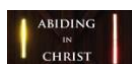




February, 2021

Churches Together in Dorset Newsletter

News



The theme of this year's **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** was 'Abiding in Christ.' Materials were prepared by the ecumenical Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and the theme was based on John 15:1-17 : "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit," expressing the community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

The week was largely celebrated online. In Dorset, Churches Together groups in Verwood, Boscombe, Dorchester and Poole held prayer meetings via Zoom and other platforms ; in Gillingham, a service was held online by St Benedict's RC Church, to which all were invited.

The week was marked by a [live global ecumenical prayer service](#) from the World Council of Churches (WCC). People were invited to acquaint themselves with [Pilgrim Prayer](#), the resource book and new volume in the ecumenical prayer cycle WCC Interim General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca reflected on how the online format allowed people to pray together wherever they were : 'The global pandemic has shown just how fragile we are as humans, yet also how creative and resilient we can be when we pray and work together to bring hope and a sense of caring for each other and for the wider ecumenical family,' he said. 'We are one world and one human family.'

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2021, marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This year's theme was 'Be the Light in the Darkness', and it was widened to include victims of genocide around the world.

The Holocaust Memorial Trust live-streamed a memorial ceremony and the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) produced a [resource](#) including commentaries, prayers, poems and testimonies for use by Christians in a worship setting. Westfield Art College in Weymouth created a display in St Mary's Church to highlight the death of six million people in Nazi death camps, to deliver the biblical message of 'Love Thy Neighbour.' A holocaust memorial service was held in Radipole Park Garden, Weymouth. Pupils at Emmanuel Middle School in Wimborne were asked to respond with a positive message inside a handprint, a poem or artwork, reflecting the Light in Darkness, whilst parents and staff were asked to light a candle in their windows at 8pm. St Edward's RC / C of E School in Poole recorded a poem demonstrating unity in remembrance.

Dorchester Christmas DVD project : a community project supported by members of Churches Together, with help in cash and in kind coming from local organisations and businesses. Over 550 DVDs of this film were given out in Dorchester and surrounding villages to those most needing a Christmas boost - to those in hospital, the hospice, care homes, sheltered accommodation as well as others who are

Wimborne Christian Aid raised just over £1,000 through their Christmas Eve collection for Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, 'Building Hope Together.' Find out more about the appeal and what has been achieved [here](#)

The Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) Management Team submitted a [response](#) to **Dorset Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan Consultation**.

struggling. Alongside the free distribution of films, local shops stocked the DVDs for the general public with a suggested minimum donation going to local charities.

Just over £3,375.00 was raised - way in excess of the project's £2,000.00 target figure. The five charities being supported - Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester Family Support, Dorchester Poverty Action, Home-Start West Dorset and Weldmar Hospicecare - will all receive £675.00. The project has been viewed on You Tube over 2,500 times and the feedback from viewers has overwhelmingly positive, feedback including "Beautiful and uplifting", "Thank you for bringing the spirit of Christmas to us all" and "Lovely to see the community pulling together after a very difficult year." The film is being kept in the Dorchester History Centre as part of their archive.

Pray February During the third national lockdown, Canon Lucy Holt (Rector of St James Poole and Rural Dean of Poole and North Bournemouth) once more called the Churches across BCP and the surrounding area to come together to pray for their communities, the NHS, care settings and schools. Lucy asked whether churches or groups in the BCP area could take a day in February to pray - in different ways as is their tradition - via Zoom, telephone groups, in church if open, or simply at home.

A [prayer resource](#) was developed with general ideas for prayer, set prayers and bible verses and requests from those in particular leadership situations across the conurbation. Lucy also took part in a radio interview on Hope FM on the theme of Prayer, which can be listened to [here](#).

*1 Timothy 2:1 :
"The first thing
I want you to
do is pray.
Pray every way
you know how,
for everyone
you know."*

Opportunities

Faithworks Recovery



'A pandemic within a pandemic.' Prior to Covid there was much speculation about a pandemic of addiction, as this was on the increase. When the pandemic of Coronavirus hit, those in recovery were thrown into further isolation, as well as facing anxiety about the future and uncertainty over jobs, finances and health. Addiction is known as the disease of isolation, and so Covid has compounded lockdown with devastating results.

The Recovery Team have been working hard to find creative solutions that will enable those in and those affected by addictions to still have meaningful connections. More people than ever have been coming forward for support and last year's Recovery Course was available online for the first time, enabling over 250 people to attend the course. Not only is support available across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole but they have been able to equip churches in Ringwood to run The Recovery Course, a support group and a buddying scheme. You can find out more about the support provided [here](#)

However, there is more to be done. Another key aspect of a good recovery journey is daily structure. The team have worked hard to host weekly events such as the socially-distanced walks, telephone support and the newly launched Recovery Days, but the aim is to have a full calendar with an activity every day of the week but more funding is needed to pay for extra staff hours to enable more activities. You can help bring hope to those in and affected by addictions and habits by volunteering (find out more about the new Recovery Telephone Support role [here](#) and other roles by emailing hello@faithworkswessex.org.uk, or by [donating](#).



Take part in the Big Walk for Water 10,000 steps a day, done your way, every day for 40 days, and help to end water poverty. Find out more [here](#)



Dorset Council have produced a **draft Local Plan** containing proposals for guiding future development in the Dorset Council area up to 2038, outlining the strategy for meeting the needs of the area (such as housing, employment, and community services including schools, retail, leisure and community facilities). The plan also seeks to protect Dorset's natural environment and contribute towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

A link to the consultation webpage can be found [here](#) The Council are holding [webinars](#) throughout the consultation period on key themes within the plan. A dedicated phone line [01305 252500](tel:01305252500) will also be available during the consultation period Monday to Friday from 10am – 2pm. Town or Parish councils, organisations or

community groups can attend a planning surgery during the consultation period. Limited spaces are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday from 10am until 2pm. Telephone [01305 252500](tel:01305252500) to reserve a slot.

Revd John Good has set up a social enterprise in Hamworthy called the **Watersports Library** to help everyone enjoy access to watersports equipment, regardless of their financial situation. The Co-op has made the Watersports Library one of their local partners. If you shop in Co-op, you can become a [member](#) and select them as your local cause.

Events

Bournemouth William Temple Association

The next two lectures, in March and May, are intended to be via Zoom.

Monday, 1 March 2021, 7pm - Michael Jones, Sarum College : *"The Psalms"*.

Monday, 10 May at 7pm - Professor David Catchpole, Emeritus Professor of Theological Studies, University of Exeter : *"John the Baptist ...an early Christian Problem?"*

Further information and bookings are via chair@williamtemple.org.uk.

Resources

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



Churches Together in Dorset is looking for a new **Treasurer**. For more information, please contact Katja on [077899 52472](tel:07789952472) email katjactd@gmail.com



Anglican Bishops are offering weekly video reflections in the form of a short homily/sermon that could be used in a Sunday online service.

The videos will be available via Dropbox on a Thursday morning for people to include in any service preparation. They will then be published on YouTube at 1.00 pm on a Sunday, and therefore be available for a wider audience. The Bishops have suggested that churches might also like to consider using the sermons throughout Lent. The first video, prepared by Bishop Nicholas, is available by clicking this [link](#). All subsequent videos can be downloaded using the same link, and previous videos will remain available on [YouTube](#). (The Bishops also ask that, outside of your service, you do not share these videos via social media before they are published on YouTube each Sunday afternoon.)



Opening the Doors: the 'As One' vision

How can the Church respond to the present moment we are in, and the impact it is having on our communities?

On Friday 19th March, 1.30-2.30pm, the C of E is doing a national Webinar on 'As One.' Presenters: Martin Gorick, Bishop of Dudley ; Martin Graham, founder of As One ; Sandra Millar, Head of Life Events and Welcome for the Church of England ; and Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Discipleship. Come and learn about the 'As One' vision, which is bold, large scale, tried and tested, and yet finds its best expression through the local parish church. Register [here](#)
As One has media links on [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

'**A strategic vision for the Church of England in the 2020s**' was presented at the General Synod in November by The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, who expressed how the Church is being called to be 'Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped, but humbler, simpler, and bolder.' The commentary is available [here](#)



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) annual report '[UK Poverty 2020-2021](#)' on the nature and scale of poverty across the UK is out now. Using poverty data, the report examines overall changes since the start of the coronavirus outbreak and includes recommendations.

Church Action on Poverty's new podcast '[Cast To End Poverty](#)' brings stories and insights from across the UK on what exacerbates poverty and what can unlock it, highlighting the steps that can be taken to help to create a more just and compassionate society.



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's [new resource](#), produced jointly with the Council of Christians and Jews, enables churches to explore the issues and challenges around antisemitism.

BCP food map Churches and Christian groups in the BCP area continue to be involved in providing food at this time to those under most pressure. Further information can be found [here](#). The BCP [food map](#) shows all the different food settings where people can get help.



Premier Lifeline has announced an exciting new initiative - the National Christian Helpline called **Call and Care** - which has received funding from the UK

Government Coronavirus Emergency Fund through the Community Fund. It is a project for churches, organisations and community groups to reach out and support people in their communities during these challenging times, when loneliness is isolation are at an optimum, by equipping and training local volunteers to make contact by telephone. Find out more [here](#)



In addition, they have launched **Call5**, a campaign to encourage everyone and take action to use the telephone to contact those who might be in need of someone to talk to, a scheme whereby people sign

up and commit to call five people they know - friends, family or someone in their community - who would welcome a telephone call, a friendly voice and someone to talk to. Although primarily a telephone-based project, it also includes contact through Skype, FaceTime, text, email or whatever the preferred contact method is for those involved. Find out more [here](#)

Responding to the needs of those who are unable or unwilling to use internet facilities, but prefer **magazines or printed notices**, a company with this thought in mind is now working in Dorset. For details contact www.helpandkindness.co.uk for more information.

Lent Courses

There is a wealth of material available for Lent reflections this year, suitable for churches to share together in online courses, others suitable for individuals, using video and reading materials on a number of subjects :

[Church Action on Poverty](#)

[Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#)

[Church of England](#)

[Methodist Church London](#)

[Global Catholic Climate Movement](#)

[Money Makes Change](#)

[The Prayer Course II](#)

[Sat-7](#)

[The Big Church Read with Jeff Lucas](#)

[Women in the Shadows : New Lent Course from the Clewer Initiative](#)

[CAFOD – Stations of the Cross](#)

[Holy Habits : Following Jesus](#)



Bible Society small group resources

Are you looking for discussion material and topics for your church group? The Bible Society has plenty of resources aimed at taking your study of the Bible further, from the popular Bible Course, which gives an overview of the biblical narrative, to the 'Refocus' series which offers short guides to specific topics. Many of the resources can be used and read online – although individual booklets are also available. Find out more [here](#)

Torch Trust, the Christian sight loss charity, is holding free 30-minute taster sessions about becoming a Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC):

Tuesday 23rd February, 7pm

Wednesday 24th February, 2pm

Thursday 18th March, 2pm

Tuesday 23rd March, 2pm



These interactive Zoom sessions offer an opportunity to hear about all the benefits of this free resource, as well as a chance to meet the SLFC team and ask questions. Visit the [website](#) or email slfc@torchtrust.org for more information & to book your place.



Faith in Later Life inspires and equips Christians to reach, serve and empower older people in every community, through the local Church. Find out more [here](#)

Details of any current events at the **Hilfield Priory** are now available on the website at www.hilfieldpriory.org.uk/2020-programme. Tel: 01300 34174 e-mail hilfieldsf@franciscans.org.uk.

Now in its fourth year, **Stir to Action's** democratic learning and action platform is now open for booking! Its Spring 2021 programme of webinars offer capacity-building training for local communities, democratic businesses, third sector organisations, and activists. The new webinars and full programme can be found [here](#)

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