



Hello all, if you have any news or events that you would like mentioned in the next issue of the newsletter, please let me know by **midday on 30th June**. Thank you!

News from Churches/Christians Together Groups Events/ News

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold

On Monday 3rd June there will be a Christians Together in Ewyas Harold & District meeting, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall. It is the first in our themed meetings based on one of our regular activities. We will be focusing on Taizé prayer, what it is, how it is planned and run, who contributes and who attends. All are welcome to come and learn more. Also, on Sunday 30th June there will be Taizé prayer at Dore Abbey at 6.30pm.

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District

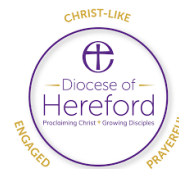
Please may I encourage you to remind your churches about the invitation to a CTRD shared lunch on Sun 9th June in The Venue. You may remember that we will have visitors from Ross' Ugandan link town, Namutumba. We've heard this week that Christine and Prisca have received confirmation of their visas and are very much looking forward to being in Ross for 2 weeks, from 2nd June. It will be lovely for the Christian community of our town to share food and fellowship with them.

Spiritual Question Time, 11th June, 7pm-9pm

Join us for an enlightening evening of deep conversations and soul-searching! At **Spiritual Question Time**, we'll explore life's big mysteries and discuss various spiritual topics.

This in-person event at **St Peter's Church, Hereford**. It's a great opportunity to bring your burning questions and an open mind to hear

Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah answer your questions on the hot topics of faith affecting Christians today. Prepare to be inspired, and challenged, and leave with a renewed sense of wonder about life and our place within creation. Don't miss out on this thought-provoking event!



50 years of collaboration keeps Luston

Chapel open for worship

'Necessity is the mother of invention' has proved true in Luston. In 1974, Luston Methodist Chapel, pictured top left above, was closing due to falling attendance. What could be done to keep the chapel open?

It happened that the nearest Church of England church, St Peter & St Paul, was at Eye, about a mile away, down an often muddy lane. Rev'd Duncan Philips, Vicar at Eye then, wondered whether ministers from both faith groups could work together to keep the chapel open. Local Methodist ministers agreed to collaborate and thus began a system of alternating weekly services. 50 years on, and with the support of the Leominster Methodist and CofE ministry teams, Christians from both faith

communities continue to enjoy services at the chapel.

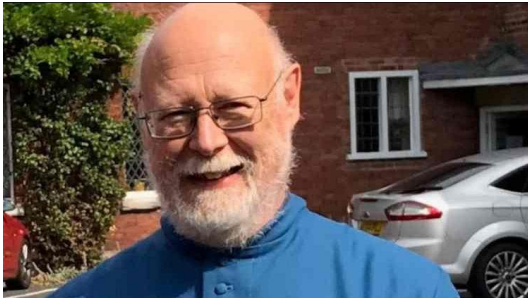
We asked two presiders about the secret of their success. Rev Paul Arnold (pictured, above right) is the Methodist minister in Leominster and is currently responsible for the Chapel: "The regular and ongoing shared worship in the Chapel and Parish church has allowed both congregations to meet, worship and work together in a mutually helpful and harmonious relationship," he says, continuing, "When many of our smaller rural chapels and churches are finding it difficult to maintain congregations and a regular pattern of worship, the ecumenical example at Luston offers a model which could be explored in many other locations. The temptation to 'hold on' and not consider any idea of change is understandable, but the model at Luston has been 'going strong' for half a century and can, therefore, claim to be very successful indeed!"

Revd Preb Mike Kneen, Rural Dean of Kington & Weobley (pictured bottom right, above) has also presided at the chapel in recent years: "I have fond memories of Luston Chapel. We provided a 'minister' for Luston once a month on the Leominster Team Service Rota. It was (and still is, I'm sure) a great place to go, with a warm welcome from the congregation and the prospect of coffee and good biscuits afterwards, so all the Leominster clergy

and lay Ministers enjoyed visiting."

[On] May 25th and 26th, the Christian community in Luston will celebrate the 50th anniversary weekend with a Saturday morning walk up the lane from the village pump in Luston to the parish church at Eye, followed by a walk across the fields to the chapel for coffee and cakes, then a Sunday service at the chapel with the Methodist Superintendent (the Methodist equivalent of a Bishop) Rev Richard Hall, taking the service, followed by refreshments. For more information on these events, please contact Rachel Nelson by [email](#).





Please click on the link to the video [to find out more] <https://vimeo.com/913619820>.

Applications open twice a year, and the next round for applications opens in the autumn.

Christian Leader in the Public or Private Sectors?

Forward Partnership and St Peter's Saltley Trust would love to hear from Christians leadership roles (emerging, middle or senior) in the public, private or voluntary sectors (but NOT local church leaders), who see their role as contributing to the renewal and transformation of society. We want to understand more about how your sense of calling relates to your work role, and how the local church might better support you in your vocation. You can do this by...

Taking part in a short (3 minute) online survey [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3texnY-Kl8nmULaBdu_jH2ontvMKxl_ZXr5iUE-mnxGgk1g/viewform):
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3texnY-Kl8nmULaBdu_jH2ontvMKxl_ZXr5iUE-mnxGgk1g/viewform

and/or

Joining a one-off, 90 minute focus group with other Christians in leadership, at a mutually convenient time, to share your perspectives. To sign up, please contact Ian Jones (director@saltleytrust.org.uk).

For more information about the project, click [here](#).



One in Christ Jesus,
engaged in God's mission,
empowered by the Spirit

The Bill Snelson Fund for Young Ecumenists.

Churches Together in England are really keen to receive applications from across the diverse range of Member Churches. The key page on the CTE website is [here](#) but the key points are:

- There's £6000 a year available.
- Applicants need to be between 18 and 35 and to be from a CTE Member Church.
- The ecumenical experience abroad can be study, pilgrimage, volunteering or any activity that promotes church unity.



Passionate about listening to and supporting families?

Vennture is seeking an additional link worker for our Family Mentoring Team. A Vennture

Link Worker works alongside families who are finding things tough and need support to overcome the barriers they are facing to reach their full potential. To find more information, please visit this link:

<https://www.vennture.org.uk/job-vacancies/>



Free Webinar: How to become a Single Friendly Church

Single Friendly Church Network are running free webinars to help churches welcome and value single people in practical ways. They are open to anyone interested in making a difference in their church.

Wednesday 12th June, 11am. [Sign up here](#)

Details of their website can be found here: singlefriendlychurch.com/events

Free Guided Audit for churches

A reminder that we offer a Guided Audit tool for churches wanting to explore how to welcome and value single people. It's free and easy to use - [sign up online](#).

Christian Aid Concert Update

On Saturday 11th May, Hampton Park United Reformed Church hosted a concert in aid of Christian Aid. The music varied from classical to modern and travelled across Europe and beyond, and even had people from other countries performing including Ukrainians (rather appropriate as the Eurovision Song Concert was the same night!). Our thanks to Ruth (Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Hereford) for her help and support and all the artists who freely gave up their time and performed for the concert, which

raised £407 for Christian Aid and was a really enjoyable evening.



<https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/>



An uplifting dance production for your church to host.

Now booking for 2024.

Bring your community together to watch an intimate portrayal of grief and joy performed by five outstanding dancers.

Created after the pandemic and based on Ecclesiastes 3: There is a Time for Everything, the performance is ultimately a celebration of life, enabling viewers to reflect whilst the dancers sensitively explore the tension between grief and joy.

Springs Dance Company is inviting churches to host a performance of *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance* from September - October 2024.

A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance is an hour-long professional production presented in-the-round with audiences on three sides.

"I found myself looking for resonance and finding it."

Audience feedback

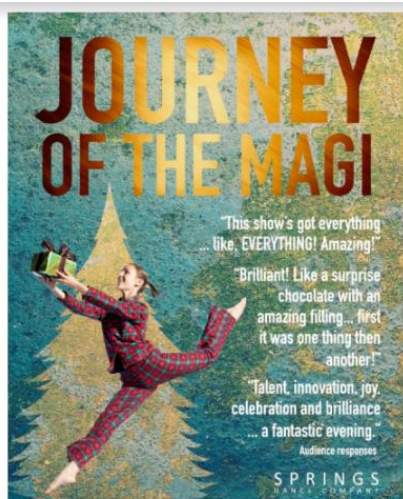
"... the best experience, the best performance, the best night.

Stunning. Blown away.

So grateful."

Audience feedback

There is a time for everything and a season for everything under the sun
... a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance
... a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing
Ecclesiastes 3 verses 4&5



NOW BOOKING FOR 2024

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your local community through this fast-paced, brilliantly-witty yet poignant performance. Springs is taking bookings from churches for performances between November 22nd and December 22nd 2024.

Watch now:

[youtube.com/watch?v=qIQmZjghDoE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIQmZjghDoE)

"Absolutely fabulous show. Wonderful mix of fun, wit, and meaning. It made me laugh and it made me cry all in a couple of minutes." Richard, Poynton Methodist Church

"The show was wonderful and it was such a thrill to have the hall buzzing – everyone was captivated." Sue, Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall

"... the best of both worlds: a vibrant piece of entertainment and an opportunity to step back, to reflect, and to refocus." John, Moortown Baptist Church

Webpage:

springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi

celebrating Mass the Eucharist in the church at 6pm.



Summer in the Valley

Saturday 8th June

A Day Walk in the spirit of pilgrimage, through the lovely Wye Valley on the Welsh-English border.

From historic Tintern Abbey we set out in the *spirit of pilgrimage* on a circular walk of some six miles. Along the Way we'll see part of Offa's Dyke, discover Brockweir village with its whitewashed Moravian Chapel on the banks of the river, admire some wonderful views and listen to readings and reflections for summer.

All day walks from Journeying are free and dogs are welcome.

For details and to book your place, please follow the link to the Day Walks page of the Journeying website:

<https://www.journeying.co.uk/day-walks-and-events?id=931231> or email: info@journeying.co.uk

Journeying is an ecumenical, Christian organisation founded in 1988.

Journey of the Magi is a much-loved, family-friendly, festive frolic with a profound message for your church to host.

The show offers a contemporary comparison between the journey the wise men took 2000 years ago and our own preparations in the run up to Christmas today. With sparkle, a soundtrack to keep toes tapping and awe-inspiring dance, *Journey of the Magi* delights audiences of all ages.

Relatable characters help viewers to be inspired in their own "journey" to Christmas Day and can help them think about who Christ is for them.

"Forget *The Nutcracker*, Springs Dance Company's *Journey of the Magi* is the best Christmas show I have ever seen! I went along to see it one dark, wet and dismal night in Birmingham and I came out having been touched, amused and moved to tears. *Journey of the Magi* looks beyond the tinsel and trappings and reveals the real meaning of Christmas."

David Bentley CBE, Former Artistic Director, Birmingham Royal Ballet

The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, plus there is a 20 minute interval, which provides the perfect time for festive mince pies! It is performed to the highest standard by a company of four world class professional dancers.



St Francis Xavier's Church are hosting a talk on Human Fraternity: The Church's Message to a Divided World – with Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald on Thursday 27th June: We are delighted to welcome Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald to the Herefordshire Deanery. He is one of the Church's experts on Islam and inter-religious dialogue, having worked both in the Vatican and in the Middle East. How can faith in God and human fraternity guide us beyond hatred and war? There will lead a talk and discussion at 7pm to which all are welcome. We would be delighted if you can come along! Beforehand, Cardinal Michael will be

Please note - this newsletter strives to share a wide range of ecumenical news and opinions and is not necessarily a reflection of the views of CTiH.

June 2024