



More positive news from Herefordshire and beyond this month.

If you have plans for next month's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, please let me know so I can spread the word! Deadline for copy for the next newsletter – 16th December.

Anna Nugent

County Ecumenical Officer
herefordshireceo@gmail.com

Churches Together in Herefordshire – Open Meeting



Churches Together in Herefordshire met together online last month to hear Bishop Richard Jackson's thoughts on the key verses in St John's Gospel, Chapter 17. Around 30 participants heard him suggest that through our relationships with each other, we can enter into the reality of what Jesus really desires for his church.

The next Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 when the speaker will be Paul Northup, Greenbelt Creative Director – venue or zoom to be confirmed.

In the meantime, do you know someone who might be our Treasurer? The wonderful Gordon Powell is retiring and we are looking for someone to step in – full volunteer role description available from herefordshireceo@gmail.com

Churches Together in Ewyas Harold – Christmas banner

Churches Together in Ewyas Harold are



keen to communicate the Christian message to their community over Christmas and will be putting up a banner in the village (which can be used in future years too).

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity plans are underway for January 2021, with different churches leading 15 minutes of prayer every evening at 8pm, via zoom. To get the link, please email sue@2youngs.co.uk

Churches Together in Hereford – Advent Hope

Churches Together in Hereford have created a **Prayer Advent Calendar** with contributors from the many different churches across the city. Each day until Christmas Day will have a focus Bible verse, a very short reflection and a prayer, covering many aspects of city life. The reflections and prayers can be found on the CT Hereford Facebook page and here: <https://hhop.org.uk/>

Elliot Swatridge, Chair of Churches Together in Hereford, is gathering together short and hard-hitting testimonies

witnessing “**God in Time of Coronavirus**” to publish into a book in the new year. He is looking for stories from Christians from all different churches across Herefordshire, of how God has worked in diverse and wonderful ways amongst us. If you have a potential contribution, please get in touch with Elliot curate@spsj.org.uk

Churches Together in Ross – Christmas poster



The people of Ross will have no doubt as to where and how they can celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, as there will be posters all over the town with links to each church and fellowship, as well as a QR code which takes you to the Churches Together in Ross website for the same links. <http://ctrd.org.uk/churches/4594217237>

Christians Together in Orleton – Advent Window Trail



Every year, the people of Orleton are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas as they wander through their village, passing Advent Windows. Other households have been invited to decorate a tree in their garden or window. Christians Together in

Orleton (Anglicans, Methodists and Chapel Group) continue to worship together – see the churches for dates and times. They wish everyone a blessed Christmas.

Vennture – Christmas wishes



Vennture are suggesting 5 ways to show you care, that won't cost a penny this Christmas.

1. Buy online through *The Giving Machine* or *Amazon Smile* and choose Herefordshire Vennture as your charity.
2. Organise a Vennture fundraising event with your friends or colleagues to change a child's life.
3. Donate your work's Secret Santa money to Hereford Street Pastors to help people come home safe.
4. Persuade your friends to organise a New Year sponsored walk, run, swim, canoe, cycle, mountain climb, bake-off, coffee morning, haircut – or whatever! – for Vennture's work with vulnerable people.
5. Ask your employer to make Vennture their chosen charity for the coming year – suggest they do some corporate fundraising and set-up a payroll giving scheme for Vennture. Or, give online at www.give.net/herefordvennture//oneoff

World Day of Prayer 2021 – Hereford planning



The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer) will fall on Friday 5th March next year and plans are already afoot for a service in Hereford (hopefully physical, but possibly online). This is an ecumenical movement and the group would welcome people from as many churches in Hereford as possible to be involved in the planning. Please ring Rosi Taylor 01432 266826 or email wwdphereford@gmail.com if you are interested.

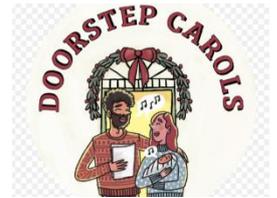
Light up a Life – Virtual Service



St Michael's Hospice encourages us to celebrate a loved one's life every year at a variety of venues (some services run by Churches Together groups). This year, more than ever, we are aware of loved ones who have died and want to remember them. St Michael's Hospice invites you to join them for a virtual service, filmed at Hereford Cathedral, which will be broadcast online on Sunday 20th December at 5pm, and available to view thereafter. To find out more and to make your online dedication, visit the website:

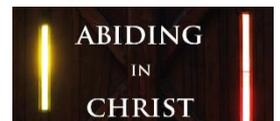
<https://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/event/light-up-a-life/>

Doorstep Carols – join in!



Carols on the Doorstep started in Shropshire but the idea has spread round the country, with BBC Hereford & Worcester getting involved locally. On Wednesday 16th December, at 6pm, we are all invited to go onto our doorstep and sing along with carols broadcast on the local radio station. Carol sheet downloadable from the link. Donations are optional, but it would be great if Carols on the Doorstep could help raise money for local charities. For more details, visit the local page [here](#)

Churches Together in Britain & Ireland – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resources



Resources are available to download for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021, traditionally held between 18-25 January. Materials have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland – available for download only. They are flexible and suitable for online use. The theme is 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit' based on John 15 1-17 and expresses the Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity. <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>