



## NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

Last week was Christian Aid Week, I think it is the first time for many years that I have not been involved in either door to door collections or some other special event or fundraising. It was great to see that churches and individuals found ways of marking Christian Aid Week and fund raising, but it was an example of how much our normal activities have changed. It is also a reminder that many charities supporting the vulnerable both in this country and abroad will be struggling for finances, I suspect this will include many of our local churches.

Earlier in May we also remembered the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Like many places the parades, services and parties that we had been planning were all cancelled but again we managed to improvise. I volunteer as a Chaplain at my local Air Cadet Squadron and we held a virtual 1945 themed talent night and a quiz. Our young people were imaginative as they showcased juggling, playing instruments, dog training, magic and the like, finding new ways of being

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'normal'. Finding the 'new normal' is something we, as churches and churches together, are going to have to think about as we move from the current lockdown to living with Covid 19, thinking what church might look like as we move forward and learning from the ways in which we have adapted over the last few months. I think it will be even more critical that we do that together.

NORTH EAST Church leaders reflections for THY KINGDOM COME

<https://stthomas.church/thykingdomcome>

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Follow us on FaceBook

<https://www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether/>

### **North East Churches Acting Together Website**

I've taken the opportunity during the lock down to work on and update the NECAT website. It is still not perfect and i will keep working on it. I have tried to put on as much information as possible but i'm always happy to see more stories

The link to the page is [www.necat.co.uk](http://www.necat.co.uk)

### **Churches Together in England**

A series of 5 video messages from CTE Presidents has been produced, encouraging us to keep on praying prayers of hope during this challenging period.

The direct link is: [www.cte.org.uk/KeepPraying](http://www.cte.org.uk/KeepPraying)

“Let’s keep on praying, because prayer makes a difference.”

We would also encourage you to like the new CTE Facebook page, if you have not done so already: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ChurchesEngland/>.

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### **Prayer posters**

You can also download, print out and colour-in a range of prayer posters to display in windows to link to the Prayers of Hope each Sunday evening at 7pm. These are available at [www.cte.org.uk/PrayersOfHope](http://www.cte.org.uk/PrayersOfHope)

### **Coronavirus web hub**

You can also find a full range of guidance, resources and stories in CTE's Coronavirus web hub.

## **News from CTE**

The link to the latest newsletter from Churches Together in England

[CTE NEWS](#)

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## **THY KINGDOM COME**

Although Thy Kingdom Come will be very different this year there are lots of resources available to encourage churches to take part.

In the North East, the Northern Church Leaders group have joined together for an Ecumenical celebration to mark the period of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost.

Each day a short reflection will be posted by a different Church Leader. On Pentecost Sunday you are asked to join them in a recorded service which will be available at 4pm. Recordings will remain available for the whole week.

You will find the NORTH EAST reflections and the service hosted on the St Thomas website, the link is here

<https://stthomas.church/thykingdomcome>

Further resources are available on the THY KINGDOM COME website. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

### **The Bishop of Berwick, Rev Mark Tanner to be the next Bishop of Chester**

Our congratulations to one of our Trustees, The Right Reverend Mark Tanner, who has been named by Downing Street as the next Bishop of Chester, succeeding the Right Reverend Dr Peter Foster who retired last September. Bishop Mark has been Bishop of Berwick since 2016 and is expected to take up his post in the autumn, practicalities permitting.

"It will be hard to say goodbye to the North East," he says. "But Lindsay and I are excited to return to Chester where I was ordained and both of our children were

born.”

Mark says: “I am so grateful to be part of the life of the Diocese of Newcastle. This is such a special part of the world and it will always be part of us. God is not finished with us yet and I look forward to celebrating what He leads you all into in the months and years to come. It is an honour to be appointed to the Diocese of Chester at such a key time in the life of our communities, nation and Church. In Christ, God offers a gift of hope beyond our imagining and we get to share it in practical service and profound worship. God is here for all.”

### **Preparing for A New Normal**

The United Reformed Church have produced an excellent resource helping churches to think through what church might look like as we emerge out of this crisis. It is a resource that Churches Together groups will be able to use as well to help them think about what might be a way forward.

You can access the document [here](#) or on their website.

## **TALKING JUSTICE**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A  
PEOPLE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE  
IN A PANDEMIC?**



You are invited to join Church leaders and the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team for a panel discussion, reflection and Q&A. [Read More.](#)

### **Children, Families and Young People Development Officer**

Darlington Methodist District have another great job opportunity in the district Children, Families & Young People Development Worker. Please share the advert with those you think may be interested. Follow the link to the website for more information or contact Kiera at: [dmd13office@gmail.com](mailto:dmd13office@gmail.com)  
<https://www.darlingtonmethodistdistrict.org.uk...>

## **Safeguarding Administrator role**

The Methodist Church is seeking a Safeguarding Administrator covering the Newcastle & Darlington Districts.

The post is home based on a part-time 10hrs per week (flexible) basis.

The primary purpose of the role is to support the work of the Regional Safeguarding Officer (RSO) and to ensure that all administrative aspects associated with

safeguarding across the two districts is well managed and in accordance with the policies and procedures of The Methodist Church.

Closing Date 22nd of May 2020

An application form together with Job Description and associated Person Specification are available from Kiera at the District Admin office:

[dmd13office@gmail.com](mailto:dmd13office@gmail.com)

### **A Message from Green Pastures**

**We know that this is a strange time for churches and everyone is busy finding their temporary "new normal", but it's also been amazing to see churches responding to the needs of their communities with such love and compassion, and we're aware that people might be beginning to think about life after COVID-19.**

**As a national Christian social enterprise who have resourced partners across the country to house the homeless and vulnerable, we know that the need for good quality supported housing will likely only increase. We are keen to help churches across the North East to care for people in this way. We will buy property (meaning there is often no financial outlay for churches) and provide training and ongoing support. If your church was to act now, we could realistically buy you a house in time for you to begin housing people in autumn this year. [.https://www.greenpastures.net/](https://www.greenpastures.net/).**

**If this is something you or your church might be interested in, I'd love to chat with you - even if it's just to explore options at a very early stage.**

**You can reach me on 07763328656, or email me at [jennifer@greenpastures.net](mailto:jennifer@greenpastures.net). Thank you!"**

**Thank you for your time!  
Jennifer Johnson  
Green Pastures Partner Liaison North East**

If there is anything I can do to help please do contact me.  
Stay Safe.



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