



# CT-eNews

May 2021

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## Reflection of the Month: The power of family prayer

*Co-Leader of One Hope Project, Pippa Baker, who is one of young Christians featured in video reflections for Thy Kingdom Come 2021, shares our [Reflection of the Month for May 2021](#)...*

I feel very blessed to have grown up in a home where prayer was prioritised as a family; I have memories of praying the rosary with my granny, listening to the Holy Spirit with my mum, being in environments of praise and sung worship and of course, sat around a table of family members praying with grateful hearts before eating. Sometimes it was silent, sometimes noisy, sometimes it took place when we were happy and at other times it was our lifeline in trial, but speaking to God together was something that I could see the power of from an early age.



Growing up through my teens and twenties this passion of praying in unity hasn't left me but I've certainly realised how much bigger my family is now! The church is the beautiful, bold and brave body of Jesus and I'm becoming more and more convinced that what sends blood rushing to each part of our frame so that we can move together is prayer.

[Thy Kingdom Come](#) is such an extraordinary expression of this. This is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since launch, this has involved more than 1 million Christians across 85 different denominations and traditions in 90% of countries worldwide. Just think about that – 90% of the globe have Christians mobilised to pray together at the same time for the same thing. That is stunning!

We know churches in America, Australia, Canada, Sudan, Burundi, Hong Kong, Japan, Trinidad, Finland, Germany, Holland, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and beyond are taking part.

This has been supported by Church leadership far and wide including encouragement from all of the presidents of Churches Together in England. His Holiness Pope Francis continues to support the prayer movement and has done for the last few years. Leaders from the Church of Scotland, the Church in Wales and Irish churches are behind TKC- alongside the Methodist Church, the Church of England and many others. It really is a family affair!

Something that strikes me with my work for the Church across the nation is how much we need to continue to teach our young people how to pray and to encourage them that praying big prayers honours our big God. I love how TKC has been so intentional with the unveiling of new resources this year that cater for all ages:

For children, we want to nurture their faith with rich life-giving content. [Cheeky Pandas animation series](#) (11 episodes and accompanying resources) does this. There are accompanying activity packs, service plans and catholic versions (family catechists.)

For youth there are [11 video reflections](#) to inspire young people in their faith with accompanying discussion plans suitable for use at form time in college, youth groups and at home. I was delighted to be asked to contribute one of these! ([Watch Pippa's TKC video](#))

For adults, there are the main 11 videos from a cross section of the church including Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Archbishop Angaelos, the new song '[We Seek Your Kingdom](#)' and heroes of faith Corrie and Betsie Ten Boom's story and CS Lewis.

If ever we needed to step up our work together and to learn to pray together again, it is now. This pandemic has shown us how hungry the world is for something more and the Church has the answer to this – Jesus! I have always loved how simple The Kingdom Come is and how bold it is. We're taking Jesus at His word that we all have the same Father, and we're calling on Him to renew the world by His power. All the family together.

*Full time lay missionary, Pippa Baker, worked in the advertising industry for six and a half years in Central London. In 2017, she felt the call to quit her job to pursue a life working with the Church all over Europe. Her passion lies in helping the emerging generation follow Jesus daily and worshipping Him with their lives. She helps lead One Hope Project, a creative collective encouraging fresh expressions of worship in the Catholic Church.*

## Thy Kingdom Come 2021

Thy Kingdom Come is an ecumenical prayer movement for evangelisation, uniting Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide from the Ascension to Pentecost.

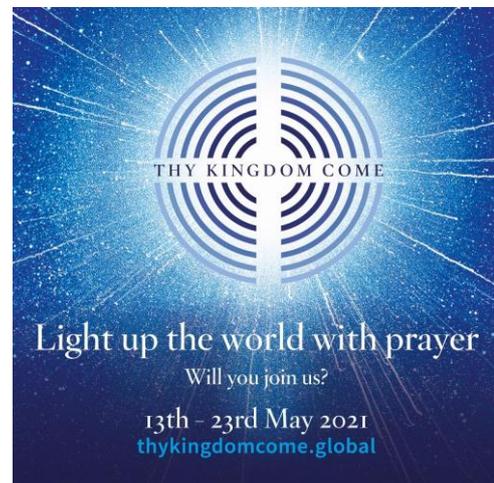
The aim for **Thy Kingdom Come 2021, which is taking place from 13-23 May** is to be a blessing and to serve the church where the need is greatest; by providing free, spiritually nourishing resources for all, to deepen and refresh their faith.

Now in its sixth year, Thy Kingdom Come 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.

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.'

### The Cheeky Pandas

New resources for 2021 will include an [11-part children's video series called Cheeky Pandas](#)– packed with Bible stories, prayers, animation, worship songs and interviews with special guests including CTE Pentecostal President Pastor Agu Irukwu and his wife



Shola (Jesus House), adventurer Bear Grylls, CBeebies presenter Gemma Hunt and Revd Nicky Gumbel (HTB and Alpha), to name a few.

The video series can be used as part of church at home, gathered church (online and offline) and in school assemblies. Episodes are [accompanied by activity packs](#). And similar to last year, the series will be the main content in the Family Prayer Adventure Map and App.

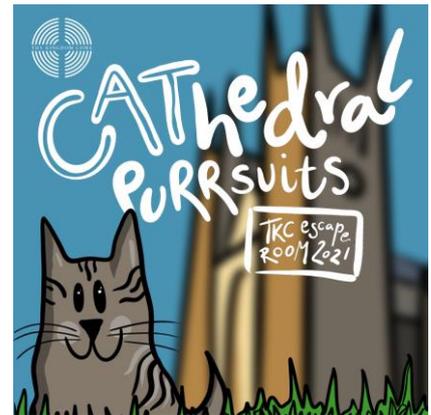
## For Youth

This year The Kingdom Come have teamed up with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust to produce [11 video reflections from influential young Christians](#) for the daily themes of Thy Kingdom Come.

Voices include Guvna B, Pippa Baker (Catholic Charismatic Renewal, who has also written the [CTE Reflection for May 2021](#) the first story in this newsletter), Jamie Jones-Buchanan (former professional Rugby player) and Elle Limebear (worship leader) to name a few.

Each video reflection includes an accompanying discussion plan which is suitable for use in colleges, youth groups or at home with friends.

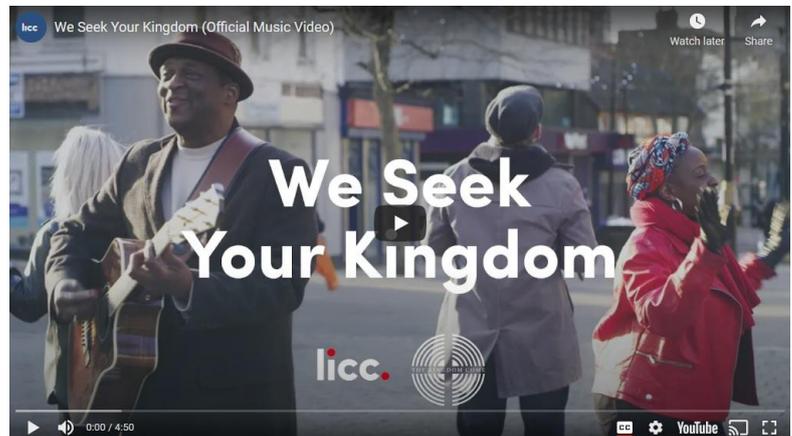
And don't miss the [CAThedral Purr-suits escape room](#) which has been developed by the team at Christ Church Winchester.



## Other new resources

['We Seek Your Kingdom'](#), a whole-life worship song to the tune of much-loved hymn 'Abide With Me', written by Noel Robinson, Andy Flannagan, and Graham Hunter.

Commissioned by LICC (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 like you and me, God would transform, revive, and heal our society.



[This year's Novena and the Prayer Journal](#), written by the Archbishop of York with the express 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 from Pete Greig, Archbishop Justin and 24/7 Prayer GB UK Director, Carla Harding.

**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.'

[Explore the Thy Kingdom Come 2021 website for more details on this year's plans.](#)

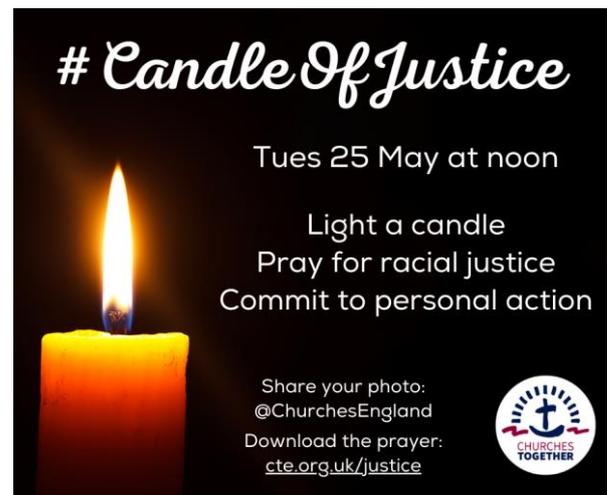
[View this story on our website...](#)

## Candle of Justice: a moment of action on 25 May

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.

The Candle of Justice 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](#) (see next story).



### Join in

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

## Resources to download and share

- [Prayer graphic](#) (text version also available below)
- [What's App/Facebook graphic](#)
- [Twitter graphic](#)
- [Website banner image](#)

## Candle of Justice prayer

*O Lord, you are a God of justice –  
may we share your passion for justice,  
which can be seen throughout the Bible.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit  
enable us to stand up for justice  
and stand against intolerance.*

*Thank you that you love each person,  
made in the image of God.  
Change our hearts to see others as you do.  
Allow our hearts to break over the sin of racism,  
and our lament to turn into righteous action.  
Amen.*

This prayer was written by CTBI's Director of Inclusion Richard Reddie, and CTE's Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations Shermara Fletcher.

## Daily prayers for racial justice

To mark the anniversary of George Floyd's murder, CTE will also be sharing daily prayers on racial justice from our Member Churches, one each day from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 May.

A prayer will be added daily to [cte.org.uk/dailyprayers](http://cte.org.uk/dailyprayers) from Sunday 23 May, and also made available to share on our social media channels [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) (search @ChurchesEngland).

[Read this story on our website at cte.org.uk/justice](http://cte.org.uk/justice)

## National church service will mark anniversary of George Floyd's killing

An array of senior church leaders from Britain and Ireland will call for justice at a national church service marking the first anniversary of the killing of George Floyd on 25 May 2021.

Entitled Doing Justice: A National Service of Reflection on the Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, the service will host senior church leaders and local Christians at the New Testament Church of God in Brixton, south London. They will remember the tragic death of Mr Floyd, as well as challenging churches and communities in Britain and Ireland to stand up for justice and against racism, ignorance and hatred.

Due to the existing COVID-19 restrictions, the socially-distanced service will be recorded on 18 May 2021, but broadcast at 7pm on 25 May 2021, [via YouTube](#) and other social media platforms. BBC Radio 4 will subsequently broadcast the service at 8.10am on Sunday 30 May for its Sunday Worship programme.



**I CAN'T  
BREATHE**

The national service features contributions from the Archbishop of York – the Right Revd Stephen Cottrell, Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo from Kingsway International Christian Centre, Pastor Agu Irukwo - CTE's Pentecostal President, the Bishop of London – the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of Dover – Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Revd Les Isaac from the Ascension Trust and Street Pastors Network, and Lynn Green from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, among others.

The service was initiated by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). Richard Reddie, Director for Justice and Inclusion at CTBI said: 'Last year, George Floyd's killing and the Black Lives Matters protests that followed, showed that many were saying "enough is enough" when it comes to racism, especially the form experienced by Black people on both sides of the Atlantic. This anniversary is a timely reminder that we need to continue the work started last year, if we are really committed to ending injustice in church and society.'

The service will be complemented by the music of the awarding-winning IDMC choir, one of the leading Gospel choirs in Britain. It will also feature poetry, prayers and a symbolic action that sees local schoolchildren laying candles at the foot of a cross to remember all those who have lost their lives to intolerance. This activity will be followed by a minute's silence to remember them, including, of course, George Floyd.

Revd Wale Hudson-Roberts, a Justice Enabler for the Baptist Union of Great Britain and another of the organisers added: 'Despite what some may suggest, inequality and racism sadly remain detrimental factors in our society. If the Church is to speak prophetically to society on these issues, it must first get its own house in order because we still have a lot of work to do ourselves to truly become the types of organisations that are committed to doing justice.'

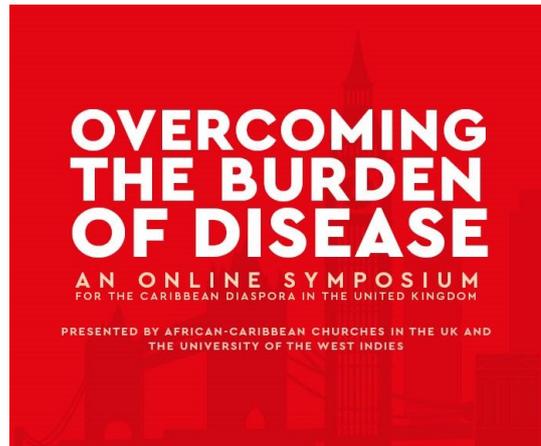
[Read the full story on our website...](#)

## **Overcoming the burden of disease**

The second event in the History, Heritage and Identity Symposium series on Thursday 22 April investigated the consequences of centuries of European slavery and Caribbean colonisation on the present-day health and wellbeing of the peoples of the region and its diaspora.

This series was started by the leaders of three of CTE's national Member Churches - The Church of God of Prophecy, New Testament Assembly and New Testament Church of God. They were galvanized by growing public outrage in the wake of the highly

controversial death of George Floyd in the custody of law enforcement in the United States. The series' purpose is to start a public conversation on the power structures in British society and the major issues and around race and social justice affecting their members and the wider African-Caribbean Diaspora in the United Kingdom. Each of these churches have large, predominantly black congregations and are members of the CTE Pentecostal and Charismatic Forum.



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, will delivered the keynote address on the 'burden of disease' for Caribbean people. He will be joined by the Public Health Regional Director for London, Professor Kevin Fenton. Also on the panel were a number of medical experts and researchers from the UK and the Caribbean Institute for Health Research, who provided scientific perspectives and insights to guide how they overcome persistent health challenges.

[Watch a recording of the symposium](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## CTE Forum logo winner announced

The CTE Forum 2022 organising panel has chosen Jacky Yomi as the winner of their competition to design the logo for next year's event.

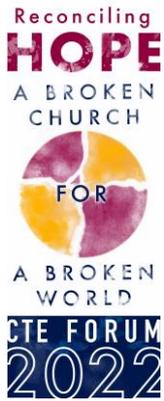
Jacky (pictured here) is a self-taught artist and will shortly finish his master's degree in Architecture at the University of Westminster.



The Churches Together in England Forum is the broadest representative ecumenical gathering of Christians in England. Taking place every three to four years, it and brings together over three hundred representatives of CTE's Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies, Co-ordinating Groups and Bodies in Association.

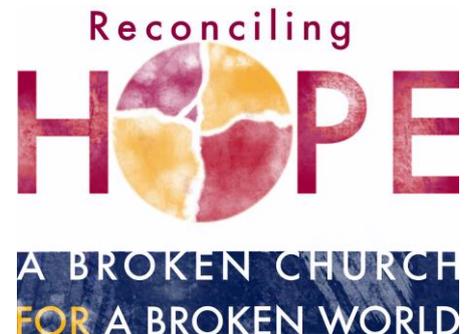
Jacky's design for the 2022 event was inspired by the Lord's supper – the round communion wafer symbolising Jesus' body which was broken for a broken world.





Jacky lives in London and worships at the [NTA \(New Testament Assembly\) Church in Tooting](#). He says, "God has been my faithful Father and companion throughout a long journey through different nations, and He means everything to me."

"My wife and I are both passionate about the unity of the body of Christ. Beauty and strength emerge from our unity in our differences. When churches are working in unity, they are indeed playing and singing a beautiful song that brings healing and change in the community."



[Follow Jacky Yomi on Instagram: @jackyyomi](#)

[Read more about the CTE Forum 2022](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## **Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East joins CTE**

Our newest CTE Member Church is one of the most ancient in the world.

Following approval from its member churches, CTE welcomed into membership the [Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East \(ACOTE\)](#). This is small church at present, with its members drawn largely from the Iraqi community. Following the upheavals in Iraq, it is widely distributed throughout the world, and is a community that knows intimately what it is to be the suffering church. The community of Iraqis in this Church (that is a part of the Orthodox family in CTE) living in England are currently concentrated in London and Kent, but there are also groups in the Midlands.

The episcopal oversight of the Assyrian Catholic (Orthodox) Church in Europe has for 26 years been provided by one Metropolitan, but since 2019, a second bishop has been appointed, with his base in London, Mar Awraham. He is an Iraqi, whose family left Basra before the Kuwaiti invasion, and he has grown up in Australia, where he was very involved ecumenically. He brings that commitment to his new role in the second Diocese of Europe (Great Britain and Western Europe). Globally there are 17 bishops, including those in the United States.



In essence it is the continuation of the ancient church of the Persian Empire, which fell out of communion with the rest of the Christian world for political and theological reasons in the 5th century. At its height, it had 250 dioceses in the 13th century, from Cyprus to Manchuria, and from Turkestan to Kerala and Java, representing the most impressive missionary endeavour for the first 1500 years of the church, although it was almost annihilated in the 14th century as the Mongols were converted to Islam. In the 16th century a group of its members affiliated to Rome, giving rise to the Chaldean

Church, while in India they were attached to the west Syrian Church, which belongs to the opposing Christological tradition. The events of the 20th century decimated its membership, and it is now a significant church-in-exile. It joined the WCC in 1950, and the Middle East Council of Churches in 1995.

Dialogue with its offspring, the Chaldean Catholic Church (in communion with Rome) has led to greater co-operation between these two main churches of Iraq, and in the USA they share a theological institute and pastoral co-operation, while there are continuing conversations with the aim of restoring full communion between them. In addition, there is dialogue with Rome.

Bishop Mar Awraham hopes to play a very full part in the ecumenical life of CTE, and to build relations with its member churches, both Orthodox and others.

[Visit the Assyrian Church of the East Diocese of Western Europe website](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## **Bishop Chrysostom: A tribute**

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan Emeritus passed away on 5 May 2021 aged 104.

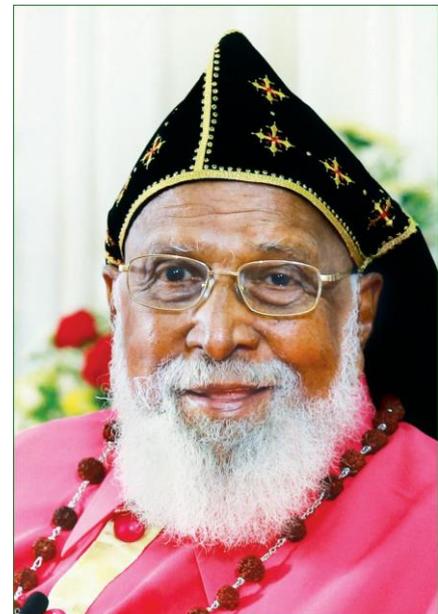
Bishop Chrysostom was the leader of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, one of our Member Churches, from 1999 to 2007.

He was a staunch ecumenist and an advocate of unity among churches.

Bishop Chrysostom represented the Mar Thoma Church in the Evanston and Uppsala Assemblies of the World Council of Churches in 1954 and 1968. He attended the historic Second Vatican Council in 1962 as the official observer from the Mar Thoma Church. He served on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and as the president of Kerala Council of Churches and many other ecumenical bodies.

Acting General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev Prof Dr Ioan Sauca said 'He lived a long and fruitful life in service of the other. He represented an outstanding leadership of ageless wisdom; mentoring and nurturing younger leaders.'

Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, member of the WCC central committee, said 'His Holiness lived out the commandment of our Lord - "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). His whole life was committed to building communities and the nation, breaking down barriers and narrow religious and domestic walls.'



*Photo credit: Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church*

[Read this story on our website...](#)

## The Third Ecumenical Kirchentag goes digital

**13 - 16 May 2021**

The German Kirchentag is a church congress like no other. Every two years around 100,000 participants converge on a German city and make their choice of the 2,000 events on offer over a four-day period. The significant international component makes it the world's largest regularly occurring ecumenical conference.



This year's Ecumenical Kirchentag takes place 13-16 May 2021 and will for obvious reasons be a reduced and online-only event. You can find out more information by following the link to the [British Committee website](#), and the full programme can be found on the [German website \(oekt.de\)](#) much of which is also available in English.

Kirchentag events will be accessible free without registration from the German website with the most content being offered on Saturday 15 May.

Kirchentag events will be accessible free without registration from the German website with the most content being offered on Saturday 15 May.

The German Chancellor Angela Merkel takes part in a session on climate change on that day. And Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Isabel Apawo Phiri and the General Secretary of Religions for Peace, Azza Karam, will be in conversation (in English). Most sessions are in German but those where English is available are marked with an 'e' on the programme.

Though far from typical, this year's online event is a great opportunity to get a flavour of the Kirchentag at what is an important time for developing our relationships with the Christians of mainland Europe.

For questions and more information [contact any of the British Committee as listed on their website](#).

[Visit the Facebook page of the Kirchentag's British Committee](#).

Photo: Some of the 2000-strong brass band which accompanied the congregational singing at the Closing Service of the 2nd Ecumenical Kirchentag in 2010.

[View this story on our website...](#)

## Edging into Hybrid Church webinars

### Part 1 – 22 April

*One of the organisers, CTE's Rev Dr Ben Aldous, reports on the webinar held on Thursday 22 April...*

Whatever else the pandemic has taught us it certainly has been a catalyst for recognising the deep need to work together. To that end HOPE Together, Evangelical Alliance and CTE made a commitment to work together more closely at the beginning of 2021 believing that no one unity movement can do the work of bringing churches and Christians together alone.



Sensing that many church leaders from across the denominational spectrum were struggling with the challenge of meeting both online and in actual buildings we devised a webinar bringing together church leaders with a variety of experiences and practical skills. What are the ways we can explore being a hybrid church?

322 people tuned into the Zoom room to be with us.

Jo Cox Darling, Methodist minister at Trinity Church in Codsall, Staffordshire and co-author of the recent Hybrid Church from Grove Books suggested that Hybrid Church is about finding ways to be radically inclusive to those who are socially isolated, physically distanced, living with chronic or acute illness – in essence to meet with Jesus. She grounded her theological reflections with fantastic examples of the messiness of trying to balance in person and online church. Finishing with helpful ideas that

- Hybrid church extends our practice and understand of church to the missional margins and beyond
- Hybrid church is about radical inclusivity
- Hybrid church is about enabling people to be embodied and connected, in ways that they have been prevented from doing – especially (but not exclusively) in a pandemic

Matt Smith the Online and Resource Development Pastor from Bent Tree church in Texas also shared Lessons Learnt from 10+ years of Hybrid Church especially in the context of a larger multi-site church setting. He suggested that Hybrid church was more than just people turning up in their pyjamas and that the church needed to see that this was a genuine missional opportunity to connect with people who just don't do church in normal circumstances.

Finally, Adrian Semerene a Baptist minister from Gamlingay a rural setting between Bedford and Cambridge shared very practically on this journey into live streaming his services from the first week of the initial lockdown.

[Watch a recording of the Part 1 webinar on YouTube.](#)

## Part 2 – 20 May

The next Edging into Hybrid Church webinar is set for Thursday 20 May from 2-3.30pm.

It will include speakers from a rural context multi-church benefice with places where there is no power and no wifi and a practitioner based in London working with digital natives.

[Book a place for 20 May webinar.](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## Who Can Receive Communion with Us?

The National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) have published a new resource entitled *Who Can Receive Communion with Us?* which seeks to answer the question "When may Christians from other Churches ask to receive Holy Communion in a Catholic Church?"

The leaflet clarifies what is meant by sharing Communion, outlining when Communion may be shared, and provides advice about how to ask to receive Communion within the current guidance.

[Download the \*Who Can Receive Communion with Us?\* leaflet](#)

The National Board of Catholic Women have written this leaflet in consultation with the [Association of Interchurch Families](#), the Department for Faith and Unity of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity in Rome. Its guidance is based on the teaching of One Bread, One Body, the Bishops' Conference teaching document on the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

Janet Ward, of the NBCW said: "We are excited to have this leaflet available to help inform and clarify what is allowed under the Roman Catholic Church's current guidance with regard to eucharistic hospitality. We hope it will be circulated broadly across the Church."

Who can receive  
Communion with us?



A webinar exploring theological, ecumenical and personal perspectives on when and why you may ask to receive Communion in a Catholic context will take place on Monday 17 May from 7- 8.30pm.

The speakers will include:

- Dr Clare Watkins (Reader, Ecclesiology and Practical Theology, University of Roehampton)
- Right Reverend Paul Hendricks (Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark)
- Helen and Philip Mayles (Association of Interchurch Families)

The seminar is open to all. [Book a place now](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## Compassion Acts in Southport

Southport Foodbank was founded in May 2013, and forms part of the [Compassion Acts charity](#). Their mission is to bring churches and other local organisations, businesses and groups together to act as good neighbours, supporting others in crisis and challenging poverty at its root – working towards a future where everyone has enough money for essentials.

As part of the [Trussell Trust's](#) UK-wide network, the food bank provided 4,890 emergency parcels to people in crisis in the last year.

### Never more vital

Richard Owens, Chief Executive of Compassion Acts, explains that the support from the community has never been more vital than over the last year – and churches have played a vital role in ensuring the food bank has been able to keep up with rising need.



“We have great support from across all the local churches in the area,” he said. “We were hosted by a Pentecostal church and now we are based in an Anglican church, so we have a great example of us working with a wide range of churches.

“Each year our food bank is presented with different challenges and because we are a seaside town, we see a lot of people coming to us who are just staying in employment, whether this is temporary or flexible still struggling to afford food. With the outbreak of the pandemic, people have been tipped over the edge into destitution. We are a food bank that does a lot of income maximisation work and we have our own welfare advice team within our charity to ensure we can provide the best possible support to people.”

## Working with many churches

Southport Foodbank currently holds relationships with 45 churches around Southport, Formby and the surrounding areas as well as being supported by dozens of church schools with various food collections held throughout the year.

During the pandemic, and now, as we face restrictions easing, Southport Foodbank continues to provide the lifeline of emergency support, with more than 300 meetings with welfare advisers to look at benefits and debt – leading to reclaims of over £630,000 for people in crisis.

“We’re blessed to have the support of many churches in our community and they realise we take a holistic approach in supporting people,” Richard adds. “And these partnerships happen not just at Harvest time but we speak to the churches in our area week in, week out just to update them. We want to use our work to take churches on a journey with us by changing hearts and minds and talk to people about poverty in our area throughout the year. We know the issue of food banks can be a difficult subject but that is why we try and have regular conversations with churches to ensure they kept up to date with our work but also understand how important their support is.



## Working together

“We are at the intersection of businesses, community groups and churches within Southport and we do cherish how faith and non-faith groups can come together to support our work in helping people in poverty.”

Social media is becoming an increasingly effective way for the food bank to connect and engage with churches and during Easter, due to the Covid restrictions in place, the food bank invited churches to take part in a series of spiritual reflections on social media.

[Find out more about Compassion Acts and the Southport Foodbank](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## ‘It makes me get out of bed in the morning’

Joint Chair of Churches Together on the Cartmel Peninsula, Tricia Calway, shares how their local group for seniors is now bringing comfort across the country...

As time marches on, Covid-19 has done many things to many people, not least to cause a sense of loneliness and depression.

To bring a smile to folks’ faces and to help them remember the good times, the Senior Community Friendship Club from South Cumbria continued its activities online and now has [a thriving website](#) that does just that. It reaches out nationwide, to care homes and independent 'home aloners' all over the UK.

The website is fun and interactive and designed to raise people's spirits. There are many contributions from senior citizens who find it a valuable antidote to the ongoing pandemic. We are also linked to a local primary school who write and read stories for us and send in colourful pictures.



As Joint Chair of [Churches Together on the Cartmel Peninsula](#) I edit the site. 'However, it is designed by seniors for seniors. We have many contributions from senior citizens who find it fun and very worthwhile. Anyone can contribute a poem, sing a song, write a story, all contributions are welcome.'

One regular contributor, 90-year-old Denys says 'I am writing a three part memoir from 80 years ago and I must admit, it gets me out of bed in the morning.'

If you would like to contribute, [contact Tricia by email](#)

[Explore the Friendship Club online](#)

[View this story on our website...](#)

## Want to keep receiving CTe-News?

We really hope so...

From next month we plan to send CTe-News in a refreshed format – that of an html newsletter. The range of stories and your ability to share and reproduce the content (crediting CTE) will be unchanged.

However, as this newsletter will be sent out via a different platform – Mailchimp – we have decided to follow GDPR best practice and ask all our readers to re-confirm their subscription.

**Later in May you will get a follow-up email asking you to re-subscribe for news from CTE.** All you need to do is follow the link in the email, fill in a short webform with your name and email address and confirm your consent. You will then get an email via Mailchimp confirming your subscription.

Your consent only covers CTe-News, not other communications from CTE. And, of course, we won't pass on your details to any other organisations.

If you miss that first email, don't worry, we'll send a couple of follow-ups. Just make sure you are re-subscribed by 4 June so you don't miss the next edition of CTe-News.

[\*If you have queries about the re-subscription process please contact our Comms team.\*](#)

## Library Corner

### ***Intercultural Church: Shared Learning from New Communities - A review***

*The Programme Leader of the MA in African Christianity at Liverpool Hope University, theologian Dr Harvey C. Kwiyani, reviews this book by CTE's Ben Aldous with Idina Dunmore, and Mohan Seevaratnam...*

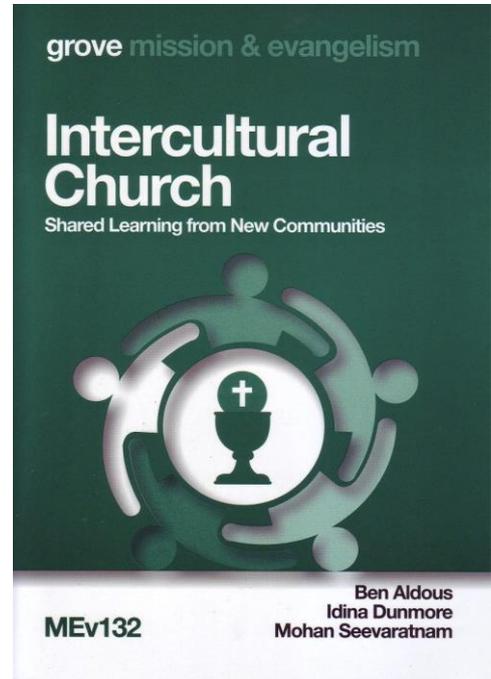
The most common question that I hear people ask about intercultural churches is whether they really exist — whether there are any real-life examples of congregations where people of different cultures consciously get to worship together and enjoy the gifts of their cultures.

Thanks to the three authors of this booklet, we have here three beautiful examples of Christian communities built intentionally around the gift of cultural diversity: The Table in Southall in London, The Community Supper in South Africa, and The Mosaic in London. These three congregations are brought to life in a way that helps readers understand intercultural churches better. Reading about their theological convictions and missional ethos opened for me a new way of thinking about the church in multicultural contexts.

These congregations demonstrate to us all that it is possible, even desirable wherever possible, for followers of Christ from different cultures to worship together, sharing the cultural gifts that God has given each of them. They show us that the Spirit of God loves diversity. In addition, while the booklet gives us the reasons behind the need for intercultural communities of faith, most of the time is devoted to discussing how these three communities manage to belong together. Of course, the three congregations are not models to be replicated. Rather, they are examples, rooted in specific contexts, demonstrating aspects of what intercultural church life in those contexts is like. They are brilliant examples that touch all key aspects of intercultural Christian worship in community — hospitality, generosity, fellowship — without which intercultural church is not possible. Undergirded by prayer and through the help of the Spirit of God, simple practices like people seeing each other, recognising each other's human presence through dialogue, and sharing meals make it easier for us to belong together, interculturally.

I strongly recommend this book.

[\*Intercultural Church: Shared Learning from New Communities is published by Grove Books, Cambridge.\*](#)



## And finally...

### Christian Aid Week 2021

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from 10 to 16 May.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. And people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

[Find out more...](#)



### Christians and hospitals - Christian Council on Ageing zoom call

**18 May, 10.30am to noon**

How can churches best support older and disabled people and their close family and friends if they have to go into hospital, during both during the visiting restrictions resulting from Covid and into the future? In which ways could the efforts of church people most effectively complement those of hospital chaplains?

[Book your place on the zoom call](#)

### Mission, race and colonialism seminar

CTE's Mission Research Network, in association with the British and Irish Association for Practical Theology, are holding an online seminar on Mission, race and colonialism on **Wednesday 26 May** 11am-12.30pm



[Find out how to book your place...](#)

### 18 to 30? Engage ecumenically with the world church

The deadline for applications for young adults (18 to 30 years old) to apply to be stewards at The World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly in Germany in August and September 2022 has been extended to 30 June.



[Find full details of how to apply](#)

This mailing is from Churches Together in England and is sent once a month.

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