

# MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

April 2020

Understandably our monthly newsletter takes a different format than usual and, as you would expect, concentrates on the national emergency caused by Covid-19 and the churches response.

## News

A priest who has spent weeks at the bedside of coronavirus patients at the maiden Nightingale hospital has set up a **24-hour chaplaincy system** to help tend to the religious needs of the seriously ill and their families. Father James Mackay, who was raised in east London near where the temporary NHS hospital currently stands, said he was compelled to help at the ExCeL the moment he heard it was being converted into an overflow health facility in the wake of coronavirus. He said he and his colleagues had been called on to read the last rites for patients and carry out baptisms, as well as spending time with those battling the virus. And he said the extremity of the situation was taking its toll on him and his colleagues.



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

**Churches unite in the Lord’s Prayer** .Christians across Britain joined together to say the Lord's Prayer on Wednesday 25 March at 11.00 am, 12.00 noon Rome time, in



response to the Pope’s invitation to Christians everywhere to join together in this prayer. The Pope made his invitation to "the Heads of the Churches and the leaders of every Christian community, together with all Christians of the various confessions, to invoke the Almighty, the omnipotent God, to recite at the same time the prayer that Jesus, our Lord, taught us – the Our Father." The leaders of the Conference of European Churches, who received the invitation from the Pope, said "During these times of global uncertainty, we need signs of unity and hope. The prayer that has been taught to us by Christ unites Christianity across space and time."

- The Lund Principle

**Hope in a time of COVID-19.** Manoj Raithatha, minister at Pinner Baptist is a man with a vision – a vision that simply grew out of a Lenten prayer meeting and snow-balled into a website with a selection of really useful resources. Hope 15:13 is taken from Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **How does the Hope 15:13 initiative work?** Firstly, PRAY: Create space each day pray by yourself or with others, either online or in person. Secondly, PREPARE: Consider how you can protect and support others. Thirdly, PROCLAIM: Seek to share this hope as you connect with people every day."

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## Thoughts and Reflection

“Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day”

A small “moment of calm” for you to enjoy from **Seeking Stillness**. To see the words as subtitles, once you have opened the YouTube clip, click on the three dots at the top right of the picture, and click on “captions”. <https://youtu.be/aAjL1sPOQbQ>

## Prayer Resources

**Thy Kingdom Come prayer resources.** New resources to help you engage in prayer at this unique time Go to <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources> . For more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/ThyKingdomComeUK/videos/537902930473550/>



**AwakenSomerset** Friday prayer day - 7 hours of prayer each Friday - 5pm-midnight, details on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/511352196227387/>. Join in anytime and have it on at home - turn your home into a 'house of prayer! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81626011199?pwd=iqlTR9-fQ4tcwD444IDoYLxfMiDZBw>



Meeting ID: 816 2601 1199 Password: 066240. Also Pework prayer' every weekday morning at 8am. These will be hosted on Zoom details below:

Monday @8am: Zoom ID: 816 2601 1199, Password: 066240 Tuesday @8am: Zoom ID:

5192522071 Wednesday @8am: Zoom ID: 816 2601 1199, Password: 066240 Thursday @8am: Zoom ID: 730-8511-2069 Friday @8am: Zoom ID is 322 965 9423, password 133701

Live broadcasts on most Saturdays and Wednesdays at 8:30pm All this is hosted on the prayer room YouTube channel & social media: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYM2BQI\\_gYGQ5IGKsaK\\_xw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYM2BQI_gYGQ5IGKsaK_xw?view_as=subscriber)

**National Day of Prayer and Worship:** a 24 hour prayer chain through April, May and June. NDP have commenced 24-hour prayer chain to pray against the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and for restoration and healing in the land - specifically the UK and Ireland. They are asking each church to choose a day when they will pray for 24 hours, over 1000 churches are already signed up. Individuals or small groups can also sign up by choosing a one hour slot when they will pray. NDP have created a temporary website just for this purpose:

[www.unitedinprayer.co.uk](http://www.unitedinprayer.co.uk)

### Links to scripture based reflective prayer sites / apps:

Lectio 365: A new 24/7 Prayer devotional resource – <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

TakeTime: Audible Ignatian Meditations on the words of Jesus - <https://taketime.org.uk/>

Live From Rest: Rooted in the way of Jesus - <https://www.livefromrest.com/>

Sacred Space - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/prayer%20tools/>

### Prayer broadcasts

Premier Radio is hosting a [weekly Prayers of Hope service](#) at 7.00 pm on Sundays, tying in with CTE's [Prayers of Hope](#) call to prayer.

[The Baptist Union of Great Britain](#) are hosting a time of prayer online every Wednesday and Sunday evening at 7.00 pm.

The [Catholic Bishops' Conference](#) are hosting series of special Thursday evening Masses for the sick, their families, NHS staff, and those working in Social Care. These will take place at 7.00 pm, ahead of the national Clap for Carers at 8.00 pm each Thursday.

*‘Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory... for ever and ever’ (Ephesians 3: 20—21*

