



#candleofhope

HEREFORDSHIRE NEWS

Church – and Churches Together Groups are trying to find new ways of working. This newsletter will have current news as well as links to support, prayer and opportunities for volunteering.

Please let me know 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 April.

Anna Nugent

County Ecumenical Officer

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Christians Together in Ledbury – Joint Worship & Prayer

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

They also meet for Joint Prayer every Thursday online at 7am, 12 noon and 8pm. If you would like to join them, please contact Rev Tony Hodder and he will send you the link:

tony.hodder@gmail.com

Vennture –
how to
volunteer



Vennture is the Herefordshire ecumenical organisation that runs Street Pastors, Lean-on-Me, Family Pastors as well as a Building Better Opportunities project working with unemployed individuals. The Link workers continue to work with families and individuals – please pray for them trying to develop trust relationships without the ease of face-to-face meetings.

Vennture need volunteers to help them as they adapt to the needs of vulnerable people during the Coronavirus pandemic:

1. Volunteers (of younger age groups, 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.
2. 20 – 30 volunteers to learn to be **'Phone Mentors'**, to reassure people with vulnerabilities

(newly housed homeless, those with addictions and others) purely on the phone, giving them a call 2 times a day, daily. 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

Churches Together in Ewyas Harold – prayer and community support

The Christians in Ewyas Harold are continuing to pray and work together for their community. The House of Prayer is continuing with the group committing to be in prayer on a Wednesday morning at the same time, and taking prayer requests. Churches Together in Ewyas Harold are also active on the Coronavirus Help Facebook group, providing listening or practical help to support the most vulnerable. To find out more, contact the CTEH secretary, Sue Young: sue@2youngs.co.uk

Volunteer Opportunities/ need help – Herefordshire

Herefordshire.gov.uk

Herefordshire Council are co-ordinating opportunities to volunteer with the general population in the County – fill in the online application form which can be found here: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/covid19help>

If you are socially isolated and need help from community volunteers, you can also register on the Council's website [here](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/covid19help) or call 01432 260027

CBN (Europe) – Operation Blessing



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. Their existing CBN team as well as a team of volunteers will answer calls to the helpline, with the aim to listen, and if appropriate, provide helpful information.

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

Hereford Churches – Church Leaders' Prayer meetings



Herefordshire Church leaders, ministers and pastors are continuing to meet online via 'Zoom', praying and discussing practical ways to support the most vulnerable in the community. For updates and a joint Easter message from many of the Church Leaders, see the Herefordshire Houses of Prayer Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/herefordprayer/>

Herefordshire Interfaith Group – A Pilgrimage for Peace



Members of Herefordshire Interfaith Group were joined by Clare Balding last month, for a restorative walk on the Malvern Hills, pausing to reflect and to share readings on the themes of Pilgrimage and Harmony with Nature. The walk was recorded for the BBC radio programme

'Ramblings'. The programme can be heard [here](https://www.bbc.com/radio4/ramblings) For more info: www.herefordshireinterfaith.org.uk

Churches Together in England – National Call to Prayer



PRAYING
for you, praying
for everyone.



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Last month, the Joint Presidents of Churches Together in England issued a call to prayer in the light of the Covid 19 pandemic. On 22nd March (Mothering Sunday) candles were lit in the windows of houses up and down the country as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

To build on the success of this, and to keep the prayer going, CTE have offered a poster to put in windows as evenings get lighter to encourage #PrayersOfHope. The poster can be downloaded [here](https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/338958/Home/Coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx). There is also a black and white version if you prefer, or one that can be coloured in.

We are encouraged to pray at 7pm on a Sunday evening, knowing you are praying alongside Christians all around the country.

For prayer resources and guidance around church and Covid19, see the CTE website: <https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/338958/Home/Coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx>