

# In Touch



## Summer with God

May you walk with Jesus this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go. May you walk with love, respect and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to Father God this summer on every day and in every situation. Praying words of praise for the beauty of His creation. Prayers of thanks for friends and for all the good times you experience this summer.

Asking God's help in all your decisions. May you talk with God every day this summer.



## Dates For Your Diary

12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Council, Nottingham
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> September	CEC - Peace Conference, Paris <a href="http://www.ceceurope.org/?event=peace-conference-2019">http://www.ceceurope.org/?event=peace-conference-2019</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Homeless Sunday <a href="https://www.housingjustice.org.uk/news/news">https://www.housingjustice.org.uk/news/news</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> October	One World Week <a href="https://www.oneworldweek.org/">https://www.oneworldweek.org/</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Church Support Committee, Nottingham

### Congregational Federation Christian Aid Appeal

Christian Aid has been working with local partners in Aleppo, Idlib, and Eastern Ghouta to improve education, individual development and foster resilience in the Syrian population. It has asked churches in the Federation to help them and we have pledged to raise £12,000 by 2020. Thanks to match funding from the European Union every pound we raise will be matched by a further £9 from the EU. This means that £12,000 raised will be worth an amazing £120,000 to Christian Aid and its partners.  
<https://www.congregational.org.uk/global-mission/christian-aid-syria>

So far over £5,000 has already been raised, thanks to some great events by our churches. If you have anything planned let us know, and we can share your events.

### Sanctuary Church

'Churches should be welcoming places of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. Sanctuary is a long-standing prophetic theme of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and the idea of a Church of Sanctuary has evolved from the City of Sanctuary movement, building cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety. With over 100 cities/towns/boroughs/areas in Britain and Ireland working with the City of Sanctuary vision as of June 2017.'  
There are excellent initiatives being taken today by churches and church groups building welcome, hospitality and sanctuary.

For examples, visit the faith section of the City of Sanctuary website. <https://cityofsanctuary.org/>  
The Hospitality and Sanctuary for All resource has more information for becoming a Church of Sanctuary.  
<https://churchofsanctuary.org/resources/>

### Harvest resources

Harvest Worship is a book of three harvest services, with accompanying resources that engage with three biblical themes:

- Harvest of Hands and Hope (Week 1/Year B)
- Growing Gratitude and Generosity (Week 2/Year C)
- Creation, Contentment and Care (Week 3/Year A)

Each are presented in fresh and contemporary ways that include sermons, song ideas, all-age material, plus free access to downloadable videos, PowerPoint, printable sheets and more!  
<https://engageworship.org/>

### Livability Community resources

'Does your church want training and support in reaching out to your local neighbourhood? Do you want to grow wellbeing and connections in your community? Do you want support in growing a church that is accessible and inclusive for disabled people? Are you passionate about seeing everyone sharing their gifts and strengths?'  
<https://livability.org.uk/resources/>

Many resources are available, including:  
Dementia Inclusive Church  
<https://livability.org.uk/resources/dementia-inclusive-church/>  
Make a meal of it  
<https://livability.org.uk/resources/make-a-meal-of-it/>  
More than welcome  
<https://livability.org.uk/resources/more-than-welcome/>  
Travelling Together  
<https://livability.org.uk/resources/travelling-together/>

### Church Review

How often does your church review the work that it is doing? It is easy to become caught up in the worship planning, everyday activities, maintenance, pastoral work and engagement with the community. But how often do we pause and ask if we are still following the road God has called us to? There are a range of ways in which the church support team can help, both to look back, and to look forwards, including:

- Reviewing your vision
- Developing a mission statement
- A Pastoral Care review
- A community survey
- Green Space
- Quiet Spaces
- All welcome – but how prepared are you?

For more information, contact us  
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