

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

January 2021

A happy and hopeful New Year to each one of you. In the midst of another lockdown, we hope this newsletter brings you some content to interest you and some ideas to help you lift your eyes and look ahead.

News

Local awards highlight Everyday Angels. The Angel of Hope project organised by St John's Church Wellington included an invitation to nominate someone for an



'Everyday Angel' award; to say, 'thank you', to those who quietly make a positive contribution to their community. The response was overwhelming with more than 150 certificates awarded to people of all ages in Wellington and the surrounding villages. Everyday Angel awards were given to those who have

been good neighbours, supported the elderly and helped others through bereavement. Kindness, volunteering, inspiring others and making music were just some of the attributes people wanted to highlight.

Baptist church member Krish Kandiah has been given an exciting opportunity to improve the adoption system after being appointed as the new chair of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB). Dr Kandiah is the founder of the charity [Home for Good](#) in 2013, a charity which seeks to mobilise the church in finding a home for every child who needs one. [A statement announcing his appointment](#) described him as 'a critical friend to the Government on adoption policies for many years,' adding that Dr Kandiah comes to the role with the 'unique experience of being an adoptive parent himself who is passionate about championing for more people from all walks of life to come forward as loving adoptive parents.'



England and Wales Census 2021 Advance notice about Census Day on Sunday 21 March. *The census is a unique survey that happens every 10 years. It gives a snapshot of all the people and households in England and Wales – the most detailed and valuable information about our society. Everyone in the country will receive a letter asking them to take part. This will help to inform decisions on services that shape our community, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes. Please do this when the time comes. Do not worry, your information is protected by law. You can fill yours in online as soon as you get your access code in the post. If you need help, you can visit www.census.gov.uk where there's a wide range of support services available.*

“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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Pope Francis calls opposition to vaccine 'suicidal denial' and confirms he's booked in for the job. Pope Francis has confirmed, during an interview with an Italian television channel, that he has an appointment to receive the Coronavirus vaccine. The Head of the Catholic Church told TG5 that the Vatican's vaccine rollout would commence next week. In the interview, which will air Sunday evening, the Pope, who's 84, said he believed ethically everyone should accept a vaccine: "It is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the life of others." Read the full article on Premier News [here...](#)



Romanian gang who stripped lead from dozens of rural churches from Somerset to North Yorkshire leaving devastated village communities facing £2million repair bill. Targeted churches included ones in Lincolnshire, Somerset and Cambridgeshire the prolific gang who stripped the lead from dozens of rural churches across England were jailed for a total of 22 years. The four Romanian men, who were all living in the West Midlands, targeted churches from Somerset to North Yorkshire during a two-year crime spree which left churches facing repair bills totalling more than £2million. In March last year police arrested three of the men, all living in the West Midlands, after a specialist operation involving several forces. In total the four entered guilty pleas to 66 offences of theft from churches and two former churches.



It may be a poor start to the year as far as the virus is concerned and the limitation on our ability to meet with one another, but **BathCAN is celebrating the gift of a Director.** Joanne Schofield has been appointed as from 1 January and has already started work on preparing the New Bath Prayer Website that will go live in time for the beginning of Lent. Joanne is currently Station Manager for Glastonbury fm (Gfm) community radio station. Her previous employment included working for the Avon and Somerset police. Joanne is engaged with a number of charitable groups serving vulnerable young people and adults. She is a member of Woodlands Christian Fellowship in Clifton, Bristol.

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)

Racial Justice Sunday Save the date for Racial Justice Sunday, coordinated by CTBI, which will be on 14 February 2021. [Keep an eye on their website for more resources...](#)

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: Be the light in the darkness Wednesday 27th January Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us of the unparalleled horrors of the WW2 holocaust, as well as subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. This year's theme, be the light in the darkness, is an affirmation and a call to action for everyone. We are asked to consider different kinds of 'darkness', for example, identity-based persecution, misinformation and denial of justice. We are also asked to think about different ways of 'being the light', for example: resistance, acts of solidarity, rescue and illuminating <https://www.hmd.org.uk/uk-holocaust-memorial-day-2021-ceremony/>



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of CTBI, comments: "This year's Lent programme is somewhat different from previous years. It is the outcome of a partnership which is rooted in fulfilling an elderly gentleman's dream". John Alan Davis visited his wife every day as she lived with dementia. As Alan explains "during this period, and after Pat died in 2014, I turned to the only place of comfort I knew: my faith. The task brought the life of Jesus and the relevance of his message closer to me. It became, as much as anything else, a way of staunching the wound of a personal tragedy." CTBI has partnered with Alan and his family to produce The Poets Gospel, and is making the sound files available along with a hardcopy book and an e-book in order to engage with this journey. Lent begins on **Wednesday 17 February and ends on Saturday 3 April 2021.** Find out more and discover the available resources [here...](#)





STOP PRESS

Major Alan Dixon to remain in post until 30th April

Revd Canon Jonathan Lloyd is the new County Ecumenical Officer from 3rd May



'Set 75 per cent emissions cut by 2030' Church leaders urge PM. British church leaders in urging Prime Minister Boris Johnson to set a 75 per cent emissions cut by 2030.

WCC will host online celebration for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity World Council of Churches (WCC) interim general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca is inviting the global ecumenical family and friends to join the WCC for a livestreamed public prayer service on 25 January, the final day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Opportunities.

Do you believe in answered prayer? Have you ever cried out to Jesus and he answered? If the answer is yes, then Premier Christian Radio want to hear from you! From **January 25th - February 25th 2021** they want to flood social media with stories of answered prayers to bring encouragement to thousands of people, and change the hope levels in our nation. They can do this with your help! **Check out the video here and hear Justin Brierley explain how you can help!**



This year, Thy Kingdom Come, will be slightly different –hoping to be a blessing to the church by serving the need where it is greatest. Whilst not losing the heart of what they do – prayer for evangelism – they believe Thy Kingdom Come provides an opportunity for churches to engage and connect with their congregations and beyond. Sign up for 2021 <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Web content assistant – Churches Together in England Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking to appoint an organised and efficient web content assistant for a fixed term of 25 days, over approximately 12 weeks. This short-term position offers the opportunity to play a key role in the launch and delivery of CTE's new Word-Press website,



- 2 days per week (half-days will also be considered)
- 25-day fixed term contract
- Home-based
- Living Wage (£9.50 per hour, or £10.85 per hour in London)

An application pack can be downloaded at www.cte.org.uk/wca Closing date: Monday 8 February 2021 at 9am Interview date: Friday 12 February (online) Start date: Week commencing 22 February

YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING South West Youth Ministries run excellent Professional Development Days for youth and children's workers. The coming line-up will take place at Lee Abbey or virtually if necessary. More info here: <https://swym.org.uk/event/professional-development-training-days/>

WANTED! Treasurer to the International Ecumenical Fellowship (IEF) Conference in 2022. Do you have skills in financial planning? Are you able to manage budgets and keep us on track? Are you interested in supporting the Conference Working Party to run a successful international conference in Liverpool in 2022? This is a voluntary post but expenses, including all conference expenses, will be paid. It would suit a retired church treasurer or someone who has experience of managing finance in a small organisation. Plans are already well in hand for the conference at Hope University, Liverpool in the summer of 2022. Currently all meetings are held on Zoom. Further details, including a more detailed outline of what the post involves, are available by email from Jenny Tomlinson, Secretary to the Conference Working Party, at jmt1949@outlook.co Applications are welcome and should be made as soon as possible.

Light up the world with prayer
Will you join us?
13th - 23rd May 2021
thykingdomcome.global

Resources

With children and young people taking part in their lessons from home at the moment, parents, carers and families are going to be looking for extra activities to entertain their children with. Your church could make up some activity packs to send out to help children and parents find new activities whilst also learning a bit more about Jesus and faith. For resources go to <https://www.cpo.org.uk/youth-and-children-page> Other new resources, including for Lent, look at <https://www.cpo.org.uk/new-to-cpo>

The Wellbeing Journey goes live Churches across the country are launching The Wellbeing Journey www.wellbeingjourney.org. This new eight-part series will help churches lead their communities on a journey to physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. The series is presented by Simon Thomas (Prime Video Sport/Sky Sports/ Blue Peter) and Joanna Adeyinka-Burford (BBC, Channel 5, Nickelodeon), with contributions from Will van der Hart, Associate Vicar at St Dionis Parsons Green, in London,. Watch the [video](#) for Will van der Hart's suggestions to limit the impact of Covid-19 on our wellbeing.



Go Chatter Videos. children's songs from the [Little Worship Company](#) to get children engaged and praising God

Panel discussion: How can we do children's ministry in a pandemic? Watch children's ministry leaders and others as they share experiences and ideas about how your church can reach families, no matter what <https://eauk.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a845f2eefa9123406df52d37e&id=a7fabdd798&e=e15c489117>

*We have families in your area who are looking for a friend to walk alongside them, to offer hope and belonging – do you know someone who could reach out via phone calls, or visiting when it's allowed again, or even hosting children overnight? **Drop in to one of our Safe Families Information Evenings to find out more! 7-7.30pm on Zoom on the last Monday of every month (ish!) 25th Jan, 22nd Feb, 29th March** Short video clip that could be used in services: <https://vimeo.com/499636006/babd88b2c6> Or contact Dawn on 07384 218826 or dawnholmes@safefamilies.uk.*

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) continue to list links to advice from the churches across Britain and Ireland, including updated advice following the latest restrictions, plus guides on topics that might be use-

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 0JG

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

This is the hope we have to offer. Not just that of a vaccine against a virus, but of a Saviour who has come to conquer sin and death. Jesus comes as hope for us and for all people. He does not come to inoculate us against the destructive forces of a fallen world, but to live alongside us within the pain we have always experienced and which we particularly deal with now. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

