



CHURCHES TOGETHER in Herefordshire



HEREFORDSHIRE NEWS

Church – and Churches Together Groups are continuing to find new ways of working. 'Zoom' has been great for those who've tried it. Let me know if you want to know more about this way of online meeting.

Please let me know too, where churches have been working together to support their communities so that I can share with others.

Deadline for copy for the next newsletter – 25th May.

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Churches Together in Herefordshire - Open Meeting



Churches Together in Herefordshire's Open Meeting was to be held this month and we were going to be hosting Paul Northup, the Creative Director of the great Christian festival 'Greenbelt'. Inevitably our Open Meeting and Greenbelt have both been cancelled, sadly, but Paul has agreed to come and talk

to us next May instead. Put Wednesday 5th May 2021 in your diary!

Christians Together in Orleton Community Support - COVID-19

The community of Orleton are coming together to support each other and Christians Together in Orleton are providing spiritual sustenance and support as well as organising activities for the younger members of the village. Following the success of the Advent Windows, residents were asked to provide a Spring themed window – and then Easter Eggs (and children asked to count them up with a prize for the nearest answer).

Weekly service sheets offering a variety of worship are distributed around the village; a 'Phone a Friend' scheme has been set up whereby people are paired with an elderly or housebound person to provide a friendly voice and a chat.

Churches Together in Ewyas Harold – Pentecost prayer and community support

The Christians in Ewyas Harold are continuing to pray and work

together for their community. They are planning a set of prayers for individuals to use at home or when walking through the village on daily exercise or for essentials. The prayers will focus on praying for the people and activities of their village, as they would have done during a Pentecost Prayer Walk, had they been able to walk together. This special set of prayers can be sent to you on request. To find out more, contact the CTEH secretary, Sue Young: sue@2youngs.co.uk. She can also send links to local online services.

Christians Together in Ledbury – Joint Zoom Worship & Prayer

The Churches in Ledbury are continuing to come together with different groups growing for ecumenical worship every evening at 8pm, online via Zoom.

They also meet for Joint Zoom Prayer every Thursday at St Michael's Church at 7am, 12 noon and 8pm. If you would like to join them, please contact Rev Tony Hodder and he will send you the appropriate link: tony.hodder@gmail.com

Vennture COVID-19 Emergency Response



Vennture, the Herefordshire ecumenical support organisation needs volunteers to help them as new projects grow - projects set up specifically to address the needs of vulnerable people during the Coronavirus pandemic:

1. Volunteers (under 60 years, with no underlying health issues) to join the **daytime Street Pastors** (at the request of the police) to walk Hereford city centre, providing a reassuring street presence to anxious individuals needing support in town. This project has been successfully received, with teams walking the city daily. They would appreciate more volunteers, as well as volunteers to start similar projects in Ross and Leominster.

2. 20 – 30 volunteers to learn to be **'Safe and Well Phone buddies'**, to reassure people with vulnerabilities (newly housed homeless) purely on the phone, giving them a call 2 times a day, daily. This project has begun with a handful of trained volunteers and more are needed.

Training (including safeguarding) for both these groups will be provided.

If you would like to know more, or offer some of your time to these projects, please fill in a

contact form online
<http://www.vennture.org.uk/contact/> or
email enquiries@vennture.org.uk

Hereford Churches – Zoom Prayer meetings

Christians from all over Herefordshire have been joining together to pray for an hour every Monday evening, at 7.30pm. You can join them by clicking the Zoom link on the Herefordshire Houses of Prayer Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/herefordprayer/>

CBN (Europe) – Operation Blessing Hope Line



Christian Broadcasting Network, the international Christian organisation (based in Hereford) wants to step up efforts to demonstrate churches pulling together in these extraordinary times. They are launching an Operation Blessing lifeline for people who need a listening ear, support and prayer. The callers may be elderly, or anyone who feeling isolated and needing someone to talk to. Training will be provided. The volunteer must be willing to use their own smartphone to download a free app. There will be no cost to the volunteer.

They are now recruiting volunteers to help man the lines and answer calls. For more information and how to apply, please visit www.cbneurope.com/volunteer or email volunteer@cbneurope.com

Christian Aid Week



With churches in lockdown, the need to help Christian Aid is as desperate as ever. There are many current fundraising ideas on their website – including a quiz hosted by Rev Kate Bottley on 2nd May.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

HOPE Together - COVID-19 Bereavement Support



A coalition between HOPE Together, Care for the Family, the Church of England and At A Loss, is developing support for the increased numbers of people who are bereaved at the time. Find out more about the church response at <https://www.lossandhope.org/> and share the website <https://www.ataloss.org/> as a source of advice on bereavement and loss.

Thy Kingdom Come



The joint churches global wave of prayer initiative, calling for all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ, takes place 21st-31st May. It will look very different this year, but there are prayer resources for churches, individuals and families on the website. Find out more: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>