

January

Creator of light, illuminate our path by the light of Christ who moves before us and leads us. May he be a beacon for our pilgrimage. Enlighten us and dwell within us. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light that we may find our unity in him.

From Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Focus for Hope: Christians coming together in prayer during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. <https://ctbi.org.uk>

February

Take time to consider the many blessings God has given you. Give thanks for how you have been blessed:

- Physically
- Mentally
- Spiritually

From the Redeemed Christian Church of God

Focus for Hope: Christians coming together to help meet the needs of those in their community through the provision of food banks and financial services.

March

Father, Thank you for stripping away our routines and habits, enabling us to see the things that are important for our souls. Help us to find you in this solitude and, in doing so, find ourselves.

Major Heather Poxon, The Salvation Army.

Focus for Hope: Churches coming together to reflect theologically on the pandemic as part of Churches Together in England Post-Covid Theology Project.

April

From old wood new life grows. From death sprouts forth the buds of spring. And from you, Lord of our hearts, come all that we need to be your people. In love you draw us to you. In grace you offer a way through our sin. In weakness you show the power of sacrifice. And here we give ourselves afresh.

Duncan Tuck of the United Reformed Church

Focus for Hope: Christians coming together during Easter with acts of witness across the County.

May

Living God,
deliver us from a world without justice
and a future without mercy; in your mercy,
establish justice, and in your justice, remember
the mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From the Church of England

Focus for Hope: Christians working together working towards greater racial justice, both locally and nationally.

June

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

Prayer of St. Augustine

Focus for Hope: Christians coming together to pray Thy Kingdom Come. www.thykingdomcome.global

July

Consider sitting in 'expectant silence' as a way in to pray.

"Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life".

From the Quaker Faith and Practice

Focus for Hope: Ecumenical chaplains serving people across Hertfordshire through services such as the University Chaplaincy and the St Albans Anna Chaplain.

August

Go-between God, bridge-builder, community maker. Help us to cross the denominational boundaries we have erected, pray with and for one another, serve the needs of our community and work for justice and peace together so that your Kingdom may come in our lives and the life of the world. Amen

Rev. Alison Facey, Methodist Church

Focus for Hope: Churches across Hertfordshire coming together to serve their community providing children's holiday activities.

September

God of goodness, give me yourself, for you are sufficient for me ... If I were to ask anything less I should always be in want, for in you alone do I have all.

Julian of Norwich

Focus for Hope: The continued presence, prayers and witness of local Churches Together groups in towns and villages across Hertfordshire.

October

Lord, increase in us your compassion, joy, peace, patience and all the fruits of your Spirit, that as we sound the note of our different traditions, so may we be a beautiful harmony, that the world may hear clearly your good news in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Stephen Copson, Central Baptist Assoc.

Focus for Hope: Church Leaders and Ecumenical Officers from across Hertfordshire meet together for prayer and discussion.

November

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, for he has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Him, spared us, supported us and brought us to this hour. Let us also ask the Lord our God, to guard us in all peace, this day and all the days of our life.

From the Coptic Orthodox Church

Focus for Hope: Churches coming together to care and provide for those without a home, as the nights get colder, through projects such as New Hope in Watford.

December

O Lord, stir up our hearts
that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son,
that through His coming we may be made worthy to
serve Thee with pure souls.
Through the same Christ our Lord.

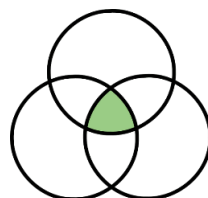
From the Roman Catholic Church

Focus for Hope: Christians coming together to celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord.

How do we work ecumenically to further Christian Unity?

The term "ecumenism" refers to all efforts by Christians of different Church traditions to walk and work together in unity, developing closer relationships and better understanding.

All ecumenical work and activity have Christ in the centre, in relationship with individuals and as part of our relationships together. Christ is the focus of all ecumenical thought and action. One way to think about ecumenism is to consider the different but overlapping types of ecumenism, all with Christ at the centre:



Spiritual Ecumenism – Christ in Me and Christ in You

- Praying and Worshipping together
- Friendships and Informal Dialogues

Social Ecumenism – Christ in Communities

- Local mission
- Seeking Justice
- Community Engagement

Structural Ecumenism – Christ in the Church

- Committees and Structures
- Constitutions and Agreements
- Formal National Dialogues
- Local Ecumenical Partnerships



Churches Together in Hertfordshire

Prayer Calendar 2022

Churches Together in Hertfordshire are Christians who seek to fulfil the vision of Jesus for his followers across Hertfordshire. We work across the county, supporting every kind of activity that aims to achieve the goal of Christian unity.

We support local Churches Together groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships, ecumenical projects and other types of local co-operative working where unity in mission strives to transform villages, towns or communities with the love of Christ.

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me."
John 17: 21

Please contact us to learn more about how we can support your church or community as we work together towards greater Christian Unity.

Please join us to pray and work for Christian unity in Hertfordshire.

Find out more at www.ctherts.org.uk