

November, 2018

Pilgrim Post

Churches Together in Dorset Newsletter



News

Churches Together in England

**“I Am With You Always – The Transforming Presence of Christ”
Churches Together in England Forum, Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick,**



“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The CTE Forum, held every three years, is the broadest ecumenical gathering in England, bringing together representatives from the 47 Member Churches and 49 Intermediate Bodies.

Over three hundred representatives of CTE's Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies, Coordinating Groups and Bodies in Association attended this year's Forum on September 17-19th, and it was attended by the six Presidents of Churches Together in England : Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby ; Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols ; Free Churches' Moderator, Hugh Osgood ; President for the Orthodox Churches, Archbishop Angaelos of London ; Revd Canon Billy Kennedy, leader of the Pioneer network of churches ; Pastor Agu Irukwu, Pentecostalist President. The Moderator of the CTE Forum 2018 was Ruth Gee (Chair of the Darlington Methodist District) Hilary Topp (a Quaker working for Student Christian Movement) the Deputy Moderator.

Chris Webb of the Bournemouth Coastal Area Quaker Meeting writes:

I was appointed by our Area to be the Churches Together in Dorset Representative for this current triennium, and was then appointed by Churches Together in Dorset to attend the conference as the Dorset rep, along with our County Ecumenical Officer, Katja Babei.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) were one of the core founder members when the body was established in 1990. From the beginning, as a Friend, I was struck by how central Quakers were in the whole event. The opening worship included hymns, modern worship songs, prayers, readings and poems, together with frequent periods of silence with the following themes – “be still and know that you are in the presence of the Risen Christ.”

During the Forum, we were reminded that “we are called to walk together with others on our mission [in all aspects of our work].” We are all too often troubled by assumptions of our own superiority in our particular ‘way’ : Free Churches President Revd Dr Hugh Osgood said we need to come away from the competitiveness between churches, and start measuring the impact we are having on society. We were reminded of Jesus overturning the tables in the Temple: what table would you turn over within your own denomination? We were also reminded that, for all our enthusiasm and fire, the largest component of ecumenism must be humility, that we need to bring the love of Christ to all our encounters. The transforming presence of Christ must involve losing something of ourselves, for example our certainty of our particular way, in order to gain Christ fully.

It was emphasised how we must understand the nature of the current age in which we are living, and in which we are called to bear witness and minister, and also how much of the present day Church is anaesthetised regarding the enormous problems facing society. Billy Kennedy asked: how often are we the ‘Good Samaritan’ and how often do we walk by? It is easy to want to anaesthetise ourselves from pain. A young Quaker asked at this point, what



The 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) met in June and recommended to the CEC Member Churches six areas for concern in the coming years: ***economic and climate justice, security, arms and nonviolence, refugees and migration, human rights, populism, and the family.***

The importance of each of these areas, and proposals for action, detailed in the full report from the public issues committee, can be accessed in English as a PDF:

https://assembly2018.ceceurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/GEN_PUB_01_Public_Committee_Draft_Report_APPROVED_EN.pdf

Receptive Ecumenism is a concept gaining respect and popularity. Instead of asking what other traditions need to learn from us, we ask what our tradition needs to learn from them, the process bringing about a conversion: the deepening and underlining our respective authentic identities and a more intimate relationship with one another.

Receptive Ecumenism brings into play what Callan Slipper, National Ecumenical Officer for the Church of England calls the *'pluriformity of the Christian experience, and the many gifts that there are...a mutual discovery of truth.'*

CTE has created some free resources for local use.

'Embracing the Other' is a resource produced by a team served by Churches Together in England.

[https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/91312/Home/Resources/Theology/Receptive Ecumenism/What is Receptive/What is Receptive.aspx](https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/91312/Home/Resources/Theology/Receptive%20Ecumenism/What%20is%20Receptive/What%20is%20Receptive.aspx)

would a church that is not anaesthetised look like? Archbishop Angaelos said it would be a church that could feel pain and then address it. He pointed out that the pain in society now is so great that we can't act individually as denominations, that we need to be ecumenical : "Only by working together can we alleviate the pain suffered by so many."

Pastor Agu Irukwu spoke of how God is with us on the hills and in the valleys of our journey, whilst Archbishop Angaelos spoke of the transformative experience that comes through pain.

During the conference we had all been given a thread and these were woven into a tapestry to show our togetherness, finally displayed during the closing service. When it came to the notion of weaving all the threads together, we were reminded that this is an age in which the cloth is being rapidly unwoven.

We were also given three strips of paper to fold into rings and link with everyone else's to make a paper chain which spread all across the room. Everyone had written on their three links words about Incarnation, Journey, and Unity. I can't describe the glorious feeling when the chain was finally finished and held up high!

Finally, we all sang The Lord's Prayer in unison and unity and we were then dismissed and sent on our way with the words of George Fox in 1656 :

"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone."

For me, this was one of the most wonderful events I have attended in recent years, and it was such an incredible privilege to be able to participate, with literally hundreds of others. I had been struck by the huge number of young people there, and the joy they exuded whole time there was inspiring. The whole time there was uplifting, renewing, and joyful. (If you want evidence of the transforming power of Christ, just look at the faces of the people in the photos.)

Reports, photographs and session videos can be found at : www.cte.org.uk/Forum2018
For a copy of Chris' full report, please contact Katja Babei, County Ecumenical Officer

Churches Together in Dorset

Over twenty people from different denominations attended Churches Together in Dorset's Quiet Day, **'The Practice of the Presence of God'**, which was led by +Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, and took place on 6th October, 2018 at Holton Lee, Poole, a wellbeing discovery centre situated in countryside and within a nature reserve.



CTD Quiet Day :

'The Practice of the Presence of God'

"Believe me, you can count as lost each day you have not used in Loving God"
(Brother Lawrence)

The day centred around the writings of Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, a 17th Century lay brother and monastery cook in a Carmelite Monastery in Paris, whose thoughts were compiled into a book after his death.

For Brother Lawrence, 'practising the presence of God' meant developing the habit of frequently remembering God; using our minds and imagination, and directing our spirit, to become constantly alert to God's ongoing presence, and conversing humbly with Him throughout the day, something he himself practised (Brother Lawrence is said to have maintained great tranquility, even when under pressure!).

Against the peaceful backdrop of the surrounding, those who attended the Quiet Day were encouraged to reflect upon their daily life and to consider when they were aware- or how they could become more aware- of God's presence during their busy day ('finding God in the fast lane') and the different ways in which they might 'pray on the hoof', turning to God during 'life's little lay-bys.'

Feedback from the day included the comment of one who said that the day had given those who attended "weeks (or even years!) of further exploration of..our own prayer life."

Churches Together in Dorset intends to hold two Quiet Days in 2019, one during early Summer and one in the Autumn (details to follow).



Poole and Christchurch Conversations



Other News

Young people led the way at the **Poole Conversation 3** event, which took place on 9th October, 2018 at Poole Civic Centre.



A few weeks previously, they had gathered to celebrate what was already great about the town, identify issues which were important to them and come up with ideas and solutions together. The Conversation was their chance to feed back to people from all aspects of the town - statutory, public, voluntary, business and faith sectors. Findings will be published at <http://www.pooleconversation.org/>

The first **Christchurch Conversation** took place on 25th October, 2018 at Twynham School, organised by Christchurch Community Partnership.

Over 60 people from the community and voluntary sectors met to talk about what was being achieved within the community, but also where the gaps are and possible ways forward.

A report can be found at : <http://www.christchurchcommunitypartnership.org.uk/conversation-soup.html> and more details will be published soon on the Christchurch Community Partnership website, as well as on a new Christchurch Conversation Facebook and Twitter page.

Armistice Centenary



Events took place across the county commemorating the cessation of World War 1 on November 11th, 2018.

There were major events, as well as many smaller gatherings.

Poignant art was displayed on Weymouth beach, with the shapes of soldiers created in the sand, and the area saw a Beacon Lighting event.

In Wimborne, there was a remembrance parade which made its way to Wimborne Minster with a Marching Band, followed by the laying of a wreath.

In Sherborne, a Marching Band led the Parade from Hound Street to the Abbey.

Salisbury Diocese has created a group of photos and messages on social media showing events.

Facebook: Diocese of Salisbury

Twitter: #DioSalArmistice

The Unity International Café hosts a lunch every month to celebrate different cultures in the community, based at the Friends Meeting House in Wharncliffe Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth. For more details email info@unity-lunch.org.uk

Regular coffee mornings will take place at **Springbourne Christian Centre** in Curzon Road, Bournemouth every Thursday from 10am. Bottomless tea or coffee plus cake will cost just £1. Everyone is welcome, whether retired, lonely or just wanting to make new friends.

Bournemouth Yellow Buses have donated smart cards with credit to enable rough sleepers supported by the **Sleepsafe** initiative to travel to church venues each night. See below how you can donate towards this initiative.

Hope for Food operates four **Soup Kitchens** each week in the Bournemouth area, including Saturday and Sunday, 52 weeks a year. <https://www.hopeforfood.org.uk/>

Refugee Work

Poole has recently welcomed another refugee family. Anita Dalkin, Churches Together in Poole's Refugee Coordinator, has begun a new initiative, a Ladies' Conversation Group, supporting women from local refugee families.

Plea to Poole churches: some urgent funding is needed for this valuable refugee work to develop and continue in 2019.

Gillingham has recently welcomed a refugee family, where the local Churches Together Group has been making efforts to welcome them.

Events

Voyages of the Slaveship Zong. *The Movement for Justice and Reconciliation* is planning to sail a *replica slave ship* on a public awareness voyage around Britain in **June and July 2019**. The ship will visit some of the ports that were involved in the Transatlantic slave trade, highlighting not only the history but the on-going legacy of this period in British history. Detailed plans for the voyage are currently being finalised but they plan to start the voyage in

**Aspects of
Spirituality 2018
Wimborne Minster**

Nov 28: Revd Ruth Wells, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, West Moors – *‘Finding the Divine in the Gaps : Poetry and Theology in Conversation.’*

Evenings commence at 7pm with refreshments followed by a talk at 7.30pm, questions and discussion and a short act of worship to finish at 9pm. Tickets £4 available from the Parish Office 01202 884753

Email
parishoffice@wimborneminsters.org.uk

**Monthly
Churches
Together in
Wimborne
Prayer Meeting**

King Street
Methodist
Church,
Wimborne, on the
third Tuesday of
the Month
@12.30pm

All welcome

Sherborne Abbey- Insights

Monday, 26th November, 2018:
Canon Bill Cave- *‘What is Truth?’*

Tickets: Parish Office, 3 Abbey Close, DT9 3 LQ tel: 01935 812452

All events take place from 7.30-9pm and are held in The Digby Church Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne DT9 3NL unless stated otherwise

Find more events :

insight.sherborneabbey.com

mid-June in Falmouth, then visit seven other ports in total: Plymouth, Ilfracombe, Liverpool, Manchester, Whitehaven, Lancaster and Bristol.

Christmas Events

Festive Afternoon at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Portland on 15th December 2018, 2.30-4.30pm. Songs, carols, sketches, refreshments, Santa.

Service of Carols and Readings for Christmas followed by mulled wine and mince pies, 22nd December 2018 @ 4.30pm at St George’s Church, Langton Matravers. All very welcome.

‘Follow The Star’ Weymouth and Portland Chamber of Commerce Carol Service, 13th December 2018 @ 6.30-9.30pm at St Mary’s Church, Weymouth.

Ferndown Phoenix Musical Society Charity Carols Evening raising money for Faithworks Wessex. 4th December, 2018 from 7.30-8.45pm at the Cumberland Hotel, East Cliff, Bournemouth.

Advent Carol Service, The Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, Sherborne, Sunday 2nd December 2018 @ 5pm ; **Mothers’ Union Carol Service**, 7th December, 2018 @10am ; **Christingle Service**, Sunday, 9th December 2018 @ 5pm.

‘When Christmas Hurts’ – a gentle Christmas Service of hope for those carrying pain in this season of celebration. St Mary’s Church, Gillingham, Saturday, 15th December 2018 @11am ; **Dementia- friendly Community Carol Service @ 2pm**. All welcome.

Wimborne Minster Carol Service, Sunday 23rd December 2018 @ 7.30pm

Christmas Carol Service in aid of Autism Wessex, Christchurch Priory, Tuesday, 4th December @ 6.30pm

Christmas Concert in aid of Julia’s House, United Church, Dorchester, Saturday 8th December @ 7.30pm ; **Christmas Carols**, Dorchester Community Church, Monday, 17th December @ 6.30pm

Nativity on the Move, the story of the Nativity by torchlight, Radipole Gardens, Weymouth, Thursday, 13th December @ 6pm. All welcome.

Tea and Carols, Wednesday, 12th December @ 3pm, Broadstone Methodist Church, and **Carols on the Broadway**, 22nd December.

Journey to the Stable event, Saturday 8th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December 11am-3pm ; Friday, 14th 11am -2pm ; Monday, 17th and Tuesday, 18th 10am- 2pm ; Thursday 20th, Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd, 10am-2pm. Pop in any time during the above times ,United Church, Dorchester. Phone 01305 848 487 for more details

Churches Together in Bridport Carols and Tree Lighting, St John’s Church, 2nd December @ 3pm ; **‘The Path to Advent Churches’ Meditation**, 5th December from 12-2.45pm, St Mary’s Church, Bridport. **Churches Together in Bridport Christmas Carols, Songs and Readings**, 13th December @ 7pm, Bridport United Church ; **Carols for All**, 19th December at 7pm, at Holy Trinity ; **Blue Light Carol Service**, 20th December at 8.30pm, St Mary’s ; **Bridport Nativity**, 22nd December @ 11am, Bucky Doo Square ; **Boxing Day Carols**, 12.30-1.30pm at St John’s, Bridport.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Churches Together in Poole: United Service, Sunday, 20th January 2019 at 6.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

Bournemouth University Multi-faith Chaplaincy

All Welcome

Dorchester Poverty Action can distribute unwanted winter fuel allowances to where it is most needed in the DT1 and DT2 areas, to those in financial crisis. tel : 01305 260 959 email info@dpag.org.uk www.dpag.org.uk

The **Faithworks Wessex** CMA debt advice team is one of the blue token options at Tesco stores across East Dorset until Christmas. Show your support!

Dorset Community Fund launched its **#SurvivingWinterAppeal** on 6th November. The small staff team and volunteers laid out 520 slippers on Bournemouth Beach to represent the number of *older people who die each winter here in Dorset*. Make a difference by donating at : localgiving.org/appeal/SWA/

Churches Together in Verwood: Christian Unity Prayer Service, Sunday, 20th January, 2019, Verwood Methodist Church

Gillingham, United Services : Friday, 18th January 2018 @ noon, St Mary's church ; Sunday, 20th January @ 3pm at St Simon and St Jude, Milton on Stour ; Wednesday, 23rd January @ noon at Gillingham Community Church ; Thursday, 24th January @ noon at Gillingham Methodist Church ; Friday, 25th January @ noon at St Benedict's RC church.

Broadstone: Christian Unity Service, Sunday, 20th January at St John's.

(Details of more services for the Week of Christian Unity will be publicised nearer the time.)

Opportunities

In 2015, **Dorset Community Foundation** published the first **Hidden Dorset Report**, highlighting local needs within the county.

The report showed how Dorset, known for its natural beauty, home to the internationally renowned Jurassic coastline and the second largest natural harbour in the world, beaches rated amongst the best in the UK and Europe, attractive market towns and idyllic-looking villages, a thriving tourism and financial services and business sector, is a county of contrasts and disparity.

Though some areas perform well across deprivation measurement statistics, with many areas in the top 50% least deprived neighbourhoods in England, social needs are acute in certain areas of Dorset. The report cites, amongst other issues, over-60 income deprivation, fuel poverty, isolation and loneliness, but also rural child poverty and rural isolation, education deprivation, house prices and market rents high in cost in proportion to average earnings, unemployment, seasonal jobs, zero-hour and fixed term contracts resulting in families living hand to mouth and unable to afford basic living costs.

The county is home to a high number of foodbanks and crisis intervention charities. The report cites Weymouth & Portland as the third worst of 324 local authorities in England for social mobility. Homelessness is an issue in the county, and low aspirations and anti-social behaviour in young people who face different barriers.

What can churches do?

The second edition of their Hidden Dorset Report, recently launched, highlights the need for community action and philanthropy.

The report collates existing research on the overall state of the county - focusing on four main themes: **Disadvantage & Poverty ; Work, Education & Training ; Health, Wellbeing & Mental Health; Loneliness & Isolation** – and aims to offer solutions and a way forward. It champions community groups and charities in Dorset who address the issues highlighted, but shows how they are struggling themselves because of funding cuts. Its proposed way forward is 'collaborative action, strategic giving and targeted philanthropy', an ongoing commitment to understanding the needs and challenges in the county and bringing people together to tackle those needs, and the creation of a mechanism for tracking progress and demonstrating positive impact.

The aim is that the Hidden Dorset Report and its findings will be a catalyst for change, helping groups demonstrate the need for their projects, start conversations between donors and recipients, unite communities over a common purpose and bring together representatives from the private, public and voluntary sectors for the good of the county as a whole. Already, there have been conversations like this happening in Dorset, in which the churches have been involved in, as seen in the Poole and Christchurch Conversations. Blandford and Ferndown have also replicated this. **Could your area use such a model?**

Safe Passage is an initiative for unaccompanied Syrian children to be resettled in Britain, is asking that the government funds every local authority to provide 3 foster carers every year for 10 years.

In Dorset, this initiative has been taken up by Bernard Sullivan from Bourton. With a small committee, he is seeking to promote this with DCC and the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, which will become a new authority area next year. What is needed at present is for individuals and organisations to lobby their MP and local councillors to engage with this. More information can be found on the Safe Passage Website <http://www.safeassage.org.uk>

The latest Hidden Dorset report and its findings can be read [here](#)

Chief Executive Jon Yates would welcome your input to this debate and would be delighted to hear from you at jon@dorsetcf.org about any of the issues raised.

Sleepsafe, the winter supported beds scheme for rough sleepers who want to make a change in their lives, began its **2018/19 Mission on 29 October 2018** and runs until **31 March 2019**.

If you know anyone who would be interested in getting off the streets, Sleepsafe's Half-time project is now taking referrals. Self-referral and agency referral applications can be downloaded [here](#) and [here](#) and completed forms handed in to Half-time at 55 Westover Road, Bournemouth, BH9 2BZ

By donating, you can make a difference to local rough sleeper. £25 pays for one guest to have a bed at Sleepsafe each night. You can also text FWWX17 and the amount you wish to donate to 70070 or donate online through [Localgiving](#)

Cheques can be made payable to Faithworks Wessex (please write Sleepsafe on the back of the cheque). You can download a Standing Order form [here](#)

Donate towards Sleepsafe / Yellow Buses smart cards for rough sleepers at the Localgiving page <https://localgiving.org/charity/bcars>

Pooler Outreach Support (POST) can help move rough sleepers into safe accommodation. Call 079668 08802

Hope for Food is collecting treats and goodies for Christmas Hampers for 500 struggling Bournemouth families. Drop off point: new sponsor, solicitors Chester and Co, Ground Floor, 480 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BH14BD

Donations and volunteers are always welcome to support this charity.
Hope for Food storage unit and drop-off point: Tuesday and Thursday, 9am- 12pm, 8 West Howe Industrial Estate BH118JX www.hopeforfood.org.uk
Facebook and Twitter: Hope for Food

Resources

Churches Together in England : The latest CTe-News is available for download at www.cte.org.uk/news.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland : news and resources <https://ctbi.org.uk/>
Weekly Focus https://ctbi.org.uk/weekly_focus/

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Start preparing for #wpcu2019, traditionally observed from 18-25th January . Resources are available to order or download at <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

The theme for 2019 is **Only Justice** with resources originating from Indonesia.

Sarum College courses and events 01722 424800 info@sarum.ac.uk

Sherborne Abbey courses and events <http://sherborneabbey.com/welcome/events/>

Faithworks Wessex

Latest: A new Recovery Support Group for those affected by a person's addiction or habit. For more information email emma@recoverytwo.org www.recoverytwo.org

The **Saltmine Theatre Company** production '**John Newton- Amazing Grace**', which focuses upon the life story of John Newton and the transformative power of grace, has been well received by over 12,000 people at churches and theatres around the UK. It is available for bookings during the May-June 2019 tour, and could be presented to a variety of groups as an outreach event. Contact Joanna Bell, Creative Arts Coordinator on 01384 454807 email creative@saltmine.org for more information.

IBEX (The Church Working in the Economy, Central South West)

<https://www.ibexsouthcoast.org.uk>

Latest : Newsletter, November 2018 focussing upon homelessness – an introduction, local observations, support links. newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org

One Hundred Years After the First World War



The United Reformed Church have launched a pair of booklets to commemorate 100 years since the 1918 Armistice. The unique compilation of stories, reflections, poems and worship material (including a new hymn) especially written by German and British authors. It closes with a commitment to peace building.

The booklets are available as a downloadable pdf at: www.urch.org.uk/british-german-remembrance-resources.html or by ordering printed copies from the URC shop www.urchshop.co.uk (Tel: 0207 916 8629)

Thank you for reading. Please let us know of any ecumenical initiatives which you are involved in or which you would like publicised.

Katja Babej, County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in Dorset

katjactd@gmail.com

Tel: 07789952472

Street Support (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) The one stop information site connecting people and organisations locally, making it easier to help those facing homelessness. <https://streetsupport.net>

Emergency Assistance- The Salvation Army Find out what help is available in your area at www.salvationarmy.org.uk

Kingdom Bank – a Christian “bank with a difference” providing mortgages for the purchase, building and redevelopment of churches and church buildings, mortgages for ministers and church workers, and ‘social return’ mortgages enabling the purchase of properties that can be used for the benefit of the disadvantaged ; insurance cover ; savings accounts for churches and charities [tel : 0115 921 7250](tel:01159217250) www.kingdombank.co.uk

T4CG – a registered charity working to encourage people of goodwill to work together across their differences in strengthening civil society. www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk

Theos Think Tank Insights into contemporary ecumenism www.theosthinktank.co.uk
Latest: Theos’ ongoing project ‘Forgive us our Debts’ examines debt in the UK at personal, corporate and government levels.. In advance of a report launch in January 2019, a free event on Faith-Based and Secular Responses will take place on 10th December 2018, 6.30-8pm at the LSE London.

International Ecumenical Fellowship British contact: collis.rick@gmail.com

Resources to help protect people against **financial scamming**, including the elderly:
National Centre for Post-Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice:
www.ncpqsw.com/financial-scamming
Also : Friends Against Scams friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK Resources for workplace chaplaincy