



## HEREFORDSHIRE NEWS

*As churches begin to open and plans made for life-after-lockdown, there are resources and projects aplenty for you to look into.*

*God's people have been busy in Herefordshire - working together to support their communities in many different ways. Let me know of churches and Christians working together near you.*

*Deadline for copy for the next newsletter – 25<sup>th</sup> August.*

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### **Churches Together in Ross – Summer event**



The churches in Ross are praying that they will be able to reach out to their community this summer with a family fun day and picnic lunch at the bandstand and river in Ross, one day in mid August. At the invitation of Ross Baptist Church, they want to hold a joint day of songs, prayer and fellowship. At the time of writing, these are just ideas

because of Government COVID-19 rules. Please pray with them for the realisation of this summer outreach.

### **Vennture – COVID-19 Emergency Response**



Vennture, the Herefordshire ecumenical support organisation that 'Gives meaning to the power of Jesus' Love', is going from strength to strength and they run projects that need our prayers and new volunteers.

There are an estimated 4000 vulnerable people in the county: 1100 troubled families; 200 newly-housed homeless / sofa surfers; 400 individuals with registered addictions. Vennture now has projects that can positively impact on many of these lives. Could you be a volunteer (with excellent training, safeguarding and support), for one of the following projects?

**Daytime Ambassadors:** many volunteers for this project supporting anxious and lonely folk in the city centre are

returning to work and Vennture would like to continue to cover shifts every day – could you help?

**Housing the homeless:** look out for adverts for more link workers to support this project in the weeks to come. Pray that the newly-housed homeless engage with the help offered.

**Family Pastors:** as more face to face meetings are held with families in need, please pray for the link workers and volunteers as they walk alongside families, helping them to move towards a good family life.

**Street Pastors:** as pubs open once more, night-time Street Pastors are back on the streets, supporting emergency services and keeping people safe. If you think you could help, they need new volunteers. Pray for the teams this weekend.

Your prayers are appreciated. If you want to know more, contact Vennture Tel 0330 20 20 730 [enquiries@vennture.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vennture.org.uk)

### **Herefordshire Houses of prayer – Zoom prayer evening**

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/>

## Herefordshire Interfaith Group The Spiritual Journey



Following the success of their first online meeting, you are invited to join the Herefordshire Interfaith Group for the next one on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 11am – 12.30pm with the theme 'The Spiritual Journey'. They aim to create a nurturing and healing space to support the community and the meeting will include meditations, songs, poems, prayers and reflections. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting please contact Mike: 01981 500764 or email [hello@herefordshireinterfaith.org.uk](mailto:hello@herefordshireinterfaith.org.uk)

## Churches Together in England - Communion in the light of COVID-19



The Society for Ecumenical Studies, in conjunction with CTE, The Tablet and Reform, is hosting a webinar on Communion in the light of COVID-19 to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 6-7.30pm. This is the first in a series of three webinars on themes

around the response of the Churches to the situation created by the current pandemic.

The speakers will be Revd Dr John Bradbury (incoming General Secretary of the URC), Dr Sara Parvis (Senior Lecturer at University of Edinburgh), and Dr Matthew Cheung Salisbury (Liturgy and Worship Adviser to the C of E). The evening will be chaired by Rev Dr Elizabeth Welch. Find out more [here](#) – and to book with a suggested donation of £5:

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/events>

## HOPE Together – Talking Jesus Course

The HOPE Together 'Talking Jesus' course is ideal for small groups and recommended by the Dr John Sentamu who said: 'This inspiring course will help Christians to be witnesses to Jesus Christ wherever God has placed them'.



HOPE Together is making this course free and available to watch online as well as on DVD and USB during COVID-19 lockdown – the promotional offer runs until the end of August 2020. Find out more [here](#)

## United Reformed Church - discussion document



The URC has put together an excellent discussion paper giving guidance to churches making

plans for after the lockdown – applicable to many church contexts. It can be found here: <https://urc.org.uk/new-normal.html>

## Allchurches Trust – Growing Lives grants programme



The Allchurches Trust is one of the UK's largest grant making trusts, and has a specific grant programme, Growing Lives, aiming to help churches and Christian organisations to connect with children and young people and forge lasting links with families in their local area.

The programme will encourage church growth. Grants of up to £25,000 are available to churches of all denominations and Christian organisations running innovative, impactful projects that are helping young people to explore and grow in faith. <https://www.allchurches.co.uk/grwoin-glives>

## Greenbelt Festival 2020 - online



Greenbelt will be looking different this year, but more people than ever can join in virtually. From livestream performances to reflective blogs; from archive talks to special artist features. To find out more: <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>