

Hello, the team and I hope you've had a lovely Christmas and we wish you a very happy new year! If you could please send any news from Churches Together groups or news about any events by the **30<sup>th</sup> January**, that would be greatly appreciated.



People from all church traditions are warmly invited to join in a short service put together by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The service will be followed by a shared supper. (Please bring a plate of food to share.) **This will be in the Simpson Hall, Burghill on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 6 to 8pm. We hope you will join us.**

If you would like to be involved in a reading or in providing music, please contact Joanna Helme on 760816 or [joannahelme@gmail.com](mailto:joannahelme@gmail.com)



## Harmony and Hope: A special Ukrainian Christmas Celebration Unites Cultures in Joyful Festivity

Over a hundred guests and hosts came together in a heartwarming celebration hosted by the Bishop of Hereford last weekend. The festive gathering, which took place at the The Bishop's Palace in Hereford featured performances by Ukrainian children's and adult choirs singing traditional Ukrainian songs.

The highlight of the evening was the soul-stirring performance by the Ukrainian children's choir, accompanied by Alla Mihai, fondly known as Aunt Alla in Ukraine, where she held a prominent role in children's television for many years. The event also showcased the musical talents of Galina, a special guest who played her bandura, and Malvina, a young piano virtuoso who captivated the audience with her delightful performance.

[Read the full story on our website](#)

[Read more](#)

There will be a WPCU service at St Michael and All Angels in Ledbury at 10am, Sunday

21<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Rev Mark Melliush will be speaking at this event.

### **News from Churches/ Christians Together Group**

#### **Christians Together in Ewyas Harold**

Taizé Prayer Time at New Year: Sunday 7 January at 6pm

In the special atmosphere of candle-lit Dore Abbey we shall gather for Taizé-style prayers and quiet singing. Please come in warm clothes and bring a torch.

Sunday 21 January at 3pm in the Baptist Church - "Go and Do Likewise"

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold & District invite everyone to come to share in discussion, reflection and worship around the parable of "the Good Samaritan". In particular how do we cross boundaries in our loving and enable peace to grow. Using resources developed by the church in Burkina Faso for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - with a Ewyas Harold twist - possibly including cake!

#### **Christians Together in Hereford**

#### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th-25th January**

For Churches Together in Hereford, the Week will begin with Meeting for Worship at the Friends Meeting House, 21 King Street, at 12.30-1.00pm, with a soup lunch to follow, on Thursday 18th January. There will be Tea Church at St John's Methodist Church, St Owen Street, at 4.00pm on Sunday 21st January. Other events may be arranged, and everyone is welcome at any of them.

Here are some photos of CTH's carol singing event in collaboration with SPSJ Church:



#### **Christians Together in Bromyard**

There will be a WoPCU service on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm, Bromyard Methodist Church



Our new short film [Inspiring Change: The Single Friendly Church Network](#) tells the story of churches across the country who have

committed to welcoming and valuing single people at all stages of life.


This film is a great place to start to inspire churches to consider the needs of their single members and become a Single Friendly Church. Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HcbPTm8DPY>



The Redditch Carmelite Spirituality Group meets on the third Saturday of every month at the Bridge Centre, Evesham Road, Redditch, B97 4JX. Carmelite Spirituality groups are Ecumenical groups. We meet together to share aspects of Carmelite Spirituality, based around a contemplative approach. Our first meeting of 2024 is on 20th January and the topic is 'Carmelite origins'. Our guest speaker John Berry (member of the Birmingham Carmelite Chapter) will give a presentation about the history and development of the Carmelite order. We'll also be celebrating the 8th anniversary of the establishment of the Redditch Carmelite Spirituality group. Meetings are from 11am to 2pm and include a shared lunch. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who wants to find out more about Carmelite spirituality and the January meeting is an ideal opportunity to 'come and see'. If you would like more

information, or would like to be added to our email circulation list to receive a copy of our 2024 programme, please contact Dr Susan Porter (group convener), email [ingeva@btinternet.com](mailto:ingeva@btinternet.com) or phone 07789741900.



**Society for Ecumenical Studies**  
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A Body in Association with Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

**Evangelism and Ecumenism:  
Conflict or Complementarity?**

**7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 24 January 2024 on Zoom**





**Speakers:**  
**Dr. Viorel Coman**, Senior Researcher University of Leuven, Belgium  
**Sr. Dr. Gemma Simmonds CJ**, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge  
**Revd. Dr. Ben Aldous**, Principal Officer for Evangelism & Mission, Churches Together in England

**Chair: Dr. Anna Krauss**  
**General Secretary of the Council of Lutheran Churches in Great Britain and a President of CTE**

**Cost £5: SfES Members free**

To book, please go to <https://Evangelism-and-ecumenism.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information, please contact the secretary at [sfes.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sfes.secretary@gmail.com)

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I attended the Stations of Nativity: Faith in Art Exhibition, a collaboration between All Saints Church and the West Hereford Team. The artwork was amazing and thought provoking, allowing onlookers to reflect on scripture and the meaning of the Christmas message.

