

# MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

March 2021

As we start on the road out of lockdown may we be able to “Rejoice Always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18

## News



**Thank you, Jesus.** Dolly Parton has reacted to winning a Grammy award for the best contemporary Christian music performance/song category. Parton said she was "very humbled" to receive the honour for her duet with Christian rocker Zach Williams on the song 'There was Jesus'. She tweeted "Thank you Jesus, thank you @zachwilliamsmusic, and thank you to the GRAMMYS and all of our fans. I am very humbled but proud,"

**Evangelist Luis Palau has died at the age of 86** after a three-year battle with lung cancer. Over the course of his 65-year ministry career, Palau preached in more than 80 countries and shared the message of Jesus to an audience of more than 1 billion people through television, radio, print, and live events. Originally from Argentina, Palau became a Christian at the age of 12 and began preaching on street corners and had started up his own Christian radio programme by 19. Palau went on to serve as an intern with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and would sometimes assist as the late Reverend Billy Graham's Spanish translator. It was his association with Graham that acted as a springboard for Palau's own preaching ministry, which was subsequently launched in 1978.

**Recently the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, visited a pop-up vaccination centre at Jesus House in London, part of the Redeemed Church of God .** HRH The Prince of Wales also visited the church’s centre on 9 March. The church and denomination is led by Pastor Agu Irukwu, CTE's Pentecostal President who said "We are grateful to God that at a time like this, His church can be salt and light, a beacon of hope in the nation."



**Bath Abbey.** Not only is the floor of the beautiful building now gloriously heated throughout, the project is getting closer and closer to the exciting “Big Reveal”. They expect to complete Footprint this Autumn (2021) at a cost of £20.7 Million;

The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: [www.cte.org.uk/news](http://www.cte.org.uk/news) . You can sign up to receive a copy directly to your own inbox.

*“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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## Events (events listed below are virtually based)

A FREE WEBINAR FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

### RACIAL JUSTICE/CRIMINAL JUSTICE: WHAT CAN YOUR CHURCH DO?

- ✳️ Chine McDonald, Christian Aid
- ✳️ George Barrow, Ministry of Justice
- ✳️ Leon Dundas, Lay Preacher and Hospice Chaplain

TUES 23 FEBRUARY, 6.30-8.00PM

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2lw2ofhz> or by scanning the QR code above



Free Churches Group

EDWARD CADBURY CENTRE  
FOR THE PUBLIC CHRISTIANITY OF ENGLAND

**Census Day: 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.

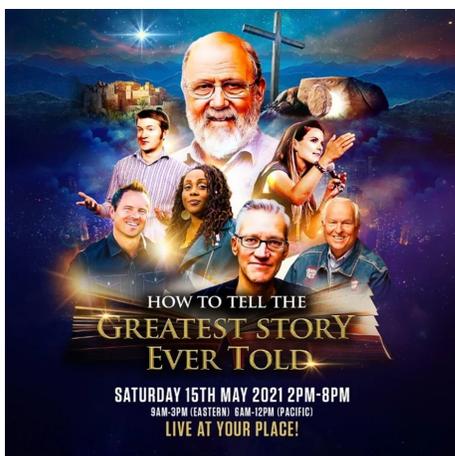
[Visit the census website for more information and help...](#)

**23rd March is the National Day of Reflection.** Alongside [Marie Curie](#), churches are encouraged to mark this day of support for the bereaved. Invite your community to your church to pause outside, lay a daffodil, and take a moment of silence to remember and celebrate lives lost. At difficult times like this [Hope In Uncertain Times booklet](#) is one way we can point to the hope Jesus gives. Here are other ways you can support your community.

With a year soon past since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the spread of COVID-19 a global pandemic, **the World Council of Churches (WCC) will observe a week of prayer from 22-27 March.** The week will invite a time of prayer and reflection on both the lament and the hope expressed and experienced across the world during what has been a year of unprecedented suffering, but also one when churches have worked together in ever new ways to adapt, respond and accompany communities through mental, physical, economical, spiritual, and environmental crises. Find out more on the WCC website [here...](#)

**Remembering Together'** Join in remembering our loved ones who have died during the time of the COVID 19 Pandemic Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm via Bath Abbey YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSTBxSCyS70\\_S\\_ZiPd-DANA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSTBxSCyS70_S_ZiPd-DANA)

**Passion of Jesus Play: Free Livestream on Good Friday 2 April at 12pm and 3pm** Whilst the Wintershall Passion Play sadly cannot take place in Trafalgar Square this Easter, you are invited to watch the recording of the 2019 event on their [Facebook page](#).



**Thy Kingdom Come - 13-23 May.** TKC, the ecumenical prayer movement for evangelisation, uniting Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide from the Ascension to Pentecost. Acknowledging that Britain is approaching the early stages of a phased return to socialising, after what has been an extremely challenging year, the aim is for Thy Kingdom Come to be a blessing and to serve the Church where the need is greatest; by providing free, spiritually nourishing resources for all, to deepen and refresh our faith. (see resources section of this newsletter)

**Saturday 19th June 2021, 10.30am,** A chain of prayer and praise on the South West Coast Path. We believe God is wanting to impact the 2.6 million people who live in the South West and prayer will be key to this being possible. Join Christians of all traditions to pray Thy Kingdom Come. Join us in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset or Dorset. Standing together asking God for His Kingdom to come in the region. Find out more [here...](#)



The 24 March **Wilder Churches** event is now online on our website and open for 'sign ups' here: [Wilder Churches online event - making space for nature in your churchyard | Somerset Wildlife Trust](#)

## STOP PRESS

[Revd Ewen Huffman, has written a fantastic article about his chaplaincy to Hinkley Point . click here to read .](#)

This will be the final newsletter prepared by myself.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

I hope you have found this newsletter to be a helpful and useful resource.

So, to misquote the *Two Ronnies*;

*“It’s a farewell from me and a farewell from him”*

*I commend to you my successor—The Revd Canon Jonathan Lloyd*

## Opportunities.

**Could your local charity be eligible for a grant of £50,000?** Small and local charities with a yearly income of £25,000 to £1 million who are helping people experiencing complex social issues can now apply for a two-year unrestricted grant of £50,000 from the Lloyds Bank Foundation. Applications opened on 4 March and remain open for the rest of the year. To check your eligibility and apply, [visit the Lloyds website.](#) Lloyds Bank Foundation are also holding a free webinar Q&A on Grants on 30 March. [Click here for more information or to register to attend.](#)

**Christian Aid, Bristol are looking for a new Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer.** Someone to inspire churches and individuals to be agents of change, in order to overcome poverty. The CEFO’s specific contribution is to offer bespoke support, often face-to-face, to a defined set of churches and Christian Aid groups, to enable and enrich their contribution. The role also works in partnership on campaigning activity with individuals, churches and other campaigning partners . Closing date for applications 26th March. <https://jobs.christianaid.org.uk/vacancy/3224/questions/1/>

**Opportunity for young adults to attend the WCC Assembly – apply now World Council of Churches Assembly, Karlsruhe, Germany 21 August – 10 September 2022**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) welcomes applications from young adults to serve as stewards at the next Assembly in 2022. You need to be between 18 and 30 years old in August 2022, and it provides an extraordinary opportunity to engage ecumenically with the world church. [Details can be found on the WCC website,](#) together with application forms and further details. **The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021.**



**Holy Land Pilgrimage** Paul (Devon County Ecumenical Officer) and Linda Snell are leading a 10 day pilgrimage to the **Holy Land this October 5th -14th 2021.** The trip will include 4 nights in Jerusalem, one night in Be’er Sheva and 4 nights beside the Sea of Galilee. There is also an option to stay for an extra 3 days of relaxation in Galilee. The trip will include half board accommodation (bed, breakfast & evening meal) in good standard hotels, 3 lunches included during the course of the trip, the full services of a local guide and luxury coach and entrance to all the sites. The trip is arranged through Maranatha Tours. Because of the uncertainty surrounding international travel at present, no deposits are required until the trip is confirmed, so you are invited to register your interest at this stage. Full details on [www.thesnells.org.uk](http://www.thesnells.org.uk)

## Resources

**The Evangelical Alliance,** together with other organisations, have gathered the best resources they could find [here.](#) Whether you're doing mission online or offline, these will help you reach out and share the good news of Jesus with families this Easter.

**Churches Together in Britain & Ireland have produced a new resource on Antisemitism** which is created jointly with the Council of Christians and Jews. It enables churches to explore the issues and challenges around antisemitism which is at historically high levels in the wider context of Jewish-Christian dialogue. [Find out more...](#)



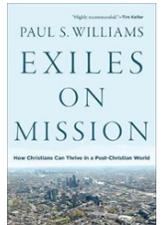
**Go Chatter Videos.** two timely **new** videos that are ideal for showing in your services as Easter approaches, whether online or in person.

[www.GoChatterVideos.com](http://www.GoChatterVideos.com)

Further to the Government consultation on local **government reform in Somerset**, the first report by [PwC](#) looks at the overall Stronger Somerset proposal, while there are three further reports by experts looking at the plans for [adult social care](#), [children's services](#) and [place services](#), like highways, economy and environment. The reports can be accessed here: [Proposals \(onesomerset.org.uk\)](http://Proposals(onesomerset.org.uk))

**CPO Worthing.** Resources for Holy Week and Easter, Prayer and Pastoral, small groups, Bible, faith and discipleship courses, as well as digital resources. Go to <https://www.cpo.org.uk/>

***Exiles on Mission: How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World* by Paul S. Williams** Many Christians in the West sense that traditional Christian teaching is losing traction in the public square. What does faithful Christian witness look like in a post-Christian culture? Written by Paul Williams, this book shows a clear pathway for fruitful missional engagement for the whole people of God, [Get your copy.](#)



**Christians against Poverty** have many free local services which people can access if they need to. Click [here](#) for an informational poster for your church and your congregation.

**Thy Kingdom Come 2021: 13 to 23 May** New resources for 2021 will include [an 11-part children's video series called Cheeky Pandas](#) – packed with Bible stories, prayers, animation, worship songs and interviews with special guests including CTE Pentecostal President Pastor Agu Irukwu and his wife Shola (Jesus House), adventurer Bear Grylls, CBeebies presenter Gemma Hunt and Revd Nicky Gumbel (HTB and Alpha), to name a few. Other new resources include [this year's Novena and the Prayer Journal](#), written by the Archbishop of York. The award-winning [Thy Kingdom Come app](#), available in nine languages, will for the first time, include audio content from 24/7 Prayer's Lectio 365, with audio reflections from Pete Greig, Archbishop Justin and 24/7 Prayer GB UK Director, Carla Harding. [Explore the Thy Kingdom Come 2021 website for more details on this year's plans. Order resources for your church, including printed copies of the Prayer Journal and Prayer Adventure Map.](#)



The latest **Hope For All magazine** is available now. The issue has wellbeing tips to help readers plan a post-Covid Wellbeing Journey with TV presenters Joanna Adeyinka and Simon Thomas. The spotlight on celebrities and their faith includes features on singer Justin Bieber, cricketer AB De Villiers and James Lusted from Songs of Praise.

**Contact Us:** Give me a call for more information on ecumenical life, witness and mission

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**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5 NRSV)**

