

MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

February 2021

Lent is one of those seasons that we either dread because of its apparent emphasis on self-denial and self-imposed hardship or one that we embrace with enthusiasm because it is a real opportunity to re-assess our lives and take steps to deepen our relationship with God

News

UK faith leaders join to counter fears over vaccine in BAME communities. Campaign is launched in places of worship to dispel concerns and anxieties in groups where job acceptance is low. The pastor of the UK's biggest black majority church is urging members of his congregation to take the Covid jab as part of a new campaign by faith leaders to dispel vaccination concerns among black, Asian and minority ethnic people. The Give Hope campaign also has the backing of Rose Hudson-



Wilkin, the Church of England's first female black bishop, and leaders from Anglican, Methodist, Salvation Army, Baptist, Pentecostal, Evangelical and black majority churches.

Israel must work with Palestinian authorities to make Covid vaccines accessible to Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza. The Catholic Bishops of the Holy Land Co-ordination, an international annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, have released a final communique having met remotely. The Bishops engaged in a number of online sessions to examine the realities and challenges facing not just the Christians but all the people of the region. At a time of political change they have called on Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to recommit to direct negotiations to achieve peace. They implore the governments and political leaders of their home countries to work 'actively' towards this end by "supporting dialogue between all sides, upholding international law, and reaffirming the plurality of Jerusalem, given its unique significance for Jews, Christians and Muslims."

The Moon is Coming to Wells! The Fantastic *Museum of the Moon*, which has travelled around the world and appeared in a great number of exhibitions, is coming to Wells Cathedral this Autumn. From 12th October until 3rd November, this breath-taking recreation of Earth's most beautiful satellite will be suspended from the roof of the Nave, to be taken in by visitors and worshippers alike. A series of events, including concerts, talks and tours, will be held throughout the *Moon's* visit to Wells.



"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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Events (events listed below are virtually based)

Christian Aid's changemakers virtual conference If you support Christian Aid or volunteer to encourage others to give, act and pray during Christian Aid Week, then sign up for this virtual conference from **22 to 26 February**. Share ideas around fundraising and campaigning and be inspired by stories for Christian Aid Week 2021, which focuses on the impact of Kenya's climate crisis. [Find out more details...](#)

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 sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk or email slfc@torchtrust.org for more information & to book your place



Easter Ideas & Resources Chat Join the Go Team on Zoom to chat all things Easter! A space to share ideas and get inspired for our work with children, young people and households this Easter. **Wednesday 24 February, 10.30-11.30** Register for free at <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/easter-ideas-resources-chat/>

CTE Vaccine Webinar. Churches Together in England and mmc-uk (Multi-cultural Marketing Consultancy), working as a client of Government, are running a webinars, on 25 February. 7.00 – 9.00 pm. This CTE webinars will be addressing the issues surrounding resistance to vaccination among Christian communities. Medical professionals and church leaders will address the webinar's audience, and answer questions. The event is open to all, up to a capacity of 1000, and the Zoom joining details will be published on the CTE website www.cte.org.uk.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 5 March Women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) have prepared this year's service. People of all ages are called to 'Build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity. [Resources are available to download...](#) A service is being livestreamed 10.30am. And all are welcome to link in https://youtu.be/29u_QmlDloo

Inspire Online: All Things Young People Join the Go Team on Zoom as they focus on young people aged 11+ at home, church and school, planning to give more emphasis to how we connect with, support and disciple young people in the 11-16 age group. Each Inspire online session will include 3 inspiring short talks from experienced youth work practitioners— An opportunity to hear what young people are saying in 2021— Space to discuss and reflect— Latest resources and ideas for home, church and school. **Tuesday 16 March, 19.00-20.30 Wednesday 17 March, 14.00-15.30 Wednesday 17 March, 19.00-20.30** Register free for one of the sessions at <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/inspire-online-all-things-young-people/2021-03-16/>



Census Day: Sunday 21 March The census is a unique survey that happens every 10 years. It gives a snapshot of all the people and households in England and Wales – the most detailed and valuable information about our society. Everyone in the country will receive a letter asking them to take part. This will help to inform decisions on services that shape our community, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes. Please do this when the time comes.

[Visit the census website for more information and help...](#)

23rd March is the National Day of Reflection. Alongside [Marie Curie](#), churches are encouraged to mark this day of support for the bereaved. Invite your community to your church to pause outside, lay a daffodil, and take a moment of silence to remember and celebrate lives lost. At difficult times like this [Hope In Uncertain Times booklet](#) is one way we can point to the hope Jesus gives. Here are other ways you can support your community.



STOP PRESS

Churches Together in Somerset Annual General Meeting and Forum

4th March 7.00pm

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84054279366?pwd=QlIzZzdVU0ZSOS8zVURyZ0EyNi84Zz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5427 9366
Passcode: 153349

Theme:

“Voices—all are equal in God’s sight?”

Presentations:

PJ Jackson

‘The marginalised voice’

David Maggs

‘The lost voice’

David De La Haye ‘
The Unheard voice’

Opportunities.

Development Director Needed! Wells Cathedral has embarked on an exciting and ambitious phase of development to ensure its extraordinarily beautiful buildings, world-class choral music, stunning grounds and gardens provide the very best facilities, environment and resources for all those who visit. They will lead on their heritage, musical, educational and conservation campaigns to ensure Wells Cathedral is sustainable and able to serve its community as a place of worship, a heritage attraction and as a place of gathering. For further information please see the [Cathedral website](#) or contact Jackie Croft, Chapter Clerk and Chief Operating Officer at Jackie.croft@wellscathedral.uk.net or tel. 01749 832218.

A listening ear. Premier Lifeline, the National Christian Helpline, offers a listening ear, They are open 9:00am to midnight every day on 0300 111 0101. Two new schemes - Call5 and Call and Care - have been created to supplement the helpline and to address some of the isolation and loneliness and rise in people experiencing mental health issues experienced across the country. For



further information [go to their website](#).

Taunton Foodbank - request for help The Foodbank in Taunton was set up by the local churches in 2012 now have an urgent need for someone to join their Board to perform the role of Treasurer, and someone with charity or small business experience to assist in managing receipts, gift aids, bills, etc. (the two roles could be combined).. More information is available from Howard Mathers, Chair of Trustees, who may be reached at hmathers@btinternet.com.

Resources

Lent Courses There is a wealth of material available to help you work through Lent this year. Some churches may be sharing a course via Zoom, but many of the materials are usable on your own, with video and reading material, and on a huge range of topics. Take the opportunity this year to spend 5 or 6 weeks, thinking about your faith and how it works out in daily living. Click the links below.

[Church Action on Poverty](#) [Church of England](#) [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#) [Diocese of Exeter - These are our stories: Lent in a Pandemic Year](#) [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) [Holy Habits: Following Jesus](#) [Methodist Church London](#) [Money Makes Change](#) [SAT-7](#) [The Big Church Read with Jeff Lucas](#) [The Prayer Course II](#) [Women in the Shadows: New Lent Course from the Clergy Initiative](#)



Bible Society small group resources. Are you looking for discussion material and topics for your church group? From their popular *Bible Course*, which gives an overview of the biblical narrative, to their ‘Refocus’ series which offers short guides to specific topics, you can soon find the next course for your group. With so much happening online these days, they have adapted many of the resources so that they can be used and read online – although individual booklets are also available. Make sure to check out both digital and print products. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/christian-books/for-groups/>

Go Chatter Videos. Still more videos of children's songs from the [Little Worship Company](#) to get children engaged and praising God



Pray for Bath have a new website, www.prayforbath.org.uk is now live. You can sign up to receive daily prayers by email. Prayers for the city, for its institutions and communities, focusing on the challenges and opportunities that all face. As they go through the period of Lent, thousands of people from all the churches will again uphold the city in prayer at this vital time.

NEW: Politics in the Pulpit? The Joint Publications Team, have launching a new preaching resource! 'Politics in the Pulpit?' is JPIT's new lectionary-based preaching resource, available by video and podcast, in weekly 30 minute episodes. Episodes will be released on Tuesday mornings. You can view or listen on their website, or subscribe on your preferred platform. Watch or listen now at <https://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk/1MV9-78V51-3AWSSG-4CNDOD-1/c.aspx>

CPO Worthing. Resources for Lent, Mothers Day, Holy Week and Easter, Prayer and Pastoral as well as digital resources. Go to <https://www.cpo.org.uk/>

Bible Society Easter booklet for children is available to pre-order. [All About Easter: A Resurrection Rhyme](#) was written by Bob Hartman and features vibrant illustrations by Mark Beech. Based on chapter 24 of Luke's Gospel, this booklet is a good conversation starter to help children explore what is truly exciting about Easter. There are four pages of thought-provoking and fun family activities too.

Riding Lights Play. With stark intimacy, *Breaking Day* casts a surprising light on the death of Jesus from inside the Governor's household, immersing you in the decisions that led to crucifixion. Filmed remotely in an innovative lockdown style, *Breaking Day* is a virtual passion play for Easter 2021, available to church groups from 15 March to 15 April, and individuals from 19 March to 15 April <https://ridinglights.org/breaking-day-for-churches/>



Thy Kingdom Come 2021: 13 to 23 May The global, ecumenical prayer movement, *Thy Kingdom Come*, is now in its sixth year. Keep an eye [on their website](#) for news about plans and resources for this year, which will include an 11-part, family-friendly programme and a prayer journal written by the new Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. [Explore Thy Kingdom Come...](#)

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