

WARE CHURCHES

Lent 2020

KEY DATES

In future editions this section will show up and coming dates. For this edition things we hope to do are published in the first section of the newsletter on the understanding that in response to COVID-19 some things may not go ahead.

One thing we can do:

Presidents of Churches Together in England (CTE) have issued a call to prayer, supported by Cytûn for churches in Wales. Join in prayer on Sun 22 March 2020, Mothering Sunday, and light a candle in the windows of your homes at 7pm.
<https://ctbi.org.uk/calls-to-prayer-for-coronavirus-pandem.../>



WARE CHURCHES NEWSLETTER

Welcome to something new!

A new newsletter to help us keep in touch as members, friends and visitors of Ware Churches.

In this first effort you will find details of some upcoming joint events, information from Churches Together in Hertfordshire, and some notes from recent events.

Some joint events in Ware to look forward to

Good Friday: 10th April. Our joint Walk of Witness will leave Kibes Lane car park at 9:30am. We'll gather for worship in Tudor Square and all are invited into St Mary's for coffee and Hot Cross buns afterwards.

On Ascension Day, 21st May, we are all invited to gather together at Christ Church at 8pm to mark the beginning of 'Thy Kingdom Come.' After our worship there will be a time to meet, talk and pray about our life together as churches in Ware.

The 'Prayer for Ware' team are coordinating a joint churches presence at the Ware Carnival. To be involved please contact David Sheppard or Gill Tyson.

Other events

Churches Together in Hertfordshire – 'Thinking Lunch' Thursday 2nd April. The Rt Revd Michael Doe, Vice-Chair, Church Action for Tax Justice Taxing Questions. Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans, AL1 3XQ www.ctherts.org.uk

Ware Churches:

Christ Church ~ Emmanuel Shared Church ~ Springs Christian Fellowship ~ Sacred Heart ~ St Mary's ~ Leaside

Recent events

On Tuesday 21st January we gathered at Leaside to mark the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. Material for this year's reflections had been provided by the churches on Malta, who called us to reflect on kindness – “unusual kindness.” They based their reflections on the experiences of Paul in Acts 27 & 28 when he and his companions were shipwrecked off the coast of Malta, and offered an encouragement to: “*discover our shared unity, and in so doing recognise the importance of unusual acts of kindness that bear witness to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation.*”

After the service those who were able to stayed on to share conversation about our life together as churches in Ware.

We noted, and gave thanks for, the good relationships between our churches and the things that we are able to do together. Those present shared some frustrations and hopes as we discussed how what an ecumenical pattern might look like as we move forward together.

Those who have been involved for a long time in shared churches conversation and activity emphasised the value of: getting to know one another and sharing information; coming together to discuss existing activity and new ideas; and praying together.

We also began to talk about what kind of joint endeavour we might hope for: something more strategic or more supportive, or something between the two.

Some ideas for future joint activities were explored, including a joint service during the Ware Festival and something in the early Autumn to bring Christians together. Following that up: this year will be too soon to organise something during the Ware Festival but we can come back to that in future years. There will, however, be a share fellowship and prayer event on **Tuesday 6th October** in the evening. Save the date. Details to follow.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

'Unusual Kindness'

*After we had reached safety
we then learned that the
island was called Malta. The
islanders showed us unusual
kindness. Since it had begun
to rain and was cold, they
kindled a fire and welcomed
all of us around it*

From Acts 28:1-2



Ashes to Go

Following a small but successful first attempt last year 'Ashes to Go' was offered out and about in Ware on Ash Wednesday, 26th February, led by the 'Prayer for Ware' team – Gill Tyson and David Sheppard, with Jackie Turner and Kathryn Taylor. About 50 people received ashes, prayers and conversation.

This first newsletter is just a beginning, a way to keep us in touch and support one another.

*'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.'*

2 Corinthians 13:13