

# In Touch



"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Let's Pray:

'Clear our minds of all that hurts ourselves and others, and in the space a song of joy, a word of praise, a smile, a hug, sharing your love, the simple things that make this world a better place'



[www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

## Dates For Your Diary

### February

7th Serving the Community Awards closing date  
[www.congregational.org.uk/awards](http://www.congregational.org.uk/awards)

29th Leaders Link Up Day Greenacres

### March

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Christian resources Exhibition, Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry  
[creonline.co.uk/cre-midlands-2020-welcome/](http://creonline.co.uk/cre-midlands-2020-welcome/)

7th Leaders Link up Day Cheltenham

14th Leaders Link up Day Bellshill

21st Church Support Committee Nottingham

22nd Mothering Sunday

### May

8-10th Annual Assembly, including Children and Youth Assembly, Solihull, West Midlands

### World Day of Prayer

March 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Theme: Rise! Take your mat and walk.

This years theme comes from the women of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's two largest cities are Harare (the capital and seat of government) and Bulawayo. Its major industries include mining (precious metals, clay and diamonds) and agriculture (livestock, corn, coffee, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and peanuts).

On Independence, Zimbabwe declared access to education a basic human right but, in spite of one of the highest literacy rates in Africa, education is not free and some children in rural areas cannot afford or access schools, colleges and universities. For more information go to <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

### Resources for Lent.

*From the Congregational Federation:*  
A Secluded Place: a journey through Lent

"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace." - Matt 6 (The MSG)

Our Lenten Reflections will begin on Wednesday 26 February this year ... if you haven't signed up yet visit

[www.congregational.org.uk/lent](http://www.congregational.org.uk/lent)

and fill in the form. If you received Life Light emails you don't need to sign up again.

*From Churches Together in Britain and Ireland:*

Opening the scriptures: setting our hearts on fire <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent>

*From Christian Aid:*

Count your blessings <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent-easter-appeal/resources>

*40acts*

40 days, 40 reflections, 40 challenges to make a difference  
Join forces with a global, generous community of over one hundred thousand people who have completed the 40acts challenge during Lent.  
<https://40acts.org.uk/>

### Resources for Easter

If you are looking for resources for Easter, you may like to go to the Congregational Federation Resources Hub. There you will find links including Maundy Thursday Service, Preparing for a Foot Washing Ceremony, Good Friday Service, Good Friday litany, and a Tenebrae Service.  
<https://www.theresourcehub.co.uk/lent-easter>

### Easter eggs

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/>

### Leaders Link up Days

Open to all church youth and children's workers. A time for fellowship, encouragement, information and inspiration. Days to be held in Greenacres, Cheltenham and Bellshill.  
[www.congregational.org.uk/cyp/children-and-youth-leaders-link-up-days](http://www.congregational.org.uk/cyp/children-and-youth-leaders-link-up-days)

### Congregational Federation Summer School

28 – 30<sup>th</sup> August, £50 early discount for first 30 places.

'Is Christian non-Conformity a Thing of the Past?

Join leading experts in the field considering this fascinating area of study:

Rev Dr Graham Adams  
Rev Dr Alan Argent  
Rev Dr Ann Jeffers  
Prof Anthony Reddie

[www.congregational.org.uk/summerschool](http://www.congregational.org.uk/summerschool) for information and bookings.

### Retirement

Dear all,  
As you may have already heard, I will be retiring from my role as Church Support Worker on 11th March. It has been a privilege to work with you all over the years, and I wish you all ever blessing in the future.  
Judith