

# MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

February 2020

## News

**Ten church leaders and representatives British Church denominations and networks** have issued a joint statement saying: 'We are united in wishing to seek God's guidance and a sense of common purpose as we move from this chapter of the Brexit



process into the next. As the UK leaves the EU there are important choices to be made about the values that we as a country live out. As Christians, we affirm our belief that all people are equally created in God's image. Our country should be one that offers sanctuary to refugees and is intolerant of those who hate

because of a person's race or nationality. Both Leave and Remain campaigns agreed on this – we must now make it a reality...We will only be able to move towards having a sense of common purpose, despite our differences, when we choose to act with kindness, humility and respect towards those with whom we disagree.

**Campaign to urge Christians to meet MPs.** Church communities are being encouraged to get to know their MPs, many of them elected for the first time last December. The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) - representing the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church— has initiated a campaign urging churches and Christians to.... Build relationships rather than immediate lobbying him or her on specific issues.

**New ecumenical community helping young people connect with Jesus.** 'With' was recently established by a group of Christian youth workers with a vision to establish the UK's first bespoke ecumenical Christian community serving young people. With a vision to create a space for young people to encounter Jesus, grow in their faith and build resilience. 'With' have recently been given an incredible, historic convent in rural Norfolk, which has been home to Christian community, prayer and service for more than 150 years. Hundreds of organisations applied for the opportunity to take on the convent buildings and their nine acres of land, and 'With' was chosen, because of their vision to reimagine what prayer and service would look when focusing on young people.



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) .

***“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

- News
- Events
- Opportunities
- Resources

## Events

**Ammerdown Events: The World Community for Christian Meditation.** A wonderful opportunity to hear Fr. Laurence Freeman – a contemporary spiritual teacher and author – speaking about contemplative Christianity for our times. Thursday 12th March - “Prayer in a secular age: finding the secret of prayer in the earliest teachers” - St James Church, Exeter, 7.00pm. Friday 13th March - “Stages of the inner journey and why it transforms the exterior one” - The Minster, Ilminster, 10.30am. Friday 13th March - “Jesus as a contemplative teacher: why meditation illuminates his guidance on prayer” - Wells & Mendip Museum, Wells, 7.30pm. Booking Essential. Saturday 14th March - “Sources of wisdom in ‘a world gone mad’” - Clifton Cathedral, Bristol 2.15pm. Exeter: [di-ana.hanbury@gmail.com](mailto:di-ana.hanbury@gmail.com) Ilminster and Wells: [julie.ann.roberts@icloud.com](mailto:julie.ann.roberts@icloud.com) Bristol: [roger.layet@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.layet@btinternet.com)



**Friday 13th March 2020 @7:30pm - AWAKEN WORSHIP- Young Adults - 18 to 30s. - Orphans No More** led by an incredible team who have led worship at David’s Tent this Summer with over 6,000 worshippers. Based in Bath with connections across the World. They are inspiring, courageous and incredibly gifted carrying something special to encourage young adults! Limited Capacity tickets coming early 2020. Venue – Company Spaces, Taunton. Event details: <https://worshipawaken.com/index.php/upcoming-events/>

### **New Housing Hub Conference – South West Saturday 14 March. 9.30am (Registration) for 10am start – 4pm.**

The Mint Methodist Centre, Fore Street Exeter, Devon EX4 3AT **BOOKING – [click here](#)** Ticket price: £10 In this time of housing crisis, new housing developments are springing up all over Britain. Whole new communities and even towns are emerging sometimes with little in the way of community facilities, often with little capacity to nurture friendships amongst the new residents, usually against a backdrop of local protest, and almost always without a church building. Our challenge as Christians is to work out our response to this changing landscape.

New Housing Hub Conference



Exeter : Sat 14 March

**Healing Tides Retreat** (A journey of the heart) Friday 27th March to Tuesday 31st March led by Sarah Chabowska and Libby Dobson. For more details and booking form go to <http://www.nicholastonhouse.org/ministry-retreats-and-courses/452-2020-03-06-27-31-march-2020-seeking-stillness-healing-tides-a-journey-of-the-heart-with-sarah-chabowska-and-libby-dobson-at-nicholaston-house-christian-retreat-centre-gower-swansea-wales>

**Wednesday 26 February**  
10am - Quiet Said Communion  
7.30pm - Holy Communion with Hymns  
both with Imposition of Ashes  
ALL WELCOME  
St Thomas Church, Wells BA5 2UZ

**At the Foot of the Cross**

A series of Bible studies for Lent

Where	St Thomas Church, Wells
When	Wednesdays 04, 11, 18, 25 March, 01 April
Time	7 for 7.15pm refreshments served at 7pm
Length	45 minutes

**Uncorking a Good Vintage:**  
Releasing the potential of older people in our churches

Thursday 12th March 2020  
9.15 Registration for event  
9.30am to 1pm

All Saints Centre  
High Street  
Bath  
BA1 4BX

If you want:  
- to release the power and gain from our older people  
- to see how the older and younger can build one another up  
- to see how our churches can break down generational barriers and be true families

Then put this event in your diary and encourage others to come.

With Louise Morse – speaker, broadcaster and author with special interest older people and dementia

Booking via:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uncorking-a-good-vintage-releasing-the-potential-of-older-people-tickets-31522024>

## STOP PRESS

**Still time to book !**

**Churches Together in Somerset AGM and Forum with the theme 'Changing Perspectives on unity and mission'**

**When**

**2.00pm—6.00pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Where**

**Clarence Park Baptist Church, Walliscote Road, Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 1ED**

**Special Guest :**

**Revd Paul Goodlife and Rev Joe Aldred**

**If you would like more details contact Alan on 01249 323475 or email [sctogether@outlook.com](mailto:sctogether@outlook.com)**

Friday 10th April – **ONE GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY** – 12noon and 3.00pm – Parade Gardens, Bath

Premier Radio announce that celebrated New Testament theologian NT Wright and renowned historian Tom Holland are both key speakers at this year's **Unbelievable? Conference**. This is a unique chance to see these two influential thinkers share how the Christian revolution changed the world and how it can still do so today. Read more about them and book your seat for Saturday 9th May at Methodist Central Hall Westminster – Early Bird tickets still available! Book here <https://premierchristianmedia.co.uk/16DQ-6QOL8-NNNB2N-3YFA2K-1/c.aspx>



**National Sports Sunday 2020: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020** . Since 2018, National Sports Sunday has been growing as an opportunity to mobilise Christians to see how they can best serve the community of sport. Put the date in your diary now and visit the website to found out more: [www.nationalsportssunday.org.uk](http://www.nationalsportssunday.org.uk)

**Be part of South West Awake** – initiative as part of *Thy Kingdom Come* on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. All participants who wish to be involved with the day are required to sign up on this website beforehand - [click here](#) to do so. On the Get Involved page, all participants will decide upon which 'Prayer Point' along the South West Coastal Path they wish to be situated. **Anyone can take part!** For more details go to <https://www.southwestawake.com/theday>

## Opportunities.



**Churches Together in Somerset. We are urgently 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 with the Bath & Wells Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) provides day-to-day financial and accountancy support services. For more details contact Major Alan Dixon on 01249 323475 or [sctogether@outlook.com](mailto:sctogether@outlook.com)

Friday 10th April – **ONE GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY** – 12noon and 3.00pm – Parade Gardens, Bath still need a few members of cast and lots of stewards to help on the day of the performance. We also need someone to play a shofar during the performance - if you think you might be able to help with these please contact Caroline by email - [caroline.sa.deakin@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.sa.deakin@gmail.com).

## Resources.

**Making evangelism easier: newly launched web resource** provides comprehensive answers to questions about the Christian faith, and gives visitors the opportunity to ask their own questions to a real-life Christian... This website is the go-to place to find answers about the Christian faith from a non-partisan perspective, and visitors to the site can engage in meaningful conversations online with a real Christian



**CTBI Magazine** Find out all about the work of CTBI in their magazine. The magazine is free to download at <https://ctbi.us9.listmanage.com/track/click u=343312f3ea3e4535c7abeff6e&id=50d1586ff1&e=f25c27b209> If you would like to order printed copies, contact [info@ctbi.org.uk](mailto:info@ctbi.org.uk)

If you haven't given any thought to Lent... it isn't too late to bring your church together to prepare your hearts for remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Shrove Tuesday is still marked by many in our culture. If you are thinking of hosting a pancake party for your community CPO have a great [design you can use here](#).



**Lent course from CTBI.** This year's Lent course from CTBI is entitled *Opening the scriptures: setting our hearts on fire*. A number of churches in Britain and Ireland are keeping 2020 as 'the Year of the Word' so this course, with its focus on scripture, will be an ideal resource for Lent 2020. Visit the CTBI website at [www.ctbi.org.uk/lent](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/lent)

**CPO Easter Resources.** Getting organised in good time has its benefits. It means you have longer to give invitations out to those in your community and it helps make sure your team aren't too rushed off their feet in the final push before your events. Take a look at the new designs they've created to help you this Easter in the [CPO Easter Reach magazine here](#). Go to [cpo.org.uk](http://cpo.org.uk) for a number of resources to help with mission over Easter.

**CPO** have also teamed up with the **Pocket Testament League (UK)** to offer special pocket-sized Gospels of John which can have a cover of your choosing, plus you can add your church details on the back cover. Chosen an Easter design? You could get some pocket testaments printed with a matching design on the front to give out to people at your Easter events [Find out more here](#).

#### **PUBLICITY**

Tone FM will advertise your event online free of charge if you upload details to their web page. Click [HERE](#) to fill out the details and once the details have been approved, it will show on their events calendar.

Event promotion - The Diocese of Bath and Wells would also be pleased to advertise them via its own web site if organisers upload details via this web link: [Diocesan News Events](#)

New book out - by School Pastor, Marcus Paul: ***Ireland to the Wild West***. This is a moving, true story of romance, faith, tragedy and hope. It follows the lives of a young missionary couple who emigrate to Kansas in the 1870s - the world of cowboys, Indians and Wyatt Earp, it tells of the up and downs of life on the frontier and what it was like to live as church planters in that era. Copies are available from Ambassador International (link below) and Amazon or, at a discount, direct from Marcus at [marcus\\_kpaul@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marcus_kpaul@yahoo.co.uk) or <https://ambassador-international.com/books/ireland-to-the-wild-west/>

## Contact Us

Give me a call for more information on ecumenical life, witness and mission in Churches Together in Somerset, Alan Dixon, 8 Applewood Close, Chippenham SN14 0JG Email [sctogether@outlook.com](mailto:sctogether@outlook.com) Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

