

# In Touch



*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour"*

Try and imagine yourself as one of the shepherds. Imagine them suddenly seeing an unusual light in the sky and 'heavenly voices' speaking to them. No wonder the shepherds were afraid. But they were willing to listen to those voices and go in search of the baby.



At this special time of year, let's pray for courage to follow God's calling, and strength to walk in his light.

*"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" Luke 2:10 Amen*

## Dates For Your Diary

### January

- 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> Training weekends, Nottingham
- 18 – 25<sup>th</sup> Week of prayer for Christian Unity
- 30<sup>th</sup> Churches' Refugee Network – Resettlement and Integration Conference

### February

- 7<sup>th</sup> Closing date for Serving Community Nominations
- 29<sup>th</sup> Children and Youth Leaders Link Up day, Greenacres

### March

- 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> Crossing Boundaries of Faith conference
- 7<sup>th</sup> Children and Youth Leaders Link Up day, Cheltenham
- 14<sup>th</sup> Children and Youth Leaders Link Up day, Bellshill

### An invitation to all, from the South West Midlands

Come and join the celebration!  
Family Festive Fun  
Christmas Craft, Games, Lunch, Praise Party  
Saturday 7th December 11.00—1.30pm  
South Cerney United Church, Clarks Hay. GL7 5UA.

Please let Joy know if you're planning to come so that she knows how many to cater for. Joy Howell, (Children's and Youth Work Coordinator, Congregational Federation SW Mids Area [joy.congfed@gmail.com](mailto:joy.congfed@gmail.com))

### The Resource Hub

Have you checked out the Congregational Federation Resources Hub recently? New links and information added regularly. <https://www.theresourcehub.co.uk/advent> has a range of useful links for advent and Christmas, including <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/>

### Nativity

<https://twitter.com/Nativity>  
'The Twitter Nativity - follow the star throughout December, and dig deeper into what the Nativity has to offer us today.' produced by [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/nativity-2019/](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/nativity-2019/)

### Christian Aid and Syria

Latest Update - We are pleased to report that we have raised over half of our appeal commitment, with 10 months to go. So please keep up the good work. Your support is much appreciated.

<https://www.congregational.org.uk/global-mission/christian-aid-syria>

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Unusual Kindness

18-25<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
'On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together.'  
<https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

### Churches' Refugee Network – Resettlement and Integration

What happens to asylum seekers once they are successful with their claim

and receive refugee status? Find out at this Churches' Refugee Network event. Date and time Thursday, 30 January 2020, 11:30am to 3:30pm. Venue St Andrew's Church Short Street SE1 8LJ London Registration Please register for this FREE event via Eventbrite <https://ctbi.org.uk/churches-refugee-network-resettlement-and-integration/>

### Crossing Boundaries of Faith conference: 3–5 March 2020

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are holding an Inter-religious Ritual Participation conference in Glasgow on 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It will be held at The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP with the option of accommodation at The Ibis Glasgow Centre, 220 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 4DQ. <https://ctbi.org.uk/crossing-boundaries-of-faith-conference-3-5-march-2020/>

