on sian.owen@bathwells.anglican.org

Safe Families Information Evenings. Monday evening, repeated on 23rd November, 30th November and 7th December from 7:30pm – 8:00pm

Could you offer encouragement and support to a local family that is feeling isolated? Join Safe Families on Zoom to find out more about how they connect churches with families that are feeling alone to build relationships that bring hope. There are different ways to be involved and everyone is welcome – it's a great opportunity to ask questions and there is no pressure to sign up! Drop an email to sswadmin@safefamilies.uk and they will send you the Zoom link.

Somerset Choices is a website that gives people information and advice on care and support services and local groups in Somerset. You can also advertise a service or any local events for free on their publicly accessible website. Details about how to register can be found here - [Somerset Choices](#) If you would like some support in uploading your details please don't hesitate to contact them on help@somersetchoices.org.uk or Go to www.somersetchoices.org.uk

Praying our Goodbyes.... An invitation to remember those who have died. The month of November is the traditional month in the Catholic Church for praying for those who have died. Throughout November Clifton Diocese are inviting anyone who wishes to post a prayer on their prayer wall to do so. In this way we can all join in one prayer, not only for those who have died, but also for those who mourn their loss. You can add your prayer by visiting the homepage on their [website](#)

Resources

Go Chatter Videos. For Advent and Christmas Carol Service resources go to <https://gochattervideos.com/> or for more details email dan@gochattervideos.com

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](#)



An alternative resource this year. For the first time ever from CPO you can [download and share a video](#) specifically created to help you Share The Light this Christmas. Through it we hope to partner with you to highlight the amazing message of hope that is wrapped up in the birth of our Saviour.

Christingle in a time of Covid. The Children's Society have produced some brilliant resources for holding Christingle services this year. The resources also include branded Christingle paper bags, Christingle songs and hymns, colour in window stickers, balloons, candles, red tape, candle collection boxes and donation envelopes, amongst many others. All the Christingle resources can be [viewed and ordered here](#).



Abiding in Christ: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) for 2021 has been announced as 'Abiding in Christ'. WPCU is traditionally celebrated between January 18 and January 25 - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. The materials for the week have been prepared by the [ecumenical Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland](#) which has fifty sisters, women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. The theme is based on John 15:1-17 "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" and expresses the Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. For 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the resources are available to [download](#) only and printed versions will not be available to order.

[Download resources](#)

Contact Us:

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

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Prayer for Bishop Peter Hancock (Bishop of Bath and Wells). We ask you at this time to pray for Bishop Peter as he continues treatment following his recent diagnosis of acute myeloid leukaemia. We pray for God's healing grace for Bishop Peter and also for Jane, his wife, and all his family that they continue to know God's love and strength through this difficult time.

