



'Location, Location, Location – Moving Into Your Neighbourhood'

As we enter Advent, significant numbers of people across Dorset will choose to celebrate Jesus' coming into the world and prayerfully anticipate the transforming arrival of God: O come, O come Immanuel! This celebration and anticipation are rooted in Jesus's historic 'move into the neighbourhood' (John 1.14 The Message). God enters into the ordinariness, untidiness and challenges of human life. The Son enters the real world - a sending characterised best not by the word missiology but messyology! The grace and truth found in God are embodied in raw, vulnerable, physical flesh and blood - God with skin on.

'Moving into the neighbourhood' has been a theme for Baptist pioneers in our region over the last couple of years. Southern Counties Baptist Association includes Bicester, North Oxfordshire, where the various churches have been working together to ensure a Christian presence and witness on each of the new housing developments there. The Baptists there have taken responsibility for the self-build development at Graven Hill. For pioneer minister Helen, and her husband Nick, 'moving into the neighbourhood' has involved literally building their own home before they can move in - a great way to get to know your fellow-self-builders before they become your close neighbours!

Nearer to home here in Dorset, Ben and Ez, also pioneer ministers, moved two years ago with their family into a village near Dorchester as 'missional listeners' supported by two Christian groups partnering together: Rural Ministries and our regional association. They have been gradually building relationship in that community, being attentive to all and any with whom they can work, with the vision of seeing God and the people there 'come together.' Also in Dorset, another pioneer minister, John, and his wife Mim and their family have intentionally moved into the neighbourhood of new housing at Hamworthy. They too are joining with (and supported by) other Christian groups to seek the well-being of their community. They are seeking to bless the people that live there, enabling community and faith connections. This includes the setting up of a watercraft lending library to enable people who can't afford to own boats and boards to make the most of the waterfront on their doorstep.

What these pioneers all have in common is the preparedness to move into an area of housing where there is limited or no Christian presence. They have only been able to do this through partnership with Christians from a variety of groups and churches who are prepared to practically be part of this call to enable God with skin on in new neighbourhoods.

Core to their ministry, and to ours who are already in our neighbourhoods, is who and how they are amongst the people they go to serve. Moving into the neighbourhood is only step one. Bearing light and being 'full of grace and truth', are the inspiration and aspiration, and the vital second step. Quite astonishingly, Jesus describes his followers as 'salt and light', and even says 'you are the light of the world!' (Matthew 5). Location, even relocation, are important. More vital still is the question: What sort of light (or shadow) falls from us upon the lives of the people who are our 'neighbours?'

With warm Advent greetings,

Colin Norris (Revd. Dr), Regional Minister and Team Leader, Southern Counties Baptist Association

News

The Dorset Equality Group held the free public event on Thursday, 28th November at St Mark's Church Hall, Talbot Village, Bournemouth, *'Mind the Gap – An Economy Where All Can Thrive?'* Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director of The Equality Trust, spoke about the poverty gap and the ways in which an equal society is best for everyone. The audience, from across Dorset, shared supper and took part in workshops and a Q and A session on how to develop an economy where everyone can thrive. If you would like to hear more about the work of the group or the outcomes of the meeting, email dorsetequalitygroup@gmail.com **Facebook** : Dorset Equality Group

"We See You"

Modern slavery still thrives in Britain today, with up to 13,000 estimated to be victims of trafficking. The Mothers Union is partnering with the Clewer Initiative to raise awareness of modern day slavery, enabling the Church of England and its wider networks to "develop strategies to detect modern day slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care."



Resources belonging to the 'We See You' campaign, which could help you, your church, workplace, community or group spot the signs of modern slavery, can be found at www.theclewerinitiative.org. These include information cards and posters to raise awareness, *Anti-Slavery Day Church* and *Children's Resources*, *Anti-Slavery Prayers*, an *online Anti-Slavery course* and the *Safe Car Wash* app, a new tool that will enable the largest community intelligence gathering exercise ever attempted in the United Kingdom. Download the free app onto your smartphone, and when you are using a hand car wash you can simply open the app and complete a short survey about the working conditions of the car wash.

£7.56 million was raised during **Christian Aid Week (CAW)** earlier this year, the theme of which was 'All Mums Should Live', and which enabled Christian Aid to continue helping to provide vital healthcare in Sierra Leone, where over 10 women a day die in childbirth.



Over 10,000 churches took part in celebrations supported by 40,700 volunteers in churches across the UK and Ireland. In Wimborne, Christian Aid raised £6,100 ; St Michael's, Colehill, shared a parish lunch, raising £998.75 for the appeal ; Big Brekkie events took place in Weymouth, Bridport, Blandford and beyond. People took part in sponsored walks ; a Christian Aid market in the United Church, Dorchester - with stalls run by a range of local justice organisations - raised nearly £1,300, and a street collection in South Street a total of £367. Money was raised through a jazz concert in Bradpole and cream teas in Beaminster and Lyme Regis, the Lyme Regis Christian Aid group raising £593 in one afternoon. Church services across the county took a Christian Aid theme and Fiona Daborn, regional coordinator for the charity, spoke in churches in Sherborne, Poole, Swanage and Weymouth. [Want to get involved?](#) Read more [here](#) or email Fiona Daborn at FDaborn@christian-aid.org

Events

Christmas Events

Christian Aid - Carols and collection outside Waitrose, Broadstone, Friday, 20th December, 11.15am-12.15pm and 1.45-2.45pm

Christmas Eve 'Simple Lunch' at Church House, Broadstone BH21 1HT from 12-2pm (last orders 1.30pm). Bread and home-made soup and live music. No cost, but donations to Christian Aid gratefully received.

Quiet Christmas Service – Fri 13 Dec at 3pm, **United Church, Dorchester**
A short, quiet, traditional 30 minute service celebrating the Christmas story. Christmas refreshments in church afterwards. Everyone welcome



Carol Singing took place in **Sherborne** on 7th Dec outside Waitrose. £50.00 was raised for The Toddler Group.

Journey to the Stable - United Church, Dorchester

An interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas, ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies. Open Sat 7th Dec and Thurs 12th – Sat 14th Dec 11-3pm (Fri 13th 11-2pm). The Stable only will be open from Mon 16th – Sat 21st and Mon 21st 10-12.30pm.

Feed me, Change Me, Love Me – United Church, Dorchester

Open for free baby changing, with a private feeding area and games for the older children during the last few shopping days to Christmas. Open Fri 20th Dec, Sat 21st Dec and Mon 23rd Dec 11am to 3pm.

Christmas Carols – Churches Together in Boscombe took place with a vintage brass band. Supporting Boscombe Food Bank, Open the Book and Boscombe Angels. Saturday, 14th Dec at 11am.

United Christmas Service – Verwood 10.45am on Christmas Day at the Methodist Church. A **Christingle Service** takes place at Verwood Methodist Church on Sunday, 15th December

Christingle Services – Portland St John's Church, Fortuneswell, Sunday, 22nd December at 4pm ; Joint Christingle Service, Christmas Eve in Easton Gardens, including the Salvation Army band. 3.45 start at Easton Methodist Church Hall for those who want to make their own Christingle.

Carols by Candlelight, Sunday, 22nd December at 5pm, Weymouth Baptist Church ; 6.30pm, St Aldhelm's Church, Portland

Community Nativity – Portland Christmas Eve, 3.30pm At Fancies Farm

Carols by Candlelight – Shaftesbury Friday, 20th December at 7pm at St James' Church

Carol Service Sunday, 22nd December at 3.30pm at St John's Green, Shaftesbury
Carols by Candlelight Sunday, 22nd December at 6.30pm at St Thomas' Church, Melbury Abbas

Wimborne Minster Christmas Carol Concert, Wednesday, 18th December at 6pm

Christmas at St Stephen's, Bournemouth Thursday, 19th December at 7.30pm

Bridport Churches Together Carol Service took place on 7.00 pm on Thursday 12th Dec at the Roman Catholic Church. Bridport Nativity takes place at 11am on Saturday 21st December in Bucky Doo Square ; if wet, in St Mary's Church.

Christchurch Christmas Crafts and Carols Saturday, 21st December 1-4pm, Red House Museum

Carols by Candlelight Sunday, 22nd December at 5pm, Christchurch Baptist Church

Christmas Day Community Lunch Christmas Day, 12.30pm at Somerford ARC Community Centre

Christmas Lunch Home Delivered, 12-4pm, Christchurch Community Partnership

Crib Service Christchurch Priory, Friday, 21st December at 3pm

Pop-up Carol Singing on the Green Rutland Road, Friday, 20th December

Other Events

Christian Aid Annual Quiz, Sunday 26th January at 7.30pm, Wimborne Methodist Church

Through the Roof – Disability Inclusion

21st March 2020, 10.30am- 3.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Bristol BS32 OBD. BSL

Also offered : one-day workshops, offering new ideas and resources and sharing powerful stories of how God is being glorified through disabled people, to equip churches and disabled people to serve Christ together.

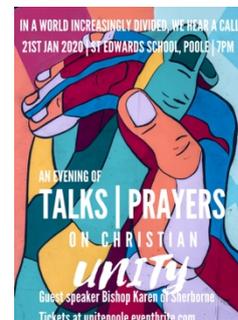
interpreters, access requirements and refreshments provided, please bring packed lunch. More info and a full list of workshops can be found at www.throughtheroof.org/forchurches/events

Janet Eardley is able to come to Dorset churches to run disability awareness training. Email : janet@throughtheroof.org

An Evening of Talks and Prayers on Christian Unity (Poole) with Guest Speaker *Bishop Karen of Sherborne*, 21st Jan 2020 at 7pm, St Edward's School, Poole. Book tickets here

Bournemouth William Temple Association 'Befriending Age? – Exploring a Reframing of the Social, Theological and Political Dimensions of Age' by The Revd Canon Professor James Woodward Ph.D., Principal of Sarum College, Monday 6th Jan at 8.10pm (or 7pm with dinner) at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth.

For further information, contact John Newbold tel : [01202 761 749](tel:01202761749)



Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for **Food Share**, the community project organised by Dorchester Community Church that distributes surplus food from local supermarkets to those in need in the Dorchester area. The initiative has grown and assistance is needed to collect donations and deliver food parcels. For more information tel : [01305 267 171](tel:01305267171) email : contact@dorchestercommunitychurch.org.uk

Christian Aid : *Door-to-door collections* account for two thirds of Christian Aid's income, and volunteers are very much needed. Through the **Christmas Appeal**, you could help give that life-changing opportunity for women. Find out more at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal>
Find out more about how you, your churches or groups can become part of the campaign for justice at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Singing for Syria A nationwide campaign offering an inclusive, fun and positive way to raise money for some of Syria's most vulnerable. **Could your school, choir, church or group hold a music event in aid of the Hands Up Foundation**, with funds raised going directly to 3 projects : a Primary Health Clinic in southern Aleppo ; a Prosthetic Limb Project in Bab al-Hawa ; and a School in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon? Last year, over £83,000 was raised overall. The aim this year is raise £100,000. To find out more, contact Jessica Charlton tel : [07871 866 316](tel:07871866316)



Dementia Friendly Church Network (Prama Foundation, Faithworks Wessex and Alzheimer's Society)

Local ideas that make a difference...

'Just as I Am' church services have been run across Wimborne, Blandford and Southbourne – tactile, sensory services that are helpful and comforting to those with memory loss.



Memory boxes groups brought together old photos, and sat and discussed who the people were, so that good memories came back and stories of lives well lived came alive.

Churches awareness training 119 ; **Dementia Friends** 1002 ; **Churches with action plans** 20+

The aim is that every church in Dorset becomes a place of hope and purpose for those living with dementia and their carers To find out how you can equip your churches, tel : 01202 207 304 email



info@dementiafriendlychurch.org.uk www.dementiafriendlychurch.org.uk

Jobs :

Hope in the Community Coordinator - Job Opportunity Prama Life and Hope in the Community are seeking a new **part time Co-ordinator** to work with the Churches of Bournemouth and Poole. The Co-ordinator will enable Churches to develop their skills, staff/volunteers and resources so that they can provide effective services and support for older people, specifically to tackle social isolation and loneliness e.g. through befriending schemes, and



will facilitate networking between the Churches so that they can share their aims, resources, good practice and learning. *Deadline for applications: Noon Friday 10 Jan 2020. Interviews will be held on Thursday 16 Jan 2020.* Rate of Pay and Hours: 17 hours per week, £12 an hour £23,400 pro rata per annum, One Year Fixed Term Contract. If you would like to discuss this role please contact Christopher Beale, tel : [01202 207329](tel:01202207329) email : chris.beale@pramafoundation.org.uk

St Luke's, Parkstone, Poole – Advertisement for Children's and Families' Worker

Full or part-time, to work alongside the vicar and committed volunteers to oversee the ministry of children up to 11 years and their families, and to assist with youth ministry. Salary £25,000 full-time. For more information, a Job Description and an Application Form, Contact Revd Chris Strain tel : [01202 741 030](tel:01202741030) email : cmstrain@tiscali.co.uk Closing date 20th Jan 2020

Chaplaincy Coordinator Role – IBEX

2 days a week part-time role, at £24,000/Park (FTE) Closing date 31st December, 2019. To find out more, email davidwrighton34@btinternet.com

Homeless Charity Michael House is taking part in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge 2019**.

Donations online www.theBigGive.org.uk



Become a Champion! **Inform : Pray: Action**

World Compassion is looking for Champions to stand with Christians in hostile nations. You can provide a Christian in Iran with a Bible, train a pastor in China, help Christians in Iraq, disciple a Christian in Myanmar or build a church in Cuba. For more information email adriancurtis@worldcompassion.tv



Pray in 2020 on the 20th of each month at 20:20 for 20 minutes.

Pray ... that God will give many opportunities to speak about Christ. (Colossians 4:3 NLT)

This is the invitation from HOPE Together to Christians of all denominations. Read more at

https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/327007/Prayer_2020.aspx

Churches Together in England

The day conference '**The Church : Towards a Common Vision and Principles of Christian Law**' takes place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 8th Feb 2020, with speakers Revd Dr Susan Durber (URC Minister and Moderator of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission) and Revd Dr Paul Goodliff (CTE's General Secretary) and hosted by the Society for Ecumenical Studies and open to all. Discussion includes '*juridical ecumenism*' – the attempt to find common ground in the canon laws, rules, norms and principles in each of a number of different church traditions – which has opened up a new pathway in Ecumenical studies and development. Read more [here](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 (27th January) will mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Inspired by this year's theme Stand Together, a resource has been developed which reflects on the complex roles of Christians during the Holocaust which encourages churches in the UK to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in their services and in their communities and includes suggested prayers and commentaries on the readings set for the Sunday closest to Holocaust Memorial Day. Resources can be found on the CTE website cte.org.uk

Sign up to CTE News [here](#)

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January, 2020 – 'Unusual Kindness.' Resources available [here](#)

Crossing Boundaries of Faith Conference 3-5th March 2020. Towards a Christian Theological Understanding of Inter-religious Ritual Participation. Read more [here](#)

Subscribe to CTBI News at ctbi.org.uk

Resources

The Diocese of Salisbury has a **Daily Renewing Hope Advent Calendar** which is delivered to the inbox of those who subscribe to Grapevine, the Diocesan newsletter, which gives a snapshot of ministry and mission happening in the diocese. Subscribe to it [here](#)

Poole Town Pastors website has now gone live : www.pooletownpastors.org.uk

Just Finance Foundation and **CUF's research and policy team** have released a new report, ***'More Than Just Credit? The Experience of Credit Unions Building Financial Resilience in Communities'*** which, along with two short films, brings to life some of the most inspiring stories of a number of credit unions, highlighting the impact they can have as credible, ethical alternatives to mainstream finance to meet immediate need and build longer-term financial resilience. Read the report [here](#)

CPO Video Resource. Hear the author Mark Crosby speak with Elizabeth Neep on the importance and the simplicity of creating a church communication strategy in this short video. This video goes along side the book ***'So Everyone Can Hear'*** – colourful, engaging and practical it will help leaders and members alike be more mindful of *how they 'communicate church' both inside and outside of it within our dynamic and ever-changing digital culture.* Read more [here](#)

Trusts and funding :

Dorset Community Foundation - Neighbourhood Fund Open for applications until noon on 15th Jan 2020. Grants of up to £5,000 available for work in area of Older People and Mental Health. Read more [here](#)

Surviving Winter – Fuel Poverty Grants £200 grants available for those meeting the criteria, tel : [01929 775 500](tel:01929775500) or your nearest Citizen's Advice Bureau

Katja Babei, County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in Dorset
Tel : 077899 52472 email : katjactd@gmail.com