

# MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

December 2020

Happy Advent and only round the corner now Christmas too! Hope you all have as marvellous and joyful a time as possible, despite the disappointment, darkness and sadness... Many are feeling the winter death and grief with the raging pandemic, but this wonderful season is all about celebrating the light bursting through the dark and joining us for this adventure!

## News

**Revd Canon Jonathan Lloyd appointed County Ecumenical Officer.** On his appointment as the Churches Together in Somerset County Ecumenical Officer, Revd Canon Jonathan Lloyd states *'I am delighted to be appointed as the next County Ecumenical Officer for Somerset. I look forward joyfully to serving the ecumenical mission of God at local and county level, and meeting with and learning from local church communities across my home county of Somerset.'*



Jonathan knows Somerset well. He was born in Wellington and went to Nynehead Church of England Primary

School. In 2021 he will be returning to Somerset with his wife Sue to live in Wells. They have two adult daughters and are expecting their first grandchild. He trained and worked as a psychiatric social worker in London, and was principal social worker at St Christopher's Hospice. He was ordained in the Church of England in 1990. He served as a curate in an urban multicultural South London parish and then as Director of Social Responsibility for the Anglican Diocese of Southwark. In 1997 he moved to Bath as Chaplain for the University of Bath and leader of the Ecumenical Chaplaincy Team, a new team of eight denominations growing together through a covenanting relationship.

Jonathan then served as Priest in Charge for two parishes in Bath, before moving in 2009 to the Anglican Diocese in Europe as Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe (based in Copenhagen, Denmark, and covering the Nordics, the Baltics and Germany). Here he was active in the Porvoo Communion and the work of the Meissen Commission bringing closer relationships between Anglicans and Lutherans.

In 2016 Jonathan moved to Vancouver, Canada, where he is Rector of a large parish and Regional Dean. He is a Canon Emeritus of The Diocese in Europe, and a Tertiary of the Society of Saint Francis. His wife Sue is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist, and they have a chocolate Labrador called Bella. Jonathan looks forward to returning to his Somerset 'roots'.

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

***- The Lund Principle***

## In This Issue

- News
- Events
- Opportunities
- Resources

**Dynamic millennial Pentecostal leader appointed to CTE team.** Churches Together in England (CTE) is delighted to announce the appointment of Shermara Fletcher to the role of Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations, commencing in March 2021. Shermara will lead CTE's work amongst Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, as well as facilitating CTE's new Racial Justice Working Group. Shermara is a dynamic millennial Pentecostal leader with significant experience in community organising, ecumenical engagement, leadership development and public speaking. With roots in the Church of God of Prophecy, Shermara joins CTE from her current role as Director of The William Seymour Project at Centre of Theology and Community, and co-founder of The Open Table homeless ministry at St George-in-the-East, Shadwell.



**Lockdown liberates disabled minister** The Chair of [Churches for All](#) and Minister of Cullompton Baptist Church, Devon, Rev Glen Graham, challenges churches to continue online services that transform disabled people's experience of worship. Churches for All, a network of Christian disability-focused charities, is one of [CTE's Bodies in Association](#). [Glen writes about his experience here...](#)

**Wells Cathedral receives Silver Award from Eco Church.** Eco Church is organised by the Charity 'A Rocha', and its aim is to help the church, and through the church many individuals, to become more aware of their impact upon the environment and in particular, climate change. Wells Cathedral reached Bronze early in the year and have just attained a Silver Award.

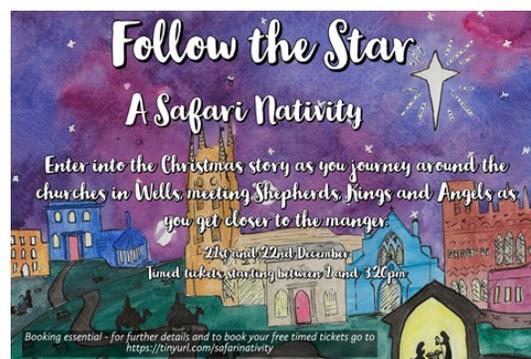
The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: [www.cte.org.uk/news](http://www.cte.org.uk/news) .

## Events (events listed below are virtually based)

**Carols on the Doorstep.** This national initiative supported by Premier Christian Radio, has originated in Lincolnshire. It may be that we can offer this very simple opportunity to sing carols in our neighbourhoods, all around Devon. On **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30pm** the whole country has the chance to join in Carols on your Doorstep. All you need to do is be able to hear Premier Christian Radio. The easiest way is to turn your TV on to channel 725. (There are alternatives with DAB, Internet and the Premier Christian Radio phone app) Premier Radio will play 3 or 4 carols for everyone to sing along to. A 15 minute chance to unite our local communities. Downloadable invitations and carol sheets to deliver to your neighbours plus more details are on the website <https://www.carolsonthedoorsstep.co.uk/> and facebook page [here](#)



**Shine A Light.** Take this opportunity to [join in with this national movement on Monday 21st](#) to celebrate and thank those who have been lights to our nation this year and support those who have suffered: physically, emotionally, mentally, financially, spiritually. Sign up at <https://cpo.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bac51d2c95abeab38a441f573&id=0f82f8d39e&e=e8ab61c791>





## STOP PRESS

You can't cancel Christmas, although it's lockdown year. You can't cancel Christmas, it's not what we want to hear.

You can't cancel Christmas, its message is so clear. You can't cancel Christmas, it means that Christ is here.

You can't cancel Christmas, it's a gift from God above. You can't cancel Christmas, it's the message of His love. You can't cancel Christmas, even if you disapprove. You can't cancel Christmas, It does our spirits move.

You can't cancel Christmas, for God's love remains the same. You can't cancel Christmas, it's when the Christ-Child came. You can't cancel Christmas, it bears my Saviour's name. You can't cancel Christmas, the message we proclaim.

For Christmas has a meaning that nothing can erase. Christmas has a purpose. it shows the Father's face. Christmas has a message. it's love for every race. Christmas is eternal. nothing else can take its place.

(Major Sylvia Lane 2020). Retired officer of The Salvation Army

## Opportunities.

**Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.** "Together, we can build hope." At the end of one of the most difficult years the world has faced, Christian Aid invite you to stand together with them to build hope for the poorest and most vulnerable people. In the face of storms,, drought and disease, your love builds hope. [Find out more or donate here.](#)



Looking for a perfect Christmas present for someone who has everything? Or perhaps you need a treat to look forward to in 2021? Look no further... For somewhere that welcomes anyone and everyone, where punks meet priests, debate meets dancefloor, and belief meets beats, look no further than **Greenbelt**. Watch the 2019 festival film above for a taster; you might even see some familiar faces. [Tickets are now on sale.](#)



An amazing opportunity for your son or daughter!



Could your child be a Chorister in Wells Cathedral Choir?  
"One of the most impressive British cathedral choirs today"  
Gramophone Magazine  
All Choristers are educated at Wells Cathedral School where generous scholarships and bursaries are available  
Auditions: Thursday 21 January 2021  
For an informal consultation and to find out more, please call 01749 834213 or email [admissions@wells-cathedral-school.com](mailto:admissions@wells-cathedral-school.com)  
WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
wells-cathedral-school.org.uk

**Exploring Chaplaincy** This 8 session course will explore what is distinctive about chaplaincy, the theology of chaplaincy and what chaplains actually do. A one page introduction to the course can be [seen here.](#) [Exploring Chaplaincy](#) is appropriate for anyone who is discerning whether chaplaincy is something God may be calling them to, or for anyone soon to take on a chaplaincy role or someone who has just started as a chaplain. Contact [Mike Haslam](#) if you have any questions about Exploring Chaplaincy

In today's technology, with text and email messages becoming the preferred way of communication, it is easy to forget how one phone call can have a positive impact on someone's day. **Premier Christian Radio Call5** project is a Pledge challenge to call five people over the next few weeks. You don't need a reason, just call to say hello. Call5 is about thinking of those people in your life that you haven't been in touch with for months, since life hasn't been "normal".

## Resources

**FaithAction** have produced a useful summary table which helps clarify what is permitted in places of worship. For Somerset, the current tier 2 applies. NOTE: Wherever interaction can take place, social distancing of 1m+ should still be strictly maintained between anyone who doesn't live together or are in a 'support bubble'.



**Scripture Union Connecting You Magazine.** Prefer to read *Connecting You* in a magazine format? [Download a PDF copy](#) or [View the interactive edition.](#)

**A Virtual Musical Advent Calendar! 1st-25th December** Get into the Christmas spirit with a daily dose of glorious music from Wells Cathedral Choir! In recent weeks the Choir have worked hard to record 25 pieces to make up a virtual musical advent calendar, which will be available "to open" from 9.00am each day in the run-up to Christmas Day. Please visit the Cathedral [website](#) or [Facebook](#) to tune in

**For the children? 'Journey To Christmas'** will be an Advent countdown re-telling the story of Christmas with a short video each day from December 1st until Christmas Day itself. Follow from 1-25 December on: [Facebook @bathandwells](#) [Twitter @bathwells](#) [Twitter @GoTeamAdvisers](#) [Instagram @churchofengland\\_somerset](#) [Instagram @goteamadvisers](#) [Youtube @diocesebathwells](#) Share with friends and neighbours, and look out for a few surprises along the way!

**From CTE & CTBI** As we all prepare ourselves for the reality that we will not be celebrating in our Churches with large numbers of visitors, the County Ecumenical Development Officers of [Churches Together in Shire & Soke](#), (covers Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland) Stuart Jenkins and Caroline Hutchings, have collated a wide variety of excellent resources. [Download the PDF \(1.9 Mb\) Caroline and Stuart have put together.](#) [CTBI have also put together a list of the Advent and Christmas resources.](#)

**Premier Radio [Carols for your Church](#)** - With Christmas approaching many church leaders are looking for quality produced carols which don't breach copyright and don't cost a fortune. Check out Premier Radio Christmas resources page and find 25 carols for your online church, plus Christmas and advent reflections from broadcasters Pam Rhodes and Micha Jazz. All downloadable. All free. [Find out more](#)

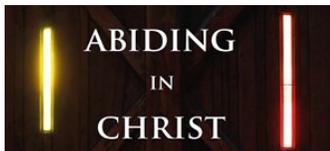


**Go Chatter Videos.** For Christmas Carol Service resources and freely useable carol videos and music, go to <https://gochattervideos.com/> or for more details email [dan@gochattervideos.com](mailto:dan@gochattervideos.com)

**Engage worship offer a range of free to download worship resources**, including Christmas Carols and motion videos. Take a look here <https://engageworship.org/ideas/christmas-carol-videos> They do not seek payment and all files are free to use, but invite donations to Azalea Trust.



**Abiding in Christ: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021** The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) for 2021 has been announced as 'Abiding in Christ'. WPCU is traditionally celebrated between January 18 and January 25 - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. The materials for the week have been prepared by the [ecumenical Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland](#) which has fifty sisters, women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. The theme is based on John 15:1-17 "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" and expresses the Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. For 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the resources are available to [download](#) only and printed versions will not be available to order.



## Contact Us:

**Give me a call for more information on ecumenical life, witness and mission**

**.Churches Together in Somerset**, Alan Dixon, 8 Applewood Close, Chippenham SN14 0JG  
Email [sctogether@outlook.com](mailto:sctogether@outlook.com) Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

**This is the hope we have to offer.** Not just that of a vaccine against a virus, but of a Saviour who has come to conquer sin and death. Jesus comes as hope for us and for all people. He does not come to inoculate us against the destructive forces of a fallen world, but to live alongside us within the pain we have always experienced and which we particularly deal with now. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

