

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

May 2019

News

Early this week the regional Church Leaders of various denominations in Somerset



met at the recently multi-pound refurbished *The New Rooms, The Broadmead, Bristol*—the first Methodist Chapel built by John Wesley in 1739 and now the oldest Methodist chapel in the world. The New Rooms comprise an inter-active museum which tells the story of John and Charles Wesley, eighteenth-century Methodism and its relevance today. The Church Leaders met for a time of fellowship and prayer and to discuss how they can collectively and openly express their oneness in Christ, engage in mission and enthusiastically evidence being part of the Body of Christ.

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The BBC wants viewers to watch EastEnders religiously. The BBC is placing more religious characters in EastEnders and prime time drama series as part of a drive to present belief in a more ‘subtle and pleasurable’ way. Religious topics are also being addressed in travel shows and cooking formats as the corporation seeks to make its faith-based programming more accessible to mainstream audiences. (The Times)

More churches than pubs. There are more buildings used as churches in the UK than pubs, research from the National Churches Trust (NCT) shows. The study was carried out by the Brierley Consultancy for the NCT. It showed that there are 40,300 buildings used for worship in the UK, compared with 39,000 pubs: 16,600 of the church buildings are Anglican. More than 11,000 pubs have closed in the past decade. The report suggests “church buildings also play a vital role in activities for the benefit of the wider community. It is estimated that 90% of churches are used for community purposes”. (Church Times)

Further, My God, from Thee: Hymns out-sung by Pop Funerals. Singing hymns has traditionally been central to a funeral service as mourners found comfort in joining their voices in song. A decline in church attendance, however, means that fewer people are familiar with them and funerals are now more likely to feature pop songs or other music. Previous popular hymns such as ‘The Lord Is My Shepherd’ and ‘Abide With Me’ were edged out by songs from contemporary musicians such as Ed Sheeran (Supermarket Flowers) and Westlife (You Raise Me Up). (The Times)

“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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The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: www.cte.org.uk/news .

Events



THY KINGDOM COME EVENTS THROUGHOUT SOMERSET

30th May—9th June

Events supported by Churches Together in Somerset, organised by local Churches Together Groups.

contact details for anyone who wants to link up/join and be part of the Praying on the Hills events

- Bath** David Pendle on david.pendle@hotmail.com
- Minehead** Kenneth Cross on kennethjcross@gmail.com
- Wellington** Steve Jenkins on steve.jenkins@lifecentral.org.uk
- Glastonbury** Rowena Francis on revrowenafrancis@gmail.com

Thy Kingdom Come
30th May—9th June 2019

An invitation to
'Pentecost worship on the Mount'
Praying on the Hills

For more information please contact Alan Dixon on 01249 323475 or at sctogether@outlook.com



Be part of a world-wide wave of prayer.

Bring your smart phone or torch with a beam.

Together we will pray,

And Light up the world.

Come and join in!

Web site "Thy Kingdom Come"
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld>

National Day of Prayer for Police
Thursday 30th May 2019

Pray for

- Police officers and the wider policing family
- Safety whilst on duty
- Helping to keep communities safe
- Innovative, compassionate and courageous solutions to policing issues
- Help in making difficult resourcing decisions

CPA Christian Police Association | #NB_CPA | www.cpa.org.uk | 0161 275 1100

PENTECOST PRAYER PICNIC
Cute Park, Minehead
Sunday June 9th 12.30pm
Bring a picnic!

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Events in Bath for THY KINGDOM COME

Thursday 30th MAY 7:30 pm Bath Abbey Event, Launching THY KINGDOM COME & 24-7 PRAYER
 Saturday 1st JUNE 4:00 pm PRAY FROM THE HILLS up Kelston, Solsbury, Roundhill to pray over Bath
 Sunday 2nd JUNE 12:00 noon 24-7 PRAYER till the 9th of June in the Old School House, BA2 4AF.
 Saturday 8th 9.4am SPEAKING BLESSINGS Conference in St John's Church RC (Heather Read from Ffald y Brenin)
 ALL WELCOME, FOR MORE INFORMATION: BATHCHURCHES.ORG.UK INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK @CHOP BATH

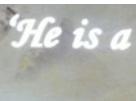
East Brent/Lympsham & Brent Knoll

Novena Prayer Times 7pm each evening (25 minutes) 31st May- 8th June
 St Christopher's Lympsham Friday 31st May, Saturday 1st June, Sunday 2nd June,
 St Mary's East Brent Monday 3rd June, Tuesday 4th June, Wednesday 5th June
 St Michael's Brent Knoll Thursday 6th June Friday 7th June, Saturday 8th June
 Sunday 9th June 8am St Michael's, Brent Knoll, 10am St Mary's, East Brent

On Ascension day in Paulton Holy Trinity are arranging Prayer stations from 5.30 till 6.30 followed by communion, which is open to all.

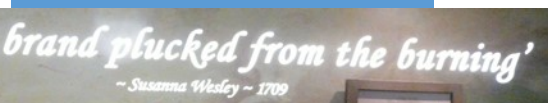
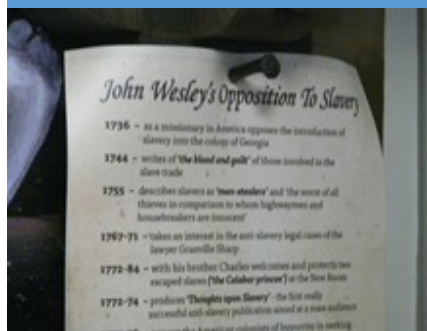
Events in Watchet and Williton

Prayer stations set up at Treborough Wood Camp. Hopefully open from 10am to 4pm Open to all.
 Sunday June 9th - picnic and then we all can go on to Brendon Hill chapel for a final service.



STOP PRESS

The New Rooms, Bristol



Other Events

On Wednesday 26 June, Christian Aid are asking you to come together in London to celebrate faith in action, lobby political representatives, pray together and energise one another for the challenges to come.

9.30am-11.30: Workshops at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square.

11.30am Whitehall Walk of Witness

12-1.15pm: Interfaith speaker event (including Rowan Williams) at Church House, Westminster

1- 4pm: Mass Lobby of Parliament

For more information contact bristol@christian-aid.org or CHumphries@christian-aid.org



Drop into Silence – Taunton Friends host a "Drop into Silence" at the Quaker Meeting House in Bath Place every Thursday between 12.30 and 1.30 pm. Visitors can drop in for as long or as short a period as they like. In the welcome area there will be a Friend dispensing tea coffee and biscuits, and happy to chat, for anyone that wants to eat their sandwiches there. Contact Lynn on 01823 327 530 or 07594 562 270 or email lynn@tauntonmeetinghouse.co.uk for further information.

New Housing Conference Tuesday 18th June 10:00 – 16:00

Quaker Meeting House, Taunton. Keynote speakers: Revd Ali Boulton (Baptist SW), leader of the national New Housing Hub and co-author of Pioneer Association Ministry in New Housing Areas: Personal Reflections and a Practical Guide, and David Maggs (Mission Team leader for the Diocese of Bath and Wells) Workshops from parish and deanery leaders and pioneer practitioners in areas of new housing. Lunch and refreshments provided. Please register your interest with allie.white@bathwells.anglican.org

Opportunities.

If you need funding for a church maintenance or repair project, want to install a toilet or kitchen to improve community facilities, or are seeking early stage funding (such as for a feasibility report) for your place of worship, then the Somerset Churches Trust grant schemes could help you, Applications must be made online on their website at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants where you can find the most up to date information, including deadline dates and detailed guidance. Applications welcomed from any church. <https://www.somersetchurchestrust.org>

Trustees - Taunton Team Chaplaincy is looking for additional trustees to join the board of this local Christian charity and to help with the direction of this exciting ministry. It has been operating for 8+ years and continues to grow. If feel you have a calling to helping in this way and would like to know more, please contact the Chair of Trustees, Andy Hall at scc.chaplain@gmail.com for an informal, no obligation chat.

Resources.

As of 25 April 2019, the World Council of Churches (WCC) Annual Review 2018 is available for download online. The annual review records many of the WCC's activities undertaken in 2018 and continuing into 2019. [Download the WCC's Annual Review 2018](#)

Light up the World! Still time to register and be part of **THY KINGDOM COME** 'Light up the World' online at www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld. Put simply – when you register an event or pledge to pray your local area will light up

Customisable videos to encourage local churches and communities to pledge to pray and register. go to <https://gochattervideos.com/thy-kingdom-come/>

New films two new videos – the first is from Jasmine Yeboah, Youth President of the Methodist Church, who shares her wisdom and passion on the theme of Praise. See a preview first at : <https://vimeo.com/332256956> The second is from Dr Krish Kandiah on what it means to be part of God's family <https://vimeo.com/330989692>

Resources This year they have church packs for Thy Kingdom Come with two different types of design available. These packs include template posters, flyers, invitations and other useful resources. Find out more and order resources here: www.cpo.org.uk/thykingdomcome



New undated HOPE magazine. This issue is undated so you can give it away at any events you are holding this summer and autumn and use it to start conversations about how to find the hope God gives to Jesus' followers. Copies will be available at the end May – pre-order at hopepublishing.org.uk

Sanjay's story Latest video on the Great Commission website: [link here](#)

New Evangelism and Discipleship website Launched by the Church of England: [link here](#)

Do you want to gain a better understanding about people, their faith and diverse cultures? Interserve have written [two booklets to help you pray](#) for the Muslim world and the Buddhist world over a set number of days.

And finally ...

Now in the Company of Heaven. Three people who have shaped contemporary Christianity have recently passed into glory. First was Warren Wiersbe, who was well-known to older evangelicals and who was a superb preacher and biblical expositor with an irenic spirit. Next, Rachel Held Evans, who died at age 37. Evans was a controversial blogger and writer, known for her strong criticism of and eventual departure from evangelical faith. Finally, and probably the person who will make the most lasting imprint on Christian life and thought, is Catholic philosopher and theologian Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche communities, It's probably not right to bet on sainthood, but I will be surprised if he's not nominated for such in the next few years.

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 sctgether@outlook.com Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

I am the Resurrection and the Life

