

In Touch



New Year

A very happy New Year from The Church Support Team and we look forward to all we can do in God's name in 2018. More than anything our message for 2018 will be that we need you to get involved. We need to hear your voice, we simply can't do it alone and that we want to do things together. So if you'd like to tell include any news or events or need advice or support then please do get in touch!



Dates For Your Diary

- 27th Jan.** Holocaust Memorial Day
Theme for 2018 ; The power of Words
<https://ctbi.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day-2018/> <http://hmd.org.uk/>
- 18th -25th Jan.** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Theme for 2018: That All May Be Free.
<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/>
- 28th Jan.** Homeless Sunday
<https://www.housingjustice.org.uk/Event/homeless-sunday-2018>
- 3rd Feb.** Hay Mills CC : Believing and Belonging
10.30am -3.30pm
- 11th Feb.** Racial Justice Sunday
Resources <https://ctbi.org.uk/>
- 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

HAY MILLS CC: Believing & Belonging

In 2015 Hay Mills CC was given a new lease of life by the Congregational Federation, who appointed a project worker and agreed to fund a fresh expressions project for a three year period. During the first six months of 2018 Hay Mills CC will work to become an independent Congregational Church. This will be both an exciting and a challenging step in its journey. Please pray for all involved in this process, that they may hear God's voice and know his wisdom. And please remember in your prayers the people who come along for a day for learning, sharing, prayer and fellowship on Feb 3rd.

We will be considering:

The story behind where Hay Mills CC is at. Opportunities for its future as a church. What membership might look like and the creation of a vision statement.

Everyone is welcome to come along on that day and lunch is included. Please pray for this and for people who are praying about becoming members at Hay Mills CC. For some, belonging to a church is a huge step forward, and they will need all of our prayers and support.

CF-XTRA

After an encouraging and inspiring meeting to start the year, we now have some new ways of taking forward our Youth and Childrens work. CF-XTRA is the support for

all of our work with under 18s. You no longer have to be over 10 to belong. During the year there will be a number of Open Space events for people of all ages to come together to share ideas, and have a real voice in future planning. In June we will launch a CF-XTRA Challenge. We continue to involve young adults over 18 and pray that they will remain part of planning organising and advocating on behalf of the under 18's. We continue to walk with them as they move forward in faith and discover more about their gifts and the call that God has on their lives. Please pray for all Youth and Children across The Federation.

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 . This could be through a regular soup kitchen, carer groups, art projects, after school clubs or much more! Nomination forms are available at www.congregational.org.uk/awards. Closing date Wednesday 28th Feb 2018.

CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION GRANTS

Impact Grants: Replacing the Ministry and Mission grants these are available to

churches looking to develop their ministry and discipleship opportunities.

The Church Support Workers are available to work with you on your application with any help and advice that you need.

Starter Grants: available to any Federation Church wanting to start something new, or re-launch an existing activity.

www.congregational.org.uk/startergrant

Mini-Grants: Mini-grants of up to £100 are available to every Federation Church for equipment and resources for children's and youth work

www.congregational.org.uk/minigrant

SAGES

Senior Adults Growing and Exploring Spirituality. A series of day long events, two or three months apart, each event feeding into and informing the next. Discussing the large topic of ministry by, for and with older people, events will focus on some part of this wide topic, alongside workshops and opportunities for hands on activities and trying things out. More general signposting about other areas of the topic will be available. The event will be hosted in a church and although we are beginning in Wales it is hoped that it will be something that will travel in time around all areas of The Congregational Federation. Our first is in Ebbw Vale on Feb. 24th.