



May 2021

Pilgrim Post



Churches Together in Dorset Newsletter

Thy Kingdom Come - the ecumenical prayer movement for evangelisation - takes place from **13-23 May** (from Ascension to Pentecost). Now in its sixth year, it has grown from an initial call to prayer from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Anglican Communion, to a worldwide ecumenical prayer movement uniting over a million Christians from across 85 different denominations and traditions in nearly 90% of countries worldwide,

The aim for Thy Kingdom Come 2021 is to be a blessing and to serve the church where the need is greatest. Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, says : 'Thy Kingdom Come is about prayer - praying for those on our hearts, praying for those who don't know Jesus - to find him, praying for our church as we seek to be simpler, humbler and bolder.'

TKC 2021 offers free, spiritually nourishing resources for all, to deepen and refresh their faith. These include an 11-part children's video series packed with Bible stories, prayers, animation, worship songs and interviews with special guests, which can be used as part of church at home, gathered church (online and offline) and in school assemblies. Episodes are accompanied by activity packs which are the main content in the Family Prayer Adventure Map and App.

Thy Kingdom Come have also teamed up with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust to produce 11 video reflections for youth from influential young Christians, on the daily themes of Thy Kingdom Come, each video reflection including an accompanying discussion plan suitable for use in colleges, youth groups or at home with friends.

Other resources include 'We Seek Your Kingdom', a whole-life worship song to the tune of the hymn 'Abide With Me'. Commissioned by The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and Thy Kingdom Come, it's an encouragement and a call to action - a declaration that each of us can join in God's kingdom work right where we are - and a prayer that through ordinary Christians, God will transform, revive, and heal our society. The Novena and the Prayer Journal, written by the Archbishop of York, has the intention of inspiring readers to re-encounter the love and joy found in Jesus Christ. The award-winning Thy Kingdom Come app, available in nine languages, will, for the first time, include audio content from 24/7 Prayer's Lectio 365, with audio reflections including one from Archbishop Justin Welby.

CTE President His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London said: 'Thy Kingdom Come has become a platform for Churches across the breadth of the Christian family to stand and pray together, remembering the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit entered the Upper Room, empowering and enabling those present to become the Church. In that way we pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide, inspire, empower and embolden us to speak into the world with the loving, prophetic, and hopeful voice that makes manifest the presence of God in our midst.'

CTE President Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, a long-time supporter of the campaign, said: 'The Feast of Pentecost, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church, is a great moment for our prayer for the spreading of the Gospel of joy in our Lord Jesus Christ. The days of prayer of "Thy Kingdom Come" are a powerful invitation to that prayer. We may also remember the power of the Holy Spirit in the work of Creation, and so include in our prayers the responsibilities we bear for the created world at this significant time.' Find out more [here](#) and on TKC's [website](#)



News

Covid-19

As risks have lessened, tentative plans have been made. However, the pandemic is far from over, and there is uncertainty about new strains of the virus. The dire situation in countries beyond our own is a reminder of our human interconnectedness and responsibility towards those who are suffering.

The pandemic has also encouraged many to reassess their priorities and to ask a number of questions as they reimagine life post-Covid, such as : What shape might the Church need to take in a post-Covid-19 world? What do we want to keep, what do we want to let go of and what do we want to return to? How do we adapt, thrive and remain true to our calling? Is there a need to re-orientate mission, to do or to live ministry in new ways? For many, relationship, connectedness, compassion and the importance of the local are the key elements which the pandemic has highlighted ; other realisations include how digital connection allows people to continue work together and is a way of including people who have been excluded in the past (i.e. those who could not attend services or events due to illness or disablement) though there are also concerns about reaching those who do not use technology. Technology can allow us to reach out further than before, but it can also exclude. The new pattern needs to be one that caters for all.

Dorset Churches

Here are a just a few examples of what churches in Dorset have been doing, and what their future plans are...

Many churches have circulated '[Thy Kingdom Come](#)' booklets, containing 10 days of prayer, with every Christian encouraged to pray for 5 people that they know, that they might discover faith in Christ. The **Bridport** churches have showed a series of online videos during Holy Week, and **Churches Together in Dorchester** have been sharing 'Thy Kingdom Come' virtual videos each day.



Christians in Weymouth and Portland have been posting daily prayers on Facebook during the period of 'Thy Kingdom Come' ; The Storehouse church in **Dorchester's** YouTube attendance has increased ; a number of churches have invested in equipment to allow good quality online services to be live-streamed ; Keep 106 community radio ran events throughout the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ; the RC Church in **Bridport** has been sending out daily online reflections, 'Tonight in Bridport', which has a wide audience.

Broadstone Café Church meets once a month online. It represents the start of a big conversation. Those who attended a recent session of Café Church were asked : What local assets do you have, which God has given you in your area? Which local groups of people do you feel drawn to pray for? What first steps could you take towards serving those you are praying for? What can we do to become more outward-looking? How can we pool our resources to do more? Partnering and multi-purpose buildings were suggested, i.e. if one church is used for worship at one time, it frees another up for mission. Putting more information up on notice boards in the community was also suggested. Hidden issues in more affluent areas were a reality ; these included loneliness, and the value of both Prama's befriending scheme and telephone friendship groups of 5-6 people, which were operating for those who do not use technology, were highlighted. (Faithworks offers basic training for hosts of telephone groups.)

Other plans for Broadstone include connecting with others to all become Prama Dementia Friendly Churches and training, through Faithworks, to support gamblers. A Peace and Justice Group has also been launched in Broadstone, involving representatives and ministers from the URC, Methodist, RC and Anglican churches, with a focus on extending and building relationships within the community, practical community action locally, to meet need, and informing people of campaigns and issues which they might like to support.

Within the **BCP** area, the churches have demonstrated a real heart to work with the Council-run projects. In **Poole**, 59 Churches have been invited to pray for one another church throughout the year and the pandemic has seen the churches work together more : Rev Lucy Holt has begun a joint clergy chapter across BCP, crossing the Diocesan boundary and 3 deaneries, to do more collaboratively across the churches ; Alpha courses have taken place online, with around 60 people and 10 churches engaging. BCP churches meetings have been taking place online, with churches discussing future challenges ; BCP Council is Planning an initiative for the autumn concerning ABCD (Asset-based Community Development) and the churches in Poole have

been invited to consider this approach - to look for where God is already working and to build on that. Council meetings have restarted and **Verwood** churches have been able to pray at the beginning of these meetings. It is their hope to invite council members to future ecumenical church meetings.

The community fridge in **Parkstone** is operating, not only offering free food to those who are homeless, but using up surplus food to prevent waste ; in **Bridport**, the ecumenical allotment-based project Glut Store, which began during Covid due to complications with the local food banks being inside a building, was able to give out Christmas hampers, donations and presents and continues to give fresh food to those in need without the usual restrictions – a wonderful example of God's grace.

A Gathering for the Chairs of local Churches Together Groups took place on Zoom on 12th May, organised by Churches Together in Dorset, whereby people were able to share updates and ask for specific concerns to be held in prayer.

Weymouth Refresh (the Church of Weymouth and Portland in Action) implemented a rapid response Covid project, by which it has morphed with Council. Church leaders have carried on meeting once a month, and many have attended the area's online Alpha courses, a number coming to the Church this way.

Cheap Street Church, **Sherborne** have recently linked into the Registered UK online charity, **Acts 435** which directly connects those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of help, through a network of local churches and charities. Examples of help include assistance to pay gas, electricity or water bills, bedding, a cot, clothing, a train fare, a bankruptcy fee or food. *If this is something that you think you could do in your area, information can be found on the Acts 435 [website](#).* *A Virtual Coffee Morning is taking place on 21st May at 10.30am for local churches and charities who are interested in supporting those in need in their local communities through Acts 435. Meeting ID : 756 845 1727 Password : coffee*



A number of churches in the **BCP** area, from across the denominations, are engaging with the **As One** community initiative, which has Council backing. 400 banners are due go up around the conurbation when the time is right. A number of churches in **Swanage** are engaging with the initiative. As people look with hope to a time when the pandemic can be said to have come to an end, a number of events are planned: Winton churches anticipate a service of lament and thanksgiving ; the Salvation Army in **Weymouth** are planning an open air service, as are Christian Aid.



Faithworks update :

(BCP Area)

As restrictions have eased, **Food Banks** have been opening their doors again. Although they have continued to operate throughout the lockdowns, Christchurch, Poole, Wimborne and Blandford are hoping to welcome people back into their buildings over the next few weeks, with Covid-safety measures in place. They are also developing their new **Life Centres** model. It's not just about a voucher system which provides three days worth of emergency food - we want to see individuals and families gaining resilience so that crisis days are behind them ; so the centres are now starting to have partners on site: budgeting; benefits; debt advice; housing support; cooking on a budget courses and more.

As the centres have grown, so too has the need for more space : Blandford Food Bank moved into Blandford United Reformed Church ; Poole Food Bank moved to Jimmy's; Christchurch are undergoing a refurbishment this year, and Wimborne are looking at plans for new space - the expanded site will enable the Home Equip project to be run out of the main centre ; working on a similar model to the Food Banks, this initiative provides furniture and the essentials needed to set up home following homelessness caused by emergencies such as domestic violence. You can find out more about the projects run by CFB [here](#).

The not-for-profit company **Courage to Thrive** exists to help unlock thriving with individuals, teams and communities with a particular focus on the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) conurbation in Dorset. Their **Step out of the Traffic** workshops create a safe space to step back, reflect and discover new tools and practices to do life better. The course covers themes of self-care, choosing life and developing proactivity, exploring personal values, authentic living and boundaries. Read more [here](#)

The **Doorstop Shop** has reopened. Refitted by the BCARS (Bournemouth Churches Alongside Rough Sleepers) carpentry workshop and Seed (gardening) Team, the shop is located next door to St John's Church, Surrey Road, Bournemouth, BH12

1EG. You can find handcrafted wooden goods made from recycled wood by ex-rough sleepers, donated china, vinyl records, jewellery and glassware. Open Saturday, 9am - 12pm. Donations of good quality items can be dropped off on Wednesdays, 9am-11am. Items can also be purchased online on Facebook [here](#)

Other News

There is a new, national Methodist project on being a justice-seeking church : read more [here](#)



Events

'Well-being Walks' – Free guided walks run by rangers.

Dorset Council - Tel : 01305 251 228 email C.Platten@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

BCP - Tel : 01202 817648

South West Awake, Saturday, 19th June 2021, 10.30am

Join Christians of all traditions on one of the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path to pray Thy Kingdom Come. Join in Dorset, Devon or Somerset. Stand together asking God for His Kingdom to come in the region. Read more [here](#)



Dorset Equality Group

Tuesday, 8th June, 7.30 -9pm on Zoom : Molly Scott Cato, Professor of Economics and Finance at Roehampton University, London will explore the relationships between Environment, Finance and Equality. The meeting will be introduced by Emerita Professor Chris Shiel of Dorset Equality Group, who headed the green economics course at Bournemouth University.

October (details to follow in due course) : Danny Dorling of Oxford University will give what we know will be a fascinating and illuminating presentation on the current prospects for greater equality and what each of us can do to hasten that day. The venue for this will comply with the COVID policies in place in October. It is likely that a small charge will be made for this event.

<http://www.dorsetequalitygroup.org.uk>

Email: dorsetequalitygroup@gmail.com

Facebook : [Dorset Equality Group](#)

Opportunities

Join Churches Together in England on **25 May 2021** for **Candle of Justice: a moment of action** commemorating the first anniversary of George Floyd's murder. It will be a moment to light a candle, pray for racial justice and commit to taking personal and institutional action to tackle racial injustice in our society and our churches. Later that evening, there will then be an opportunity to join churches across the nation for [Doing Justice: A National Service of Reflection](#) on the Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd.



Follow these five simple steps for how you and your church can get involved in the national #CandleOfJustice campaign on 25 May :

1. At noon, pause for one minute to remember George Floyd and all those who experience racism
2. Light your candle (or alternatively shine a light from your phone)
3. Pray using the Candle of Justice prayer
4. Pause, reflect and make a personal commitment to tackling racial injustice
5. Share on social media – upload your candle photo or share the Candle of Justice prayer graphic. Remember to use the hashtag **#CandleOfJustice** and tag in **@ChurchesEngland**

Prayers for Racial Justice from Member Churches will be added daily to [cte.org.uk/daily prayers](http://cte.org.uk/daily-prayers), one each day from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 May. They will also be made available to share on social media channels **Twitter** and **Facebook** (search @ChurchesEngland).
Read more [here](#)

Parliamentary Christian Breakfast - Friday 25 June.

Speaker : Professor NT Wright. Life Beyond Covid - a Renewed Hope. The Bible Society are encouraging churches to invite their MP to watch it with them. Read more [here](#)

Food Banks BCP

If you would like to support BCP Food Banks by donating, you can do this on the Faithworks website via Donate to a Specific Project [here](#)

Faithworks need a full time volunteer and supporter care coordinator. Visit the website [here](#) for more details. Closing date : early Monday, 24th May.

Would you like to host or participate in Telephone Friendship Groups?



Our NEW Telephone Friendship Groups mean you can talk to others just like you. We often have a theme or a topic, or just have a normal chat with a few new friends so that you don't feel like you're on your own.

Phone groups can take place any day at any time. They are very easy to set up and join. We don't share your number with others, ensuring that you have a safe and fun experience.

To find out more call Keith on 01202 804914

We are also looking for volunteers to host for these meet ups. You will need access to a laptop or PC and be online.

Full 'in person' training is provided with ongoing support. Your commitment could be as little as 90 minutes per month.

It's fun - and will make a big difference to people in your community.


keith.gubbins@pramalife.org
www.pramalife.org



How can we connect young people to church? . **Youth for Christ** is a national charity launched by Billy Graham in 1940s. 9 churches in Bridport have paid for the organisation to go into local schools. Youth for Christ are also looking to extend their work, by creating a role for a school life pastor covering education, well-being and mental health - a practical and spiritual role. There is currently funding for a 1-year role at St Edwards in Poole but there are hopes to branch out to other schools, and so further funding is needed..

Youth for Christ are also looking to launch a pop up café – a van which different churches can hire – for mission and outreach at any space. Funds are needed to get it up and running and towards its longevity..

YFC are also looking to launch a local Dorset-wide youth event in October with speaker Tim Alford from the Elim Church, who also speaks national level. Find out more [here](#)

This year, **Christian Aid** have created the E-Envelope to collect people's donations, replacing the Just Giving method used last year. The focus is on supporting all those whose lives are devastated by the impact of climate change, such as farming families in Nicaragua whose coffee farms are being threatened. With your valuable support, these communities are coming together to share tools and knowledge and can make the urgent changes needed to help their family farms last for generations so their children can thrive. Read more [here](#)

Wondering how to do online and in-person worship? Book now for the **'Edging into Hybrid Church' webinar Part 2, Thursday, 20th May at 2pm** hosted by Evangelical Alliance, HOPE Together and Churches Together in England #DigitalChurch #ChurchesTogether. Catch up on a recording of Part 1 [here](#)



Resources



Through the Roof have created a new online map to show churches and ministries that are positive about **disability inclusion**. It's available now at their [website](#). Joining the map doesn't mean your church has perfect access and gets everything right. It means that you are wanting to welcome disabled people and to respond by enabling them to be part of your church.

You can welcome disabled people to your church by taking these 2 steps: 1) Have a Roofbreaker (disability champion) in your church 2) Join your church to The Online Map to show that you want to welcome disabled people.

Through the Roof will support Roofbreakers by...

- Providing a FREE 2 hour Zoom Disability Awareness workshop
- Giving access to our free downloadable 'Church Toolkit'
- Helping you to discover more of the benefits of having a 'Roofbreaker' in your church through ongoing support, monthly emails, events, Facebook and Roofbreaker Networks. Sign up to become a Roofbreaker [here](#) Join the map [here](#) Tel: 01372 749955

www.churchbcp.org.uk/response (info site for churches in BCP)

www.bcars.org.uk (our homelessness work including the Doorstop Shop)

www.streetsupport.net/bcp (homelessness partnership BCP)

The Contemplative Struggle Former Salisbury Diocesan Coordinator of Spirituality and Vocations, Ian Cowley, explores the main themes of the gospel of John – abiding in Christ, conflict, light and darkness, obedience, and loving one another. He quotes Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Just as we are all meant to be contemplatives and to hear the voice of God in our lives, we are all meant to answer God's call to be his partners in transfiguring the world. This calling, this encounter with God, is always to send us into the midst of human suffering." His central theme is the crucial relationship between action and contemplation, saying: "These are both imperatives of the gospel. The church in every generation needs leaders and people who are able to creatively hold these two together in their own lives. This is what then becomes the contemplative struggle."

"What an incredible book this is!... It is very inspiring and ignited a hope that we can be agents of change in this world." Louise Rose, community projects manager, Fresh Hope Ministry, Stamford

"The Contemplative Struggle is a generous gift and a profound challenge... If you're...looking for the common ground where prayer and protest can flourish, you need to read this book." Chris Webb, deputy warden of Launde Abbey and author of 'God-Soaked Life'



PACE is organising a 2021 LIVING & TELLING course from Agapé UK that encourages, trains and equip anyone age 16 or 116 - whether they have recently made a commitment or whether they have followed Jesus all their lif - to share

their faith in Jesus naturally and helpfully, as a way of life, face to face or online. This year, you don't need to be in the SW, or even be in the UK, to be part of it!

Registration closes on Friday 25th June. You will receive a FREE pack of resources, including a full-colour Living & Telling Journal for your notes, which will be mailed to you before the event. The package will contain important information about how you need to get ready for the online experience. Cost: £10. Youth Leaders: there is a free place for every youth leader who brings an under 18. To get your free place, firstly ensure your young person has registered, then email jemma@swym.org.uk with their name. You will then receive instructions on how to register yourself for free. Read more [here](#)

A total of 1023 Church of England clergy completed the online **Church in Action survey** in October and November 2020, with support from the Church of England's Research and Statistics team. The survey captured information on the social issues parishes are facing, how churches are responding to these issues, the unique challenges and opportunities that the pandemic has created for social action, and church leaders' concerns and priorities for the year ahead. The report gives a flavour of the innovative services and support that the CofE churches provided and still provide since the first lockdown last year. There are case studies from the dioceses of Chester, Gloucester, Leicester and Southwark. Read more [here](#)



To understand how lockdown has impacted children's experience of learning this year, the **Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)** 'Cost of the School Day' programme gathered the experiences of 1,570 parents and carers, along with 785 children and young people, with an emphasis on the experiences of low-income households. The Cost of Learning in Lockdown report (March 2021 update) contains their findings and recommendations about what has helped and what more is needed to support families during this period, building on previous research published in June 2020. Read more [here](#)

The Village Pump



A new informal monthly meeting will be an opportunity for rural clergy and laity to meet to share ideas and concerns about rural life, the church and its outreach, hosted by the Rural Field Officer for Dorset.

The first such rural gathering on the first Saturday of every month takes place on Saturday 1st May - May Day - at 9.00am on Zoom. Canon Richard Hancock, Rural Field Officer for Dorset, says: "Traditionally, village pumps and wells were a meeting place where information and ideas were often exchanged. They were also places of refreshment and renewal. We hope this will be a safe place where we can share the ups and downs of rural life and support each other in God's work. We hope to invite interesting guests from time to time, to share their ideas and experience of the rural church. If you can't stay for the whole time, just join us when and for however long you can." To join in, please email Richard via RFODorset@salisbury.anglican.org.

Good Law Project

The Good Law project Defending, defining and changing the law to uphold democracy, protect the environment and ensure no one is left behind. Read more [here](#)

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