



Hello. If you would like to send me any information for the November 2023 newsletter, please send it by 25th October. Thank you!

News from Churches Together Groups

Leominster

Churches Together in Leominster have responded to the call for people willing to help provide support to the asylum seekers newly moved to Leominster's Talbot Hotel. Members have helped distribute envelopes requesting financial donations and helped with the collection, and sorting of clothing and toys donated. They have been part of the team looking to provide language support on a voluntary basis. Also, they have offered a weekly town walk to encourage the Talbot residents' confidence around the town. The Leominster Asylum Seekers Support (LASS) team is led by staff from the Anglican diocese, but the members are made up from a variety of bodies and individuals both from different Christian denominations and secular.

We had our AGM in September and said thank you to our retiring Chairman Paul Scott who is stepping down after many years of service as Vice Chair and then Chair. We are grateful for his work and are glad he will continue to support us in the group.



Hereford

After the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the exhilaration of Easter, Christians Together in Hereford (CTH) have been quietly working over the summer, seeing how they want to be structured going forwards. We hope lots of people will come along to our next AGM to hear what we have planned for the next few months. When CTH have a date, the CEO of CTiH will send out an email to all Hereford contacts.

One of those planned events will be the World Day of Prayer service (or, hopefully, services) on Friday 1st March 2024. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please contact Rosi Taylor (rosi.taylor54@googlemail.com / 07821197219 / 01432266826)

Ross-on-Wye

CTRD's Harvest event had a great turnout of around 50 people. Andrew White from CLC Ross was talking about the importance of connection between Churches and how connection and ecumenical fellowship is integral in unifying the Church.

Vennture has contacted Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District to promote the Street Pastors role in Church services and help network with Church leaders. Vennture are looking for volunteers that would like to participate in Street Pastors in Ross-on-Wye. If you would like to know more information about the Street Pastors role, please contact Ian Purcell who can provide you with more information. His email address is Ian.Purcell@vennture.org.uk

Faith in Art: Local Christian Creatives' next session is on Saturday 14th October. If you are a creative person and you would like to get

involved, please contact faithart@gmail.com or office@westherefordteam.org.uk

Here are some ideas about ecumenical activities that your Church/Churches Together group could do:

Thy Kingdom Come 23 resources:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2023-01/TKC%2023%20Ideas.pdf>



Churches Together in England

The CEO of CTiH, Emma Wright and the DEO for the Anglican Church, Lois Beynon took part in a panel to talk about their passion for ecumenical work and their positive experiences at the All Ecumenical Representatives Conference in Derbyshire. There was very lively discussion and an informative Q&A afterwards. It was wonderful to be joining other Church Member Representatives, CTE staff, Denominational Officers and other CEO's and sharing experiences with one another. Photos



credit: Churches Together in England.



**Join the Association of Interchurch Families' weekend conference online
14 - 15 October 2023**

Interchurch Families – Beacons of Receptive Ecumenism

An invitation to participate in the Association of Interchurch Families (AIF) weekend conference by joining all the main events via Zoom.

Receptive Ecumenism is sometimes defined as ‘... ***both a way of thinking and a process that enables unity to be built by receiving gifts from others. It challenges us to think not of what others might benefit from receiving from us, but to recognise our needs and to put ourselves in the place of being a recipient.***’ Put simply, our church traditions should not be asking themselves “What do they need to learn from us?” but rather, “What do we need to learn from them?”. The hope is that if all our church traditions were to ask themselves this question and act upon it, we might all draw closer together in Christ’s family, while also deepening our own identity.

To married couples this sounds very familiar, for it is in the nature of marriage that couples should aim to learn from each other to help them grow together. For interchurch couples, learning about each other’s denomination helps us to develop a local sacramental practice of domestic church that is part of that growing together. During this two-day event we will explore how the experience and practice of interchurch families might offer our churches a lived example of Receptive Ecumenism in action.

To attend online – please register your interest (by 8 October) by following this link to the AIF website [Upcoming Events \(interchurchfamilies.org.uk\)](https://interchurchfamilies.org.uk) and take care to click on the button titled “**Online via Zoom**”. You will be sent log-in details once you have registered.

Cost – there is no charge for this event, but you will be offered an opportunity to make a donation to offset costs if you so wish.

Programme – all the main components of the weekend will be available online ie the four speaker-led sessions and the two services of worship, details of which are shown below. Online attendees will be able to join online discussions groups when the in-person attendees convene in small groups, and they will also be able to attend the online services. Booking to participate does not commit you to attending all the sessions - you can simply log-in for those which interest you. The full programme can be seen on the website at the link above.

If you would like to find out more, please click on the link: [Upcoming Events \(interchurchfamilies.org.uk\)](https://interchurchfamilies.org.uk)

all ages and offers a chance to reflect and refocus.

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of ***Journey of the Magi***, which will be available nationally during Advent 2023.

Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website page <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi/>, by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or by calling 07775 628442.

---- Rural Ministry Course

Future dates - 17th - 18th October

The Rural Ministry Course is designed for **lay and ordained church leaders across the denominations entering a rural appointment**, and those already in rural ministry who feel the need for a 'refresher'.

The two-day programme employs a variety of approaches including practical sessions, group work and workshops led by practitioners, and includes sessions on understanding rural contexts, mission and growth, leadership, farming and work with children and young people in the countryside.

The Rural Ministry Course continues to develop & offers a unique **rural, ecumenical focus** which we're well-known for here at the ARC. All are welcome to book on & join us, whether involved in lay or ordained rural mission and ministry. We look forward to meeting you in 2023.

Please book [via our online form](#) where possible.



Journey of the Magi – a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message.

The show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus's birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took. With sparkle and songs to keep the children entertained and bags of good humour for the grown-ups, ***Journey of the Magi*** delights audiences of

For more information, please click the link:

<https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralministrycourse/>

Alternatively, you can phone (024 7685 3060) or email matt.jeffrey@arthurrankcentre.org.uk

----- **Light up a Life in the Community**

Late every year, Herefordshire's hospice, St Michael's, hosts two Light up a Life events: one at the cathedral and one at the hospice itself. These events enable people to take part in an act of remembrance (which includes the lighting of a candle) for loved ones who have died. The hospice also invites community groups, especially churches, to take part in the initiative by hosting events in their own neighbourhoods.

By doing so, together we can reach and support the greatest number of people who are facing the loss of a loved one. The hospice can supply orders of service as well as other supporting materials, as required.

We hope that the county's Churches Together groups will be interested in taking part and, subject to availability, we can offer someone from the hospice to speak at these ecumenical services; if this would be of value. There is no set date for these events but, bearing in mind the busyness of the Christmas season, it may be that a late November or early December service would be appropriate. Thank you for your interest in supporting this initiative.

Beverley Ramsden, Spiritual Care team, St Michael's Hospice, Hereford.

For more information, you can email bramsden@smhospicehereford.org

A New Inclusive Gathering for Hereford(shire)

Following successful engagement at the Hereford Pride event in the Summer, members of Hereford Methodist Church met with the leaders of the Hereford

Diocese Inclusive Church Forum to discern whether there was a desire for an Inclusive Gathering in Hereford. (The Methodist Church piloted a New Inclusive Gathering for Birmingham some years ago, which is now established as IGB. You can read more about IGB at <https://inclusivegathering.org.uk/our-story/>. There is also an Inclusive Gathering at St Andrew's in Worcester.)

This led to an evening of worship and conversation at St John's Methodist Church on Sunday 24th September attended by 23 people. The event was held in Café Church style, and we heard about IGB Birmingham and the Open Table Network. Following some tabletop discussion and plenary, several folk were identified as being a group to go forward to curate the next event, to find the right venue, to identify leaders for the group and seek funding. We will report back as soon as we've met.

If you are interested in being part of an inclusive gathering, a safe space for worship, you can sign up to be informed about our future events, by clicking on the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/inclusivegathering>,

Superbook Academy: Engage, educate, and inspire young hearts with Superbook Academy! Join us in impacting children's lives through timeless Bible stories and fulfilling our mission to help every child everywhere hear the Gospel in their own language.

Superbook Academy offers an interactive online curriculum with animated videos, engaging activities, and fun quizzes. Become a valued Church Partner and access exclusive benefits: full curriculum access, tailored content for

different age groups, customisable plans, multiple craft resources and dedicated support.

Revolutionise your children's ministry and make the Bible exciting!

Visit uk.superbookacademy.com to find out how you can become a Church Partner and inspire the next generation.

Journeying Poetry Competition 2023

Poems inspired by the competition theme; *Soul Friends* are invited for the third Annual Journeying Poetry Competition.

Poems should be original and unpublished and reach us by email attachment, between 15th September and midnight on Saturday 21st October 2023 (GMT). Poems maybe of any length. Just one entry per person. There is no charge. Copyright remains with the author.

The winning poet will receive a first-place competition certificate signed by the Judges and ten percent discount on any one of next year's pilgrim-holidays from Journeying. The winning poem will be published on 15th December in 'Sharing the Journey', the newsletter of Journeying and on the Journeying website and social media platforms.

Journeying is a non-profit seeking, ecumenical Christian organisation that takes small groups of people to beautiful and often remote places in Britain and Ireland, in the spirit of pilgrimage.

Ewyas Harold

Taize prayer on Sunday 29 October at 6:30pm. As usual, this will be in Dore Abbey - so people should wrap up warm!

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung in Ukraine and Protestant Church in Germany invite students, seminarians, educators, representatives of religious organizations, Churches,

*public sector, journalists and active people to attend **the International Forum the 16-th Ecumenical Social Week "From War Towards Lasting Peace: Through Justice and Solidarity",***

October 4-7, 2023 in the city of Lviv, blended format (online and live).

WEST MIDLANDS KICK
COACHES/MENTORS/CHAPLAINCY (FULL TIME AND PART TIME)

LOCATION:

We are pleased to have a variety of job opportunities across the West Midlands in Redditch, Worcester, Hereford, Worcestershire, Wolverhampton and Telford.

An exciting opportunity to deliver quality sports sessions and/or mentoring, dance and chaplaincy depending on role within our schools on a weekly basis. The coach/Mentor will be passionate about embedding values within each session and be committed to our mission, to transform young people's lives with Gods love, through sport and support.

For more information, please click on the link: <https://kick.org.uk/careers/>
