

Pilgrim Post

Churches Together in Dorset Newsletter

April 2022



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

The broadest ecumenical gathering of Christians in England, the CTE 2022 Forum, 'Reconciling Hope – a Broken Church for a Broken World', took place on Monday, 14th - Wednesday 16th March at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, bringing together over three hundred representatives from different 52 National Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies, Co-ordinating Groups and Bodies in Association (Christian organisations and ecumenical bodies). Katja Babei, County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Dorset, attended along with Michael Jones, CTD's newly-appointed Quaker representative.

RECONCILIATION

The conference included presentations, panel discussions, workshops, home group prayer and reflection and worship sessions.

The theme of the Forum was reconciliation. Archbishop of Canterbury and Anglican President of CTE, Justin Welby, led the session 'Reconciliation in a Post-Covid World'. He read from Col.1:15-23, a Scripture passage on the unity and diversity of God and creation, and the unity of the church from which the message of reconciliation goes out to the whole world. The ecumenical movement and Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches had been restorative and reweaved the Church, and during Covid we had engaged

by Anthony Reddie, lecturer in theology at the Queen's Institute in Birmingham, guest lecturer for Sarum College in Salisbury and leading voice on Black Theology in the UK. He spoke movingly of the history of slavery and racism within Christianity.

'Reconciling People with God', on bringing the good news to a disbelieving world, was led by Ralph Lee from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He gave a potted version of church history, stressing the idea that divisions often arose out of cultural misunderstandings. Today in the UK, there was a huge potential for misunderstanding, as we had an incredible range of churches, with Pentecostal and charismatic churches growing in number, as well as increasing numbers of Orthodox churches. The two groups used very different language, though their core beliefs were similar: it was worth having those hard conversations. His main point was that we were far more convincing when we spoke with one, united voice.

Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Minister of the Word and Sacraments in the United Reformed Church (URC), reminded those present of Jesus' pain before His death: we had spiritualised the cross so much that the egregious nature it represented had been lost. History was unpalatable, but we had a history of enslavement and being 'other'; Africans had suffered excruciating labour, yet slavery was rationalised, using Christianity as a



Archbishop Justin Welby, Costakis Evangelou (Ithusa Church Council) and Chris Jarvis (Calvary Church of God in Christ) respond to questions at the CTE 2022 Forum

Churches Together in England :

#WePrayForUkraine

Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain & Ireland are supporting Christian Aid to create a moment of prayer and witness for the crisis in Ukraine on **Sunday 3 April, which is Passion Sunday.**

CTE encourage churches to make every effort to support this, and where possible, to do so with other local churches in public events at 2pm on Sunday 3 April.

Where it is not possible to gather together, churches are encouraged to use the [specially written prayer](#) for Ukraine in their own services this Sunday.

There will be events on Sunday at 2pm in all the nations' capitals. In central London, church leaders will gather outside the Ukrainian embassy, standing

with the government in the deepest crisis, but there were still divisions - we needed to learn to breathe deeper.

How, then, to breathe the air of the spirit, of oxygenated life? The Archbishop said we had been infected by the pernicious virus of empire-building at the expense of our sisters and brothers : we must continue to learn how to live and walk together with our differences - this encouraged growth. As the government discovered it needed the churches in 2021, so we too realised that we needed each other: we must continue to gather in the ecumenical marquee, not as strangers ; we must welcome the breeze of the Spirit and ventilate the virus of self-interest, responding to opportunities for mission from the bottom up, at local level. The most important question was not what we believe, but who we follow. Reconciliation was not easy : it involved hard work, took time and was sacrificial. The Forum was a place where we might take a deep breath, and breathe in the Spirit. A hymn was sung, originating from Psalm 84 : 'How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place'.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Catholic President of CTE, spoke of Moses, Elijah and the 3 tents, and of the Forum as Transfiguration : it gave disciples a glimpse of the glory of God. We as a Church needed to construct a kingdom based on this vision ; the focus needed to be on Jesus, the 'who', as only He could lead us to the 'what' ; without a vision and a sense of amazing expectations, we end up with a narrow vision, too aware of fragilities. Moses stood for the Law - a way of doing things - whereas Elijah was the fiery prophet who shook the cage : both were embraced, included in the tent ; so too, we shouldn't be scared of the fire. Peter, a central figure in a privileged position, had denied Jesus 3 times : Jesus had brought us to reparation and repentance ; however, it needed to come from within, plus guilt was induced in the other person if the focus was all on them.

Cardinal Nichols also spoke of how we might move forwards from discussions of sexuality, and how action on racism might be embedded

backdrop. We had concentrated, in the past, on imbuing the Church with systemic power, but empires worked by brutalising people - once Christianity became synonymous with empire, it became the justification for civilising others. We had been born again, but if we still sided with the oppressors then this was 'cheap grace'. There was a cost to reconciliation - we were required to pick up the cross. Being Good News in a fractured society was a great opportunity to come to terms with the true version of the cross, not the glamorous version of it. Unfairness and inequality marked a departure from justice : it was important to divest from these wrongs and never commit again, but to also make amends.

The Church was in a kairos moment: the cross was caught up in a paradoxical way with the difficult, but it was a symbol of the commitment of God to the difficulties of the world, the longitude of Jesus' compassion and latitude of the love of churches for God a reinterpretation of the cross. God's first passion was justice and peace : how would we as claimers of that identity respond to injustice? Not everything faced could be changed, but nothing could change unless it was faced.

Workshops attended included 'Beyond Mercy', on reconciling social action with social justice, led by incoming CTE General Secretary, Mike Royal. Social action was people coming together to support people for the common good, in a local area; social justice was a levelling-up of perceived disparity. Access to opportunity, equity of resources, participation in decisions affecting people's lives, equal rights, protection of rights and defence of individual liberties were mentioned, as were the initiatives TLG, Street Pastors and CAP. Mike shared how, in the Evangelical, Pentecostal and Evangelical churches, there had been a social action revolution. He quoted Desmond Tutu's metaphor of social justice as going upstream, to find out why people were in the situation in the first place ; social action was helping them out of the river. When you got to know people, you saw issues coming to the surface. We could engage in social justice alongside social action : people might be scared of it getting political,

in solidarity with Ukraine, praying for a just peace and bearing witness to the gospel call for us all to be peacemakers.

Find full details on the [CTE's #WePrayForUkraine page](#) and [Christian Aid's Facebook page](#).



Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A list of resources and initiatives to help churches take part in these community events (compiled in partnership with Churches Together in England) can be found [here](#)

Sign up to the monthly mailing of [CTE-News here](#)

*This was shared at a recent prayer gathering as one of the Scripture passages that **Ukrainian Christians** are focusing on:*

***Ps 31: 21-24:** Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege. In my alarm I said, 'I am cut off from your sight!' Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help. Love the Lord, all his faithful people! The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.*

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Damage and degradation have been caused to our environment, blighting lives and livelihoods. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create much loss and damage, and the current war in the Ukraine has only compounded this situation. Equally, inequality and discrimination of various kinds damage race and community relations in many parts of our world.

On 21 April 2022, 7.30-9pm, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and Christian Aid will be hosting a webinar focusing on 'Loss and Damage' and what can be done to repair the harm that has been caused. Read more [here](#)

into the life of the Church. He suggested that we needed a transfiguring vision, such as Peter, James and John had when they saw Jesus transfigured ; we needed to listen both to the voices of our Christian traditions and to the prophets emerging amongst us.

The war in Ukraine was a focus: prayers were said for those who were suffering. Government minister Lord Harrington spoke to members of the Forum, asking for the churches' help. Those present agreed on a [statement](#) that was sent to the government on the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Those present were also reminded how 29 conflicts were currently recognised by the UN.

The ways in which we were at war with God's creation were also reflected upon. Anglican theologian Ruth Valerio led 'Reconciliation with the Earth', on reconciling people to planet earth and the task of being Good News to a world in climate emergency. She emphasised how addressing the climate crisis and caring for the earth was not a secular add-on for the Church : it was an essential part of the Gospel. Being Christian was not just about going to heaven when you die ; it was all about establishing a realm of justice and peace on earth. Ruth reminded those present that the climate crisis was also an issue of economic and racial justice, with developing nations suffering the most severe effects. But we work and pray with hope, because we already know something of the transforming power of new life.

'Reconciling Communities', on being good news in fractured communities and society, was led

NEWS FROM THE DORSET CHURCHES

Churches Supporting Ukraine:

On Thursday, 31st March, a Pray Big for Ukraine event took place at Lansdowne Church, Bournemouth. A Day of Prayer for Ukraine was held at **The Quiet Space, Dorchester on 16th March, 7.00am-9.00pm**, with

but it was advocacy rather than political. We needed to continue to be a prophetic voice, even when the tide was against us.

The workshop, 'Toolkit for a Flexible Framework' highlighted how the process which began to assist LEPs was relevant for all churches and groups (only 4 or 5 out of 52 denominations were involved in LEPs). Its process involved asking 4 questions : what did churches want to do together and to what purpose ; how did they relate; in what context and locality? The 3 different forms of agreement were highlighted - the working, practical and the constitutional.

The workshop on 'Reconciliation and Interfaith Relationships' was led by Inderjit Bhogal, the founder of the Cities of Sanctuary movement, born into the Sikh faith, now a Methodist minister. He spoke of the need to broaden the ecumenical goal of Christian unity to embrace those of non-Christian faiths. The workshop on 'Intergenerational Reconciliation' involved discussion in small groups - a mix of all ages - where young people expressed what they wanted from the church of the future and older members expressed how they felt.

Thanks was given to outgoing CTE General Secretary, Paul Goodliff.

Attending the Forum was a chance to be together as the undivided body of Christ in a spirit of generosity, to listen and to learn during the most difficult of times.

(Based on reports by Michael Jones & Katja Babej)

Lent

Wimborne Area Christian Aid Lent Lunches 50 to 60 people attended the first three Lent Lunches each week, with more than £2,000 raised. There are still 3 to go : **March 23rd, 30th and April 6th between 12.15 and 1.15 pm at Wimborne Methodist Church.** No charge but donations welcome :

'We're at the centre of power and yet we are powerless' – the plea for prayer from St Andrews', the Anglican church in Moscow. The Revd Canon Malcolm, reflects on recent events. Read more [here](#)

World Council of Churches - Christian Perspectives on Human Dignity and Human Rights: 11 April 2022

Part of the international conference held on 9-12 April in Wuppertal, Germany, the online panel discussion on 11 April will reflect on the challenges for a common vision of churches on human rights today, bringing together biblical, theological and practical perspectives on human dignity. The livestream of the public session will be available on the WCC YouTube channel, accessible [here](#) on 11 April 2022, 13.30 – 15.30 CET Follow it [online](#)



Only 3 weeks to go until Stay Awake '22!

Saturday 23rd April 2022 10am - 7pm. Book your tickets [here](#)

Monthly webinars on a Thursday, brought to you by Church Action on Poverty and the URC's 'New Reality Same Mission' group, take place from 1.30-2.30pm. The next session takes place on Zoom on 7 April. For further information and to receive event reminders, sign up [here](#)

URC The Significance of Worship in a Changing World conference takes place from 26-27 April, where participants will explore how worship might be developed in the post-covid world. For further details and to register, please email the conference team [here](#)

OTHER NEWS

Ukraine : #DorsetTogether

Dorset Council are working alongside the NHS, Public Health Dorset, the emergency services, faith groups, Volunteer Centre Dorset, Dorset Race Equality Council, Help and Kindness, and other local groups to coordinate the county's response. This includes support for Ukrainian individuals and families and local sponsors providing accommodation. Dorchester-based group Help and

people coming and going throughout the day, with readings and prayers at 2 hour intervals. **On 5th March, Christchurch Priory held an event for prayer** where people could light a candle for those suffering in Ukraine.

As the crisis in Ukraine started to unfold, people across **Swanage** started donating items to send out to those in need. **St George's Church in Langton Matravers became a collection hub**, attracting donations from across Purbeck. The goods were transported to the Castlepoint Bournemouth, a main collection centre in the county, and will be heading towards those displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.

Swanage URC has produced a five-minute silent video as a focus while praying for Ukraine, with insightful and compassionate prayers on the tree from Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from St Mary's Primary RC School. Watch the video [here](#)

St Clement's church in Boscombe have started a once-a-week prayer time for Ukraine.

All are welcome to Light a Candle for Ukraine between 12 noon and 12.30pm at St James' C of E Church, Shaftesbury every Monday until peace comes, and to enjoy this quiet space.

There will be a vigil outside Sherborne Abbey on Friday, April 22nd from 11am to 12. This is being coordinated by local Quakers but all are invited to participate. This vigil has a dual role as not only is it a vigil for peace but the date was selected also as it is Earth Day.

EVENTS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DORSET EVENT

An Ecumenical Quiet Day will take place on Tuesday, 26th

April at Broadstone Methodist Church, Lower Blandford Road BH18 8DP, 10am-3pm. Coffee provided; please bring a packed lunch.

email katjactd@gmail.com

tel : 077899 52472 to book

there will be envelopes for the Christian Aid Lent Appeal and for the Ukraine Emergency. Ukraine Crisis Appeal donations can be made [here](#)

Visit the [URC YouTube channel](#) for a series of videos for Lent from the Revd David Coleman.

This year during Lent, C of E churches in the Shaftesbury area have been doing a five-week course, part of the **Church of England's Living in Love & Faith** project. It tackles the tough questions - and the divisions among Christians - concerning matters of gender identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Two groups are running : a daytime course at St Peter's Church and an evening course at St Mary's, Motcombe. The course booklet is available [here](#) or can be downloaded [here](#)

Churches in the Shaftesbury area have invited people to 'Give it Up' to God - to give up all or part of the cost of a 'given up' item in Lent and to donate it to the Children's Society through their church.

Church News

In Bournemouth, there are a range of places taking physical donations especially local Polish shops. The old Argos warehouse at [Castlepoint](#) is the biggest collection point. For Christchurch, see the [CBC Facebook](#) page. Some places are getting overwhelmed, so BCP Council are encouraging people to give finance to the DEC appeal.

A Service of Lights, Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm at St Catherine's Church, Wimborne - an opportunity to reflect on the events between Palm Sunday and Easter. An event including periods of silence, eight cycles of a reading on the theme of Jesus' passion and music from a choir. The service involves all Wimborne churches and is open to all. Following the service there is an opportunity to meet fellow Christians whilst enjoying refreshments.

Hilfield Friary celebrated its 100th Anniversary in December and is now open to guests. A full calendar of

Kindness is helping to signpost and promote local community groups providing advice to refugees and local sponsors. They are running two online forums to share information – one for local hosts providing hospitality to refugees through the Homes For Ukraine scheme, and one for local community groups to keep in touch and help to respond to the local needs of refugees as they arrive. Find more information [here](#) or call Help and Kindness on 01305 595958

Christchurch Food Bank

The official opening of Christchurch Foodbank took place on 25th March, at St Joe's Old Chapel. More than just food, its ministry is to walk alongside those in the community on their journey out of crisis and to bring hope and practical assistance. It offers a furniture bank, community suppers, cookery workshops, a hardship fund, homeless drop-ins, School Holiday Hunger, community money advice, homeless and rough sleeper assistance and Meals in a Bag. Tel : 07587371088 christchurchfoodbank@gmail.com

Poole's first building solely dedicated to helping the town's homeless and vulnerably housed opened its doors on 21 March. **The Genesis Centre** on Hill Street is destined to become the hub for all support and help available locally from charities, churches and the local authorities - a one-stop place of change. Read more [here](#)

BCP is purchasing the hall at St Stephen's Church, Boscombe to be used as a health hub for the homeless.

THE BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

Do you want to hear a thought-provoking talk about the Christian faith or other faiths and their application to contemporary issues? Then why not come to one of the William Temple meetings.

Meetings take place at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. There is an optional meal and the talk starts after coffee/tea at 8pm.

For further information, contact John Newbold, tel: 01202 761 749 email: jjnewbold@btinternet.com A full list of upcoming talks can be found [here](#)

Christian Aid Week 2022 - 15th to 21st May The focus will be on Zimbabwe, exploring the lives and livelihoods of women living in rural communities for whom drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Gift envelopes with details of drop-off points for those wishing to donate will be issued nearer the time. There will be a collection in the centre of Wimborne on the Friday.

Good Friday Walk of Witness, Wimborne Minster. Bringing together all of the churches in the town and surrounding area, and Christians attached to no particular church. The walk will begin at St John's church, Leigh Road at 10.30am and proceed towards the town centre, picking up the congregations of the Baptist church, St Catherine's and the Minster en route. Those wishing to participate can join at any point. The walk ends on Willow Green at 11.00 with a service, which concludes at 11.30.

Churches Together in Verwood, Good Friday Service of Witness, 11am on Ferrett Green.

Churches Together in Boscombe Good Friday service in Fisherman's Walk, 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. There will be Walks of Witness to the bandstand from Immanuel URC Church, Southbourne Road and All Saints Church, Castlemain Avenue, both starting at 10:45 a.m.

Churches Together in Poole are meeting at 10am outside Sainsbury's Supermarket in the Town Centre for an outside event with music from the Salvation Army

OPPORTUNITIES

Ukraine Crisis

There are increasing messages from aid agencies stating that unless there are key contacts in the Ukraine or neighbouring countries, any collections of provisions may get in the way of planned responses.

Therefore, the best way to give is financially to the [DEC](#) Humanitarian Appeal.

Disaster Emergency Committee charities, which includes Christian

events can be found on their website (see below) There are spaces available on Hilfield Friary's weekend, **'Grounded in God - Entering Holy Week held by the Psalms', Friday 8 - Sunday 10 April.** This retreat, led by Canon Patrick Woodhouse, will look at the Psalms, exploring something of the meanings that they can offer, and how in these very turbulent times they can hold us and enable us to see the world with hope. Phone 01300 341741 or [email](#) to book a place. Visit the [programme page](#) for more details.

Prepare for Holy Week with Bournemouth Symphony Chorus' 'Bach's St Matthew Passion', Palm Sunday 10 April 2022, 7pm at the Lighthouse, Poole BH15 1UG Full details and booking [here](#)

On Saturday 16 April (Easter Saturday), Christchurch Baptist Church are staging a performance of **'I Am Mark'**, a dynamic new, word-for-word, solo performance, as it was originally narrated; the Good News of Jesus in all its urgency and power, challenge and comfort - concluding with the events of the first Easter weekend. Find out more [here](#). Book seats or an online link [here](#) All proceeds will be given in support of one of CBC's Word Mission partners, Edith's Hope.

The Arthur Rank Centre's popular Rural Ministry Course takes place from 14-16 June at King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton, and is designed for lay and ordained church leaders entering a rural appointment for the first time, or for those already in rural ministry who want a refresher. Find out more [here](#)

Holiday at Home : churches across Bournemouth working together to prevent loneliness over the long summer holidays for older people. First run in 2019 with churches in Winton, it is being expanded across Bournemouth. A church (or several churches working together) will commit to providing one day of activities aimed at older people. Running approx 10-4pm, it will include lunch with a charge payable directly to each church. PramaLife will coordinate bookings. If you'd be interested in knowing more or in coming on board then please contact Tess on 07912

A special live performance of The Passion by LAMPS Theatre Company Immanuel Southbourne in Partnership with Lamps Theatre Company presents the recreation of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in this moving, memorable and joyful retelling of the Easter Story. Saturday 9th April 6:30pm. [Email](#) or tel : 01202 424994

The Poole Passion!

Dorset's largest community theatre project dedicated to dramatically recreating the final days of Christ. A diverse, intergenerational and non-religious community group of professionals and amateurs of all abilities. **Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Saturday 9th April at the beautiful St Peter's Church, Church Rd, Lower Parkstone (Ashley Cross), Poole, BH14 0NN** Tickets are on sale now: Tel: 07598 826145

Churches Together in Winton, Charminster and Moordown are partnering with Faithworks to provide personal money debt advice, practical money chat courses and are looking at running CAP money courses. The Recovery Course is also continuing to run.

Winton Community Shed and woodworking group - for men who are lonely or isolated. Tess Champion of Prama is asking if churches might like to run a group at the Winton Community Shed, Winton Community Recreation Ground, on other days other than the current group on Wednesdays, or if there are people who would like to be part of the current group as part of the team or group members. It currently has a committed group of mainly older men who meet from 2-4pm. Call Tess on 07912 272077 or [email](#)

At half term, Wesley's, the Community Cafe located in The Spire on Poole High St, offered free meals for children to support those who would normally have free school meals, but it was open to any. 277 children were served with free lunch at a cost of almost £1000, all paid for by gifts from members of Poole Methodists. They would like to do the same at Easter : could you help? Donations are also welcome.

'As One' An alliance of community organisations, faith organisations,

Aid, World Vision and the Red Cross, are in Ukraine and neighbouring countries meeting the needs of all refugees and displaced people.

Bournemouth's local Christian agency, International Care Network, has provided a helpful summary of how churches can help in this crisis: see [here](#) to pray, lobby, and donate

Some BCP churches have strong links to churches in neighbouring countries. **The European Evangelical Alliance** has an ever-growing list of Christian agencies working across Europe who would welcome financial and prayer support. Find out more [here](#)

The Sanctuary Foundation led by Dr Krish Kandiah (Home For Good Fostering organisation) have experience in working with Afghan refugees. If you are thinking about housing refugees, their [video](#) is well worth some time to help you. Homes for Ukraine have a sponsorship scheme they are putting together. Find out more [here](#)

Homes for Ukraine -Connecting Ukrainians in need with UK Host Families Helping connect hosts / sponsors in the UK with Ukrainian families or individuals in need of a safe place to stay.

This service is designed to work with the UK Government's official visa application process and allows Sponsors in the UK and Ukrainians to find the perfect match based on a number of criteria to ensure the best chance of success and ensure safety for both parties. Find out more [here](#)

The U-based charitable organisation USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) and the Church of England Diocese in Europe have also launched an emergency appeal to support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

People are encouraged to continue to pray, to act by exerting pressure on the government by sending an email to their local MP, pushing for safe passage for refugees, and to stand with

272077 or [email](#)

Vacancies :

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) / Methodist Church are hosting three one-year, full time, paid internships : two parliamentary internships with roles split between JPIT and working in the office of an MP's office (one Conservative, one Labour), which offer an opportunity to work on the frontline of political life, whilst also engaging with effective campaigning and advocacy and to work with JPIT, and one full-time with JPIT with a focus on engagement, communication and research, working alongside the rest of the team to produce resources and tools for effective campaigning and engagement. These roles are aimed at recent graduates aged 21-30. Applications for the internships close on 18th April. An [online event](#) exploring JPIT's internships and the application process takes place on 7th April.

Wimborne Minster church is seeking to appoint a Family Outreach Worker. To find out more, visit www.wimborneminster.org.uk Contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@wimborneminster.org.uk or call Revd Canon Andrew Rowland 01 202 882340 / Revd Nick Wells 07715 670321. Closing date 25 April

St Michael's, Verwood is seeking to appoint a part-time Children's Worker. Find out more [here](#)

PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education) is recruiting a Part-time Senior Supervisor to work in schools with Pastoral Care Workers, Designated Safeguarding Leads and Senior Leadership Team members. Please [email](#) for details. Find out more about PACE [here](#)

Verger/Chaplain's Assistant for the Ministry of Defence in Poole. £21,169 a year - Full-time / Part-time. [Email](#) for more information.

Community Outreach Worker – Weymouth initially based at the Methodist Church's Westham Community Centre. 20 hours per week. Please [email](#) using Ref. DSW22/04 in the email subject line.

local authorities, businesses, schools and residents.

The initiative came from Uturn UK C.I.C., which pioneered Street Associations and in 2018 created and coordinated Birmingham's Permission to Smile campaign. It has a Christian ethos.

Its goals are to build Street Association as a way to renew a sense of belonging in a community and to encourage kindness and friendliness between people who live on the same street. BCP, Worcestershire, Birmingham and Dudley are in the first 'wave'.

How to start

Aim for small group, just your street. Put up a two-metre banner. Distribute a letter which invites people to meet over coffee and cakes one evening, with about a week's notice. The first meeting could be in a home or at a church or community centre. Host an As One Tea Party event. There, residents from each local street will be introduced to the idea of starting a Street Association for their own street. Talk about what you might all do together. Collect contact details. Maybe start a Facebook or WhatsApp group for the street.

Ideas of things a Street Association might do include : a coffee morning ; a movie ; a Christmas party, a picnic, a quiz evening, a fish and chip supper, a kids' activity in the park, a barbecue, a children's party, a Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration.

Get a date for the first one and share tasks (such as producing a leaflet, bringing food, talking to neighbours, etc). Hand out window stickers. Ask people to put them up so that the street knows something is happening!

As One notes that an activity which involves children should be undertaken in the presence of their parents or guardians. An event for the whole street, gathered together in one room or area, is generally the safest option. Contact Paul Hockley 07306818985

'Welcome Churches'

Encouraging churches to welcome refugees and migrants from different countries, including Ukraine. Churches can register as welcoming churches,

local Ukrainian and Russian families who need support at this time, as they are both fearful in different ways. Donate [here](#)

Afghanaid - Join the Lent Appeal. Find out more [here](#)

Together for the Common Good – supporting churches to refresh mission and build relationships within the local community. Find out more [here](#)

RESOURCES

The World Council of Churches (WCC) Commission on Faith and Order has released a publication, '*Key Themes from Responses to the Church: Towards a Common Vision*'. [Read more](#)

NEW! Praying Together in Multi Faith Contexts: Some Ecumenical Reflections. Can Christians pray or share silence with people of other faiths? As our society becomes more diverse and with pressure to make public and civic events more inclusive, this paper explores some of the theological challenges for Christians with some guidelines and possible models of engagement. Available free online at CTBI [here](#)

Racial Justice: What's it got to do with me?' Materials are available which can be used throughout the year, helping you to engage with your church communities on the subject of Racial Justice. Available free online at CTBI [here](#)

Resourcing Pastoral Care Online Course Suitable for anyone involved in pastoral care in any setting, voluntarily or in a paid capacity. Find out more [here](#)

Closing date 29th April 2022

Partner with Christians Against Poverty By opening a CAP service, your church will offer hope and equip people to overcome whatever challenges they may be up against. CAP can provide you with all the training and support you need. Find out more [here](#)

Spring issue of the Stir to Action magazine is available [here](#)

The URC's April edition of *Reform* focuses on Ukraine, how churches are responding to the war, and what more we can do. The moving cover which reminds us to keep Ukraine in our prayers, is available as a poster for churches, for free, [here](#). Get your copy of Reform [here](#).

Young, Woke, and Christian: Words From a Missing Generation, edited by United Reformed Church Youth member Victoria Turner, is written by young Christians from different traditions. It covers themes such as climate change, racial inclusivity, sexual purity, mental health, homelessness, food poverty, sexuality, trans identity, feminism, peace-making, interfaith relations, and disability justice. Find out more [here](#)

'**URC Jubilee**' is a resource packed full of ideas for all ages to explore the biblical theme of jubilee, looking at the past, the present and how we might shape the future in the light of God's love and justice. The resource includes games, prayers, bible-studies, craft activities, worship material, and ways to put faith into action. Download the poster, colouring and puzzle pages, or the whole resource [here](#)

prepare 'welcome boxes' or give financially. Find out more [here](#)

The Church of England has published a resource, [Toolkit for Churches Responding to the Crisis in Ukraine](#), including information on the current situation, details of where you can most helpfully donate, practical support you can offer (particularly in relation to those who have fled to the UK), a guide to advocacy and prayer and theological resources. It has also issued some [safeguarding guidance](#)

The Diocese of Europe has published some helpful [resources](#) including liturgy. A version of the lyric video for the song Lord, have mercy, with the Ukraine flag overlaid, is available for free download. You may wish to use it to aid in prayer times.

ROOTS - a partnership of denominations and other Christian organisations, publishing lectionary-based worship resources online and in print since 2002 to help you to plan inspiring worship, encourage discipleship throughout the week, and nurture children and young people in their faith. It offers two sets of weekly resources which are available in magazine format and online: Adult & All Age and Children & Youth. Find out more [here](#)

The first edition of 'The Bulletin', highlighting developments and activities linked to immigration, asylum and refugee issues, from the Churches' Refugee Network's (CRN) Advisory Group. Available free online at CTBI [here](#)



Contact : Katja Babei
County Ecumenical
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