

# **Black Country Churches Engaged *and* Churches Linked across Staffordshire and the Potteries**

***EPIPHANY 2018***

**Robert Mountford  
Ecumenical Mission Officer**

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## **Mission**

**msm**



A one-year '*mission-shaped ministry*' course begins at St Francis, Leyfields, Tamworth, this evening (10 January).

Training will take place over 30 term-time Wednesday evenings during 2018. '*mission-shaped ministry*' is a year-long, part-time, ecumenical learning journey in the context of a supportive community, to train people for ministry in 'fresh expressions' of church. Find further information about '*mission-shaped ministry*' [here](#) and about St Francis Church, Tamworth, [here](#). Contact course leader Wendy van den Bergh at [this address](#).

Churches in Wolverhampton are collaborating to stage 'ABLAZE18,' a large outreach in West Park between Thursday 7 and Sunday 10 June 2018 inclusive. Argentinian Carlos Annacondia will be the visiting evangelist. A series of events take place between tomorrow (Thursday 11 January) and Sunday (14 January) to launch the initiative. More information about this week's launch events – and the 'ABLAZE18' mission itself – can be found [here](#).



The 'HIGHER' tour, which represents the largest youth mission initiative ever undertaken by the Manchester-based '[Message Trust](#),' is coming to the Black Country. Between 26 February and 15 March 2018. mission events will take place in numbers

**of Black Country High Schools. At 7.00pm on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March, evangelistic concerts will be held at All Nations Church, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AQ.**

**In preparation for the tour and concerts, a Youth Conference will be held between 2.00pm and 9.00pm this Saturday (13 January) at LifeCentral Church, Little Cornbow, Halesowen B63 3AJ. For information and bookings for the 'HIGHER' tour, follow this link.**

Over the last few years, Methodist Presbyter **Andrew Roberts**, in conjunction with the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church, has developed a discipleship resource entitled 'HOLY HABITS.' Based on the life of the early church as recorded in Acts 2:42-47, the ten HOLY HABITS are eating together, prayer, making more disciples, gladness/generosity, breaking bread, service, fellowship, worship, biblical teaching and sharing resources.



The HOLY HABITS book was published in 2016 and can be purchased online at this site. A new series of resource booklets on the HOLY HABITS will be published by the Bible Reading Fellowship on **19 January 2018** and can be purchased via this link.

**Andrew Roberts** will be advising how best to use the new resource material at Codsall Methodist Church on the morning of **Saturday 28 April**. Contact Andrew directly at this address to register for the free training event.

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# Late January



The annual United Reformed Church Youth Assembly will meet from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 January 2018 inclusive at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas.

The Youth Assembly provides an opportunity for URC young people from around the country to meet together, to study God's word, to discuss important topics and to worship together. The Youth Assembly is open to all URC young people aged 15 – 25. The 2018 focus is 'PILGRIMAGE: ARE WE THERE YET?'

More details [here](#).



27 January is HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY. The theme chosen by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for 2018 is 'The Power of Words.' Resource material on this year's theme can be accessed [here](#).

# Homeless Sunday '18

January 28th 2018

Find out more:

  HomelessSunday



Aware of  
homelessness

Active in  
tackling it

Adamant  
it must end

Sponsored by '[Housing Justice](#),' HOMELESS SUNDAY 2018 will be marked on 28 January. HOMELESS SUNDAY is a opportunity for churches and Christian groups to pray, reflect and plan practical action on homelessness, as well as to provide a united Christian voice, to offer solidarity and to be a prophetic voice for change.

More details of HOMELESS SUNDAY via [this link](#).

HOMELESS SUNDAY is being promoted by, among others, the Church of England [Diocese of Worcester](#), [Independent Catholic News](#) and [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#). In the BCCE/CLASP area, night shelters for the homeless continue to operate in Burton upon Trent, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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## **Christian Unity**

The 110th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will run from Thursday 18 to Thursday 25 January inclusive. The theme for 2018 is 'THAT ALL MAY BE FREE,' for which the resource material has

been produced by Caribbean Christians.

The resource material addresses contemporary issues facing the churches of the Caribbean – human rights abuses, human trafficking, modern-day slavery, addiction, the debt crisis, domestic abuse and violence. More information and free downloadable resources can be accessed [here](#).



**This Sunday (14 January 2018) is 'Exchange Sunday,' when church members in LEEK are encouraged to visit a congregation other than their own. At noon each day from Monday 15 to Saturday 20 January inclusive, a joint service will be held at Trinity URC/Methodist LEP, being led by members of a different congregation each day. The week's ecumenical activities in Leek will conclude with a United Service at St. Luke's Church at 4.00pm on Sunday 21 January.**



**In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**A Churches Together initiative  
A LOVE STAFFORD CELEBRATION**

# ***Taking FAITH to WORK***

**6.30pm , 21st January 2018**

**Rising Brook Baptist Church  
Burton Square**

**Mission Market open  
to browse from 6pm**

**More details;07876 551658  
email@lindaandjohn.net**



**In conjunction with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,  
joint church services will be held:**

- **At 2.00pm on Saturday 20 January at UTTOXETER  
Methodist Church**
- **At 6.30pm on Sunday 21 January at St Chad's Anglican  
Church, LICHFIELD**
- **At 6.30pm on Sunday 21 January at Holy Trinity Roman  
Catholic Church, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME**

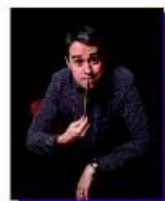
**'WE BELIEVE IN ONE HOLY,  
CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH.'**

(Nicene Creed)

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February

# Re:Charge



A training event to equip and inspire anyone working with children in a Christian context

at  
Penn  
Christian  
Centre

Sat 3rd Feb 2018  
9.30am - 1.00pm

The programme will be led by Trevor Ranger, founder of Synergy Trust, that work with churches, schools and major events in children's ministry



Fun interactive learning  
looking at things like ...

- Explaining the cross to children ■
- Leading a child to faith ■
- Using songs with children ■
- The art of storytelling ■

**NO:Charge**

Attendance is FREE  
but PLEASE register  
(See registration slip)



Penn Christian Centre,  
281 Warstones Road, Penn WV4 4LA

Enquiries and registrations to [t.paul.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:t.paul.lindsay@gmail.com)



Well-known authors **Adrian and Bridget Plass** will visit Keele University Chapel on **Saturday 3 February 2018** for an evening of conversation, laughter, story-telling and poems. The event begins at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £2 for students and £5 for other visitors. More information via [this link](#).

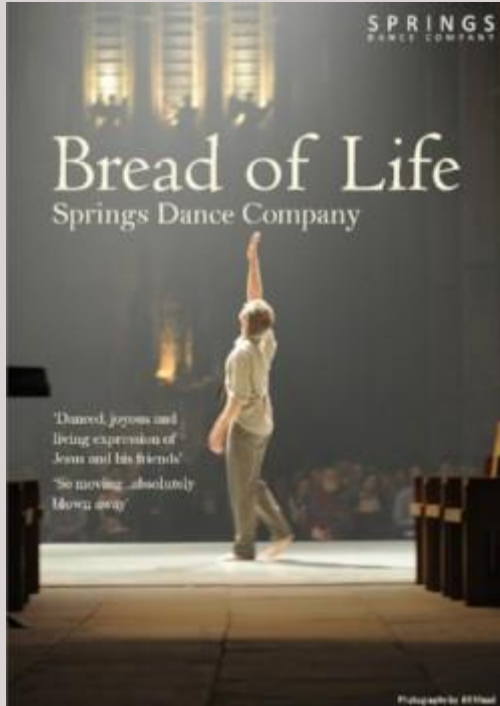


**Ministers of the [Heart of England Baptist Association](#) will meet together in conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, from Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 February 2018.**

**The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 14 February (the following Monday in the Orthodox Church). Study material for Lent groups has been made available free-of-charge online by:**

- The Diocese of Lichfield on the theme of 'Steps in Discipleship' available [here](#)
- 'Embrace the Middle East' entitled 'Making all things new' downloadable [here](#)
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, making '40 stories of hope' accessible [here](#)
- USPG entitled 'All things are possible' available [here](#)

**Inter-denominational Lent groups will meet in various towns in the Black Country and Staffordshire.**



To coincide with the Lent and Easter seasons, Springs Dance Company is visiting churches, cathedrals, festivals and schools with a production of *Bread of Life*. A reflection on the Last Supper, *Bread of Life* celebrates the meal of bread and wine instituted by the Lord Jesus. Further information is available from the Springs Dance Company [website](#). Alternatively e-mail [this address](#).

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## *Towards the Spring*



The annual conference of the [Joint Public Issues Team](#) will be held on Saturday 17 March 2018, between 10.00am and 4.00pm. The venue is the Central Hall. Oldham Street. Manchester M1 1IO. Guest speakers

include Stella Creasy MP and Daily Mail columnist Peter Osborne. The day conference is entitled 'Brave new world?: Faithful living in a time of change.' Information and booking via [this link](#).

For the first time, the ecumenical Spring Harvest worship-and-teaching event is offering the North Yorkshire town of Harrogate as a venue, alongside Minehead and Skegness. The 2018 theme is 'ONLY THE BRAVE: Determined Discipleship.' Information and booking can be accessed [here](#).



The ecumenical, mission-focused 'THY KINGDOM COME' prayer season will be marked between Ascension Day (Thursday 10 May) and Pentecost (Sunday 20 May). The THY KINGDOM COME website contains many ideas and resources to help plan local prayer events. Follow [this link](#) to the website. Alternatively contact Ecumenical Mission Officer Robert Mountford at [this address](#).

The BIG CHURCH DAY OUT music festival will return to Capesthorpe Hall, Cheshire, on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 June 2018. Information and booking at the BCDO website [here](#).



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## **And finally...**

More information about Black Country and Staffordshire events, people and resources can be found at [www.blackcountrychurches.org](http://www.blackcountrychurches.org) and [www.staffordshirechurches.org](http://www.staffordshirechurches.org).

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