

# In Touch



## Spring at last!

Winter seems to have clung on this year but in my garden I can bear witness to fresh growth and new life. Easter also gave us all the chance to bear witness to Christ's resurrection and an opportunity to walk each day in the new life that his sacrifice has brought - Glory be his name.

Remember if you'd like to include any news or events or need advice or support then please do get in touch!



## Dates For Your Diary

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| 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>       | Bristol: Kingswood Congregational Church 150th Anniversary—More details on their website <a href="http://www.lovegodlovelife.org.uk">www.lovegodlovelife.org.uk</a>                        |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April                   | Ebbw Vale : Induction Service for Craig James : 3pm  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> April                   | Stalybribe : Induction Service for Rev. Brian Grist  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> April | Nottingham : Council Meeting   |
| May 5th                                  | Open Space Event : ECCLES 10.30am-3.30pm open to everyone. Please register your interest by 27th April at <a href="mailto:support@congregational.org.uk">support@congregational.org.uk</a> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> May   | Christian Aid Week <a href="http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week">www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week</a>  |

### Open Space Event

An Open Space Event is taking place on Saturday 5th May, in Eccles, where we will be looking at the question 'As a Federation how are we going to support our children and young people?' Results of these conversations will be shared and will go towards informing future strategy.

### Alumni Association

Did you ever do any part of the GIFT course, even before it was called that? Did you ever take our training course, or any part of it, or whatever an older version was called? Did you ever use any of the materials produced by the learning & development team? Then watch out for news about our new Alumni Association on the CF website and at the Assembly. If you are interested now, you can contact us about it at: [Madeleine.varley@congregational.org.uk](mailto:Madeleine.varley@congregational.org.uk)

### The New Contextual Church Conference

Thu 19 April 2018 09:30 - 16:30  
St John's College, 3 South Bailey, Durham, DH1 3RJ : Tickets £35 for this day conference bringing together pioneers/practitioners and academics researching new forms of church, with keynote speaker, Michael Moynagh [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-new-contextual-church-conference-tickets-42467109267](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-new-contextual-church-conference-tickets-42467109267)

### CF-XTRA Challenge

An opportunity for churches to support children and young people to become involved and take up the CF-Xtra challenge:  
Choose to do something that will have a positive impact on your local community  
Register with us and share your story  
Join in a challenge celebration.  
More info from: [support@congregational.org.uk](mailto:support@congregational.org.uk)

### Big Brekkie W/C 13<sup>th</sup> May.

All over the country, hundreds of people are planning life-saving, world-changing, extraordinary Big Brekkie events during Christian Aid week. By doing everyday things, like buttering toast and brewing coffee, volunteers from all walks of life will be stepping out to help the world's poorest people. From welcoming a few friends into your home to hosting a whole church and community (and everything in between) your Big Brekkie can have a real impact. Sign up to receive your free Big Brekkie pack. [www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/big-brekkie](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/big-brekkie)

### Assembly June 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

This year in Union Chapel Islington and as a bit of a teaser please bring a

pair or pairs of socks for The Margins Project [www.unionchapel.org.uk/about-us/the-margins-project](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk/about-us/the-margins-project)

### Germinate Lecture 2018: Examining the ground under our feet

Wed 9 May 2018, 10:30 - 14:30,  
The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, CV8 2LG  
Tickets £10 : Speaker: Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester  
The challenges facing rural communities and churches require imaginative responses. Germinate Leadership helps lay and ordained leaders from all denominations to develop creative, entrepreneurial skills for effective rural church leadership. The Germinate Lecture offers an annual opportunity to engage with someone at the forefront of developing effective Christian leaders. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/germinate-lecture-2018-examining-the-ground-under-our-feet-tickets-41873897956](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/germinate-lecture-2018-examining-the-ground-under-our-feet-tickets-41873897956)

### Dip Your Toes

If you would like an opportunity to dig deeper and find out more about God, the Bible and your faith, but you're not able to commit to anything long term, then we welcome you to dip your toes into one of our study modules at one of our weekends. Give us a call: 0115 911 1450. Or email us at: [training@congregational.org.uk](mailto:training@congregational.org.uk)