



*I'm Emma Wright, the new County Ecumenical Officer. If you would like to send me any information for the March 2023 newsletter, please send it by 25<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you!*



**Churches Together in England – Storytelling Workshops** online Churches Together in England and the Council of Lutheran churches are running a series of three webinars in February exploring the art of storytelling in the contemporary church. They will be held on Thursday 2nd, 9th and 16th February 12.30-2pm on Zoom. ‘The art of storytelling’; ‘The art of spoken word’ and ‘The art of media engagement’ are the topics of the webinars. For more details, see

<https://cte.org.uk/storytelling>--



Oddments Theatre Co presents *The Road to The Cross: Palm Sunday to Pentecost*. This contemporary play portrays the last few weeks of Jesus’ life, including the turning of the tables, the Last Supper, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Pentecost.

This show will make you laugh and cry you explore God’s overwhelming love for mankind.

Suitable for ages 14+ (Please be aware that this performance contains scenes of a graphic nature. Viewer discretion is advised.)

For more information, please contact us:

T: 01935 471547 E: [bookings@oddments-theatre.co.uk](mailto:bookings@oddments-theatre.co.uk)

**Cost of living crisis: A call to prayer**

Christians Against Poverty (a Body in Association with CTE) are coordinating a day of free

prayer events in London on Wednesday 8 February to respond to the living crisis in prayer and action.

**Afternoon Listen and Pray sessions:**

2pm – *A Great Divide: The Disproportionate Effect of Poverty on Minority Ethnic Groups*. Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary, Churches Together in England.

3.30pm – *A Torn Safety Net: How the Cost-of-Living Crisis Threatens its Own Last Line of Defence*. Hannah Rich, Senior Researcher, Theos.

5pm – *A Governing Church: Raising your Voice to See Change in a Time of Crisis*. Pastor Leke Sanusi, Chairman and Head of Mission, Redeemed Christian Church of God UK (RCCG).

All the sessions take place at Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6BS.

**Evening Prayer Event**

7pm Lament to Hope. Paul Williams, CEO of Bible Society.

Join this session in person at Westminster Chapel or online.

Book for any/all of the in-person prayer sessions or the evening prayer event online.

Download the flyer for Cost of living crisis: a call to prayer (pdf). For more info, click the link:

[Cost of living crisis: A call to prayer – Churches Together in England \(cte.org.uk\)](https://www.cte.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis-a-call-to-prayer)



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2023

STEPHEN LAWRENCE

## SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)

22 April 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the racist killing of Black teenager, Stephen Lawrence, in Eltham, southeast London. In many respects, Racial Justice Sunday is one of the many legacies of Stephen Lawrence's life. As such, in marking RJS, churches are remembering a young man who in life aspired to be an architect, but whose legacy has seen him become an architect for justice, equality, dignity and unity.

This anniversary is a key moment for church and society on these islands. Stephen's killing was very much Britain's 'George Floyd moment' as it

clearly revealed the ugly face of British racism, in terms not only of the hatred of those who took this young man's life, but also of the institutional variety that characterised the appalling investigation into his killing. Akin to all such tragedies, it is a moment for reflection which will enable us to assess what, if any, progress has been made since that tragedy.

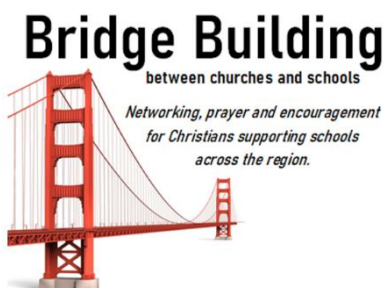
Racial Justice Sunday resources are produced by CTBI's sponsoring churches. The resource for 2023 will provide readers with opportunities to pray and take action on racial justice-related matters.

If you would like to find about more about the resources, click on the below link:

[Racial Justice Advocacy Forum Launch – Churches Together in England \(cte.org.uk\)](https://www.cte.org.uk/racial-justice-advocacy-forum-launch)

The Diocese of Hereford is putting on an event that allows people to pray for schools across the region: 14th February 2023 from 10am-11am. They meet once a half term for one hour and each session runs from 10am to 11am. This provides a great opportunity to learn from one another, to listen to a talk from a guest speaker and pray together about how we can support our schools.

<https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/60187623b57f6/content/pages/documents/2022-year-pub.pdf>



**An online Week of Accompanied Prayer led by Revd Preb Nick Helm**

**Date:** 26th February 2023

**Time:** 6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Opening Meeting:** Meet together Sunday 26th February 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm on Zoom for everyone involved: the week will be described in more detail; you will meet your prayer accompanier and decide on a time to meet as well as have a 'taste' of what may happen.

**Meet and Pray Monday - Friday:**

- **Pray:** Set aside 20 – 30 minutes each day at a time convenient for you to have a go at **prayer** (ways and resources are offered)
- **Meet** with your 'prayer accompanier' for up to 30 minutes on zoom at a time you arrange with them

**Meet Together:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 9:00am - 10:00am, all involved gather to reflect on the week, give thanks and receive ideas for going further.

**Closing date for booking: Sunday 12 February**

To register for this event, please use the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85994635265?pwd=VTFQS1YwdHFRWNsTUVRcldwMXFOZz09>



-----  
Just Pray

**Join us for 'Just Pray'** - on the 22nd of every month - online for 20 minutes. Come and pray for people to come to know Jesus. We will be on Facebook Live!

Could you mobilise a **prayer group** from across churches to pray together for your area - a 'Just Pray' group? Just choose a time and place.

You can also join the 'make prayer a habit' team. What do you do every day that could remind you to pray for a friend or family member to come to faith?

Click on the link: [Hope Together: Pray With Us](#)

## Pioneering Parishes: Starting Out

A series of webinars to help parishes start to move their energy outwards, become more pioneering and network with others

Tools to help parishes become more pioneering

Here is a reminder that the last of four evening webinars presented by Tina Hodgett and Greg Bakker, hosted by CMS and the South Central Regional Training Partnership is on 27<sup>th</sup> February from 7:30pm to 9pm on Zoom.

This webinar will focus on a number of tools to help parishes become more pioneering in their outlook and approach.

Who's it for?

PCC members, parish clergy, people exploring a pioneer call, diocesan parish support staff, anyone searching for tools to help them shift the energy of the parish outwards beyond the church walls.

What can I expect?

A space for sharing practical wisdom, an entry to a community of practice, informality, warmth and fun, a set of fresh lenses for viewing parish life and there will be stories from practitioners.

### What content will we cover?

Over the 4 evenings we will have conversations about the key strategic tasks for parish life:

- Adopting shared values with the church and community as a basis for all decision making
- Shaping a missional consensus and prioritising principles over personal preference
- Enabling a re-directing of resources towards those who are unconnected
- Enabling those with a specific call to pioneering and advocating for pioneering
- Fostering a permission-giving, risk-taking culture, and letting go of control

### How much does it cost?

The basic cost is a total fee of £10 for all four sessions (£2.50 each).

If you bring a team from your church, the maximum you need to pay is £50, any additional participants are free.

The real cost for the facilitation is much higher, so if you feel able to contribute a little more you are helping to support the continuing growth of this work. But please come and join us

either way. We'd love to see you.

[Pioneering Parishes: Starting Out - Church Mission Society \(CMS\)](#)

---

### **Imagine Church Envisioning Evenings | LICC Imagine Church Envisioning Evenings**

Dates:

Part 1: 27 February | 7:15pm - 9:00pm

Part 2: 6 March | 7:15pm - 9:00pm

Join Steve Rouse, Church Team Director, as he shares what LICC has learnt about how to create a whole-life discipling church and helps you identify next steps for your context.

Running across two evenings to fit around busy work schedules, this workshop is designed specifically for ministers and church leadership teams to come together and discover:

- The biblical vision for whole-life discipling
- The principles, practices and processes that make whole-life discipling possible
- Case studies and examples that embed those principles in real life contexts
- A framework and next steps for creating a whole-life discipling culture in your church

Filled with practical advice, biblical insight, and opportunities to discuss with peers from other churches, these online evenings are the perfect way to get equipped and inspired for whole-life ministry.

As one church leader recently said, 'We found it really helpful in clarifying and focusing on our mission. The fact that there are so many stories coming out from so many different places about the difference that [the whole-life] approach makes shows how authentic it is; it really does work! Programmes come and go, but this is about changing the DNA of the church.'

Cost: £20 per church (for two evenings)

Programme outline

7:15pm, 23 February

First evening

A vision for whole-life discipling, the church challenge, and the discipleship challenge

7:15pm, 6th March

Second evening

The mission challenge, discipleship health check, how to make a start, and hear from those who've done it already.

