

In Touch



Congregational
Federation

Happy Christmas

From
The Church Support Team
and best wishes for a fruitful 2019

Children and Youth in our Churches

If you have children and youth in your church we would love to hear from you. We are especially interested in: Any ways in which your church works with children and their families. How your church supports young people in their faith journey. The roles of young people in your church. How your church supports its children and youth workers. We will be sending out a monthly Children and Youth news link from January onwards. A single sheet of A4, similar to InTouch but with a different focus. We need news from church groups, resource info, links to relevant organisations, and anything else you would like included! Might this be helpful to your Children and Youth ministries? Your feedback would be helpful and gratefully received. Thank you.

Congregational Federation Grants.

www.congregational.org.uk/grants

1) Impact Grants:

Grants available to churches looking to develop their ministry and discipleship opportunities. Church Support Workers are available to work with you on your application, and to offer you any help and advice that you need. Closing dates 1st February, 1st September

2) Starter Grants:

Available to any Federation Church wanting to start something new, or re-

launch an existing activity.

3) Mini-Grants:

Mini-grants of up to £100 are available for equipment and resources for children's and youth work, as an encouragement to Congregational Federation Churches involved in this particular ministry.

Serving the Community Awards

Do you know a Congregational Federation Church that is serving its community? We are looking for churches that are making a real difference in their communities. Nomination forms are available at www.congregational.org.uk/awards. We look forward to receiving your nominations. Closing date 1st February 2019

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan.

The theme for this year's Memorial Day is Torn from Home and there are a range of resources available for churches who wish to commemorate, including:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources>

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/hmd-2019-postcard-project-activity-organisers>

Week of prayer for Christian unity

The week is traditionally observed from 18th to the 25th January. The theme for 2019 is Only Justice, based on Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...'

The materials for the week have been prepared by Christian in Indonesia where only 10% are Christian. Indonesians have lived by the principle of 'gotong royong'

which is to live in 'solidarity and by collaboration', regarding all Indonesians as brothers and sisters.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

How many watch The Repair Shop on BBC2?

A recent edition centred around restoring items that had great significance to their owners during the Christmas period. A lady brought in a doll that as given to her when she was an evacuee during WW2. Someone else brought in a nativity scene, with a donkey with damaged ears, and a baby Jesus with no hands. There was a Santa sleigh that needed a major overhaul, and a polyphon that was no longer able to play Hark the Herald Angles Sing.

The owners brought the items in with hope that restoration might be possible. Their amazement and delight was a joy to watch when the precious items were given back to them, in good repair, working, and as they first remembered them. The artisans that achieve these restorations are highly skilled but each of us has our own skills and talents that can be used in many different situations.

Advent comes around each year as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. It is an opportunity to restore and repair not only our relationship with Jesus but with each other. In what sometimes seems a broken and divided society may our faith this Advent be repaired and restored so that we might heed His instructions, to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.