

In Touch



It's a short month

February is a short month and always seems to fly by. And with Lent starting, Easter can't be far behind. Here in The Church Support Team we are busy, busy making plans for the rest of the year, that we hope will bring churches together for mutual support and all to Gods glory.

So 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

24th Feb. Ebbw Vale : SAGES 10.00am-4.00pm
Senior Adults Growing and Exploring Spiritually. Open to anyone interested in ministries with, for and by older people.

Guest speaker Debbie Thrower , Team Leader for Gift of Years

2nd March Women's World Day of Prayer
Resources available from <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/resources/>

10th March Stapleton Road Bristol : Open Space Event
10.30am-3.30pm open to everyone.

We shall be discussing the following question,
As a Federation, how are we going to support our youth and children in their faith journeys?

11th March Hay Mills CC Membership service
11-12noon, followed by lunch 12-1pm.

A closed church which was reopened as a Federation project, and is now preparing to become an independent Congregational church with the reception of its first members.
Please join us if you can.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

'Alumni' are people who have done some study with an organisation. We have created an Alumni Association for all those who have had any kind of involvement with the courses or learning days led by our Congregational Federation tutors and team. Watch this space for how you might benefit - and be involved. For more information contact

Madeleine.varley@congregational.org.uk.

LENT REFLECTIONS

Some of you may remember that last year the Federation ran a series of reflections for Lent called A Secluded Place. It had its own Website, and featured daily on our Face Book Page. The good news is that we are again running Lent reflections, this year focused around sensing God. Beginning on the 14th February, the first week will be 'Hearing God' Contact us for more information.

OPEN SPACE

Our first Open Space event will be at Stapleton Road Church Bristol 10th March
Our question for the day will be:
As a Federation, how are we going to support our youth and children in their faith journeys?

The Open Space format means that the participants will set a relevant agenda. Anyone can call for a conversation on

whatever is important to them within the context of the question, so you get to bring your issues and topics to help form the national plan. No censorship, no limits. We just want you to come along and participate in conversations that will help us work out future plans. No need to book, just arrive on the day 10.30-3.30. For more information contact us on support@congregational.org.uk

SERVING THE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Do you know a Congregational Federation Church that is serving its community? Then you can nominate it. We are looking for churches that are meeting the needs of their community through harnessing the energy, commitment and skills of church members and volunteers. Nomination forms are available at www.congregational.org.uk/awards. Closing date Wednesday 28th Feb 2018.

THY KINGDOM COME

A global wave of prayer, 10th-20th May
Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

CWM YOUTH FORUM

At the beginning of February the Church Support Workers were part of a small group of CWM Europe members looking at plans for engaging with young people, aged 18-25 years, in 2018.

Two projects were agreed:
"Beyond myself in exploring migration..."
27 July-3 August 2018 (tbc)

"Beyond myself in exploring mental health..."

12-14 October 2018(tbc)
11-13 January 2019(tbc)

More information will be available soon.

Y-PRAY CONFERENCE

Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton 4th - 6th May.
A weekend of sharing prayer for young women (aged 20-40) from all Christian denominations. Keynote speaker for 2018 is Emily Owen - who, with her humour and amazing testimony to God's grace through times of severe ill-health is inspirational. Incredible entertainment is provided by Steve Price, one of Britain's top illusionists, who will amaze with his conjuring and challenge with his heavenly perspective. Worship is led by Helen Pollard, whose great musical gifts and spiritual approach will help raise voices and hearts to God. Places are limited so book now! Visit www.wwdp.org.uk or contact Mary Judd at office@wwdp.org.uk