

# ASPIRATION

IN SOUTH HEREFORD



The Magazine  
of  
The South Wye  
Hereford Parishes  
May 2025  
Price 50p

## Hello and Welcome

Hello and welcome to this edition of Aspiration.

In some ways we are in an 'in-between' time at the moment. Between the deep emotions of Holy Week and Easter and the powerful call to action of Pentecost, we are in Easter season, finding ways to find ways to live our lives in the light of our response to the resurrection. The photo below is of the Watch at the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday. Our Holy Week services were well attended – extra points go to the 20 people of all ages who came to the 5:30am service at St Martin's. If it helps, Easter dawn isn't until 6:02am next year!

But between now and Pentecost we have plenty to keep us busy. The anniversaries of VE day and VJ day will be marked at St Martin's on the 11<sup>th</sup> May with a service and afternoon tea. On the 17<sup>th</sup> St Martin's Spring Fair gives us a chance to stock up on cake, produce and catch up with old friends.

Christian Aid Week gives us a chance to put our faith into action. If you are reading a paper copy of this magazine, you will have a donation envelope, which can be brought back to church on any Sunday in May. Envelopes can also be collected from and brought back to the parish office. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May our 9:30 service at St Martins will focus on Christian Aid .

I know that many of us find ourselves in in-between times in our lives at the moment too and I pray that this Easter Season we may be able together to find ways to build our faith and put that faith into action.

*With every blessing,  
Anne*



## Contents

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
Hello and Welcome	1
St Martin's and St Peter's	3, 4
Thank you to David and Shane	5
Pope Francis	6
South Wye Diary	7,8
What am I reading on Sunday?	9
Faith and Family	10 – 13
For our Prayers	14, 15
Acts of Kindness	16 - 18
Coffee Time	19, 20
Life & Learning at Hereford Cathedral 2025	21
Bishop's Study Events	22
St Martin's Eco Church	23
Thy Kingdom Come	24
Praying in the silence of the heart	25, 26
We Believe	26, 27
From the National Church	28, 29
From the Diocese of Hereford	30
Meet the Team	37

*Copy for ASPIRATION should be sent to the Team Office to:  
aspiration@stmartinshereford.org.uk*

*All contributions are welcomed - if submitting photos, please check that appropriate permissions have been given for publication*



## St Peter's Bullinghope and St Martin's Ross Road



### **Service Pattern at St Peter's**

The PCC of St Peter's have recently proposed some slight changes to the monthly service pattern. Services will continue at 11:15am and, unless there is a special celebration, the fifth Sunday celebration will usually also be at 11:15am. Holy Communion will continue on the first and third Sundays and Morning Prayer on the fourth Sunday each month. Second Sundays will continue to be set aside for Baptism services. When there is not a Baptism on the second Sunday of a month, the church will be open for visitors and for reflective prayer between 11:15am and noon.

### **Hiring St Martin's Hall**

Are you planning a children's party, a jumble sale or a club committee meeting? St Martin's has a range of rooms available for hire, including the hall, a committee room and the Church narthex.

Contact the office for hire charges and availability.



## Regular Services and Events, South Wye Hereford

**Sung Communion at St Martin's**, Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to this service which is followed by refreshments in church.

**Sunday Worship at 11:15am at St Peter's Bullinghope** On the first and third Sundays of each month we celebrate Holy Communion. On the second Sundays we have Reflective Prayer - sometimes there is a baptism on the second Sunday - and on fourth Sundays we have morning prayer. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month we usually have a special service - check the magazine for details.

### **Chill'n'Church**

a group for people aged from 11-16, Thursday evenings in term time from 7pm - 8:30pm. Contact Rev'd Lauren or the office for a registration form.

**Young at Heart** - a group for older people. We meet twice a month - on the first Thursday each month for lunch and on the third Thursday for an afternoon meeting which might involve a talk, quizzes, games or Bingo. If you'd like to join, just drop in to a session or check with the office for dates.

**Coffee in the Narthex** - Tuesdays at 2pm we get together at St Martin's to share our news and stories over a cuppa - everyone is really welcome to join us.

Some of us stay around after 3:30 when the toastie maker comes out for anyone who needs a snack before they head home.

### **Messy Church**

At the Scout Hut at 3:30pm Friday afternoons monthly in term time.

Join us as we learn, worship, make and eat together.

You are welcome to join us for **Holy Communion at Belmont Community Centre** at 12:30pm on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, straight after Foodshare.

When the weather is fine, we worship outside.

### **Holy Communion at St**

**Martin's** at 10am on Thursdays - everyone welcome

### **Tuesday Study Group**

Our South Wye Tuesday bible study group meets at 1pm in the Narthex at St Martin's.

You are very welcome to join the group on site, but if that is difficult, please contact the office and ask for one of the study books to use at home.

We invite a donation of up to £5 towards the cost of the book, but this is entirely optional.





## Thank you to David and Shane

We gathered at the beginning of April to thank David for his 7 years of ministry in South Wye and wish him every blessing for his future ministry. After a lovely Monday lunch, we gave David gifts for himself and Kathy and also thanked Shane for his hard work as a

volunteer with FoodShare over recent years. As part of his farewells, David distributed this reflection on the ministry of Bishop Oscar Romero written by the late Bishop Ken Untener.

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.*

*The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.*

*We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.*

*We are prophets of a future not our own.*

## Pope Francis

*The Archbishop of York has issued a statement following the news of the death of Pope Francis.*

'Let us walk together, work together, pray together.' These are the words Pope Francis said to me when we met in 2023. They sum up his vision for the church, both the Roman Catholic Church but also ecumenically.

Francis's whole life and ministry was centred on Jesus who comes among us not to be served, but to serve. We saw that compellingly in Francis's service of the poor, his love of neighbour especially the displaced, migrant, the asylum seeker, his deep compassion for the well-being of the earth and his desire to lead and build the church in new ways. Francis showed us how to follow Jesus and encouraged us to go and do likewise.

His encyclicals, writings and teachings, were supported by his deeds and actions. In their humility and focus on those in the margins, those actions, his whole life, was instantly recognisable as those of one who followed Jesus.

Pope Francis was acutely aware of the divisions between our churches and how they stand in the way of seeing Jesus Christ more fully. I remember the powerful work the Pope did with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland in promoting peacebuilding in South Sudan.

He was a listening Pope whose commitment to the principle and the process of synodality will be a permanent legacy to the Roman Catholic Church and to all of us. I remember, in the brief times I spent with him, how this holy man of God was also very human. He was witty, lively, good to be with, and the warmth of his personality and interest in others shone out from him.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



## South Wye May Diary

Fri 2nd	12:00noon	FoodShare at Belmont Community Centre
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00am	St John the Baptist JSOC in St Martin's
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Easter III</i>	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martins (livestreamed on FB) Followed by APCM
	11:15am	Holy Communion at St Peter's Bullinghope
Mon 5th		****Bank Holiday - Office Closed****
	11:00am	FoodShare at the Scout Hut
	12:15pm	FoodShare at St Martin's
Tues 6th	1:00pm	Bible Study in the Narthex
	2:00pm	Coffee in the Narthex
Thu 8th	10:00am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
	12:00noon	Home Instead Lunch Club St Martin's Hall
Fri 9th	12:00noon	FoodShare at Belmont Community Centre
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm	Wedding at St Martin's
<b>Sun 11th</b> <i>Easter IV</i>	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martins (livestreamed on FB)
	11:15am	Private Prayer at St Peter's Bullinghope
	2:00pm	Baptism at St Martin's
	3:00pm	Service of Thanksgiving for Peace, St Martin's
	4:00pm	Afternoon Tea celebration of VE and VJ day, St M Hall
Mon 12th	11:00am	FoodShare at the Scout Hut
	12:15pm	FoodShare at St Martin's
Tues 13th	1:00pm	Bible Study in the Narthex
	2:00pm	Coffee in the Narthex
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Funeral at St Martin's
Thu 15th	10:00am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
	2:00pm	Young at Heart in the Narthex at St Martin's
Fri 16th	12:00noon	FoodShare at Belmont Community Centre
	12:30pm	Holy Communion at Belmont Community Centre
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St John the Baptist JSOC in St Martin's
	12:00noon	St Martin's Spring Fayre in the Hall
<b>Sun 18th</b> <i>Easter 5</i>	9:30am	Holy Communion for Christian Aid at St Martins
	11:15am	Holy Communion at St Peter's Bullinghope
	1:00pm	Baptism at St Martin's
	2:00pm	Baptism at St Martin's



Mon 19th 11:00am FoodShare at the Scout Hut  
           12:15noon FoodShare at St Martin's  
 Tues 20th 1:00pm Bible Study in the Narthex  
           2:00pm Coffee in the Narthex  
 Thu 22nd 10:00am Holy Communion at St Martin's  
 Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:00noon FoodShare at Belmont Community Centre  
           12:30pm Holy Communion at Belmont Community Centre  
  
**Sun 25th** 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martins (livestreamed on FB)  
           11:15am Morning Prayer at St Peter's Bullinghope  
 Mon 26th \*\*\*\*Bank Holiday - Office Closed\*\*\*\*  
           11:00am FoodShare at the Scout Hut  
           12:00noon FoodShare at St Martin's  
 Tues 27th 1:00pm Bible Study in the Narthex  
           2:00pm Coffee in the Narthex  
 Thu 29th 10:00am Holy Communion at St Martin's  
 Fri 30th 12:00noon FoodShare at Belmont Community Centre  
           12:30pm Holy Communion at Belmont Community Centre  
 Sat 31<sup>st</sup> 12:00noon Jumble Sale for Dinedor Church in St Martin's Hall

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

**A commemoration of the Anniversaries of VE and VJ days**

3pm Service of Thanksgiving for Peace at St Martin's

4pm Afternoon Tea in St Martin's Hall – £10 entry

*With music from **The Three Tenders***

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 12:00 – 2:00pm**

**St Martin's Spring Fair**

**Stalls, Refreshments, Grand Draw**

*Offers of help on the day or with setting up or packing up would be very welcome.*

*Items for the stalls or draw prizes can be brought to the office from Monday 12<sup>th</sup>.*

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 12:00 – 2:00pm**

Sale in support of Dinedor Church

In St Martin's Hall

## What am I reading on Sunday?

<b>Date</b>	<b>04/05/2025</b>	<b>11/05/2025</b>
<b>Celebration</b>	Easter 3	Easter 4
<b>Colour</b>	<i>White</i>	<i>White</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]	Acts 9.36-43
<b>Psalm</b>	30	23
<b>New Testament</b>	Revelation 5.11-14	Revelation 7.9-end
<b>Gospel</b>	John 21.1-19	John 10.22-30

<b>Date</b>	<b>18/05/2025</b>	<b>25/05/2025</b>
<b>'Sunday'</b>	Christian Aid	Easter 6
<b>Colour</b>	<i>White</i>	<i>White</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Acts 11.1-18	Acts 16.9-15
<b>Psalm</b>	148	67
<b>New Testament</b>	Revelation 21.1-6	Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22.5
<b>Gospel</b>	John 13.31-35	John 14.23-29

<b>Date</b>	<b>01/06/2025</b>	<b>08/06/2025</b>
<b>'Sunday'</b>	Easter 7	Pentecost
<b>Colour</b>	<i>White</i>	<i>Red</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Acts 16.16-34	Acts 2.1-21
<b>Psalm</b>	97	104.26-36,37b
<b>New Testament</b>	Rev 22.12-14,16, 17, 20, 21	Romans 8.14-17
<b>Gospel</b>	John 17.20-26	John 14.8-17 [25-27]

**Sunday Readings:** As usual, it is important to check with the person leading your service that they are expecting you to read the lessons given here, especially if it is a special service or an evening service. If you would like to join the rota to read at St Martin's, please sign up on the rota in the Narthex. Just ask if you would like to practise with the microphone beforehand.

# Faith and Family



## *On the road*

At this time of year we are thinking about several bible stories that happen 'on the road'. After his resurrection, Jesus joins two of his followers walking the road to a village called Emmaus. They (maybe a married couple, based on the hospitality that they offer) are trudging along, sad and worried about all that they had seen in Jerusalem. As they walk together, their new companion talks to them about the scriptural background to Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. When they get to the village and invite him to stay the night, so that the conversation could continue, they sit down to a meal together and as Jesus blesses and breaks the bread they suddenly recognise who he is.

We will also hear about a journey that happened a few years later. Jesus' followers had continued to grow in number and faith and were being persecuted by religious authorities. One young and zealous man was storming along the road towards Damascus intending to capture any followers of Jesus that he might find and take them as prisoners back to Jerusalem. But his plans were not God's plans and that angry young man met Jesus – not as a gentle companion and teacher along the way, but rather as a powerful and intense encounter with the ascended Lord. His life would never be the same again and Saul – now Paul – would become the greatest evangelist ever known.

Our daily lives can often include lots of journeys together, to school, to visit friends and relations, to the shops. Our journey to Asda might not be as eventful as those journeys to Emmaus or to Damascus, but we can still be sure that Jesus is with us every step of the way. And journeys, long or short, offer us lots of ways to connect with one another and with God. You might like to try some of these ideas.

**Prayer walking** The next time you go for a walk, encourage everyone to notice what's around them. What catches their attention, and what might God be saying through it? You can also use walking as a way to pray for your community, encouraging children to pray for the places you pass and the people who live and work around you.

**Lolly stick blessings** Gather lolly sticks and use markers to write a word or draw a picture on the stick, and then together decide where you're going to 'plant' it. For example, you might decide to plant the word 'joy' in your neighbour's garden, or 'friendship' in the grass near school.

**A 'thank you' game** As you walk, play 'I spy' – but instead of saying 'I spy something beginning with \_\_\_\_' flip it to be 'I'm thankful for something beginning with \_\_\_\_'.

**Telling the story of a place** If there are any places with spiritual history near you when you are on holiday, explore them! Churches, charities, ancient sites, cemeteries, chapels – look into the legacy of faith around you, and then tell the stories to your kids. The combination of a physical place and the stories of people who've responded to God there are a great way to show how God makes a difference in every day life.

**Prayer idea** The following prayer idea has a simple action to accompany each phrase. After each action, all say together 'Thank you, Jesus, that you are here'.

**Thank you, Jesus, that you are here.**

When we feel sad, you draw near. (*Wipe away tears.*)

**Thank you, Jesus, that you are here.**

When we talk with our friends, you draw near. (*Pretend to talk to your neighbour.*)

**Thank you, Jesus, that you are here.**

When we hear your stories, you draw near. (*hold your hands in a book shape.*)

**Thank you, Jesus, that you are here.**

When we break bread at your table, you draw near. (*Mime breaking bread.*)

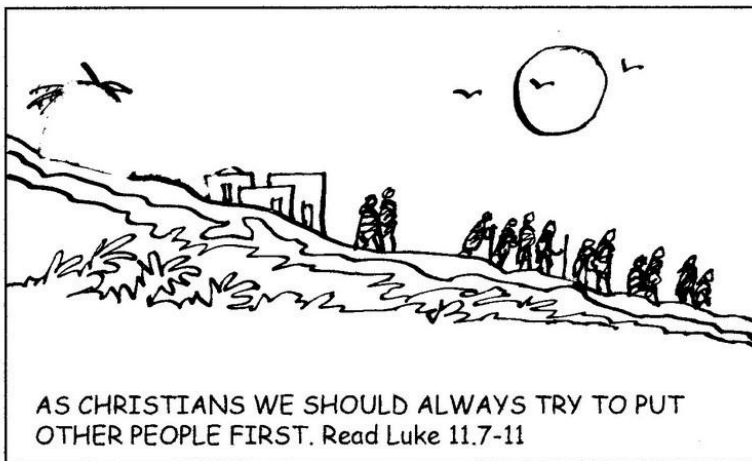
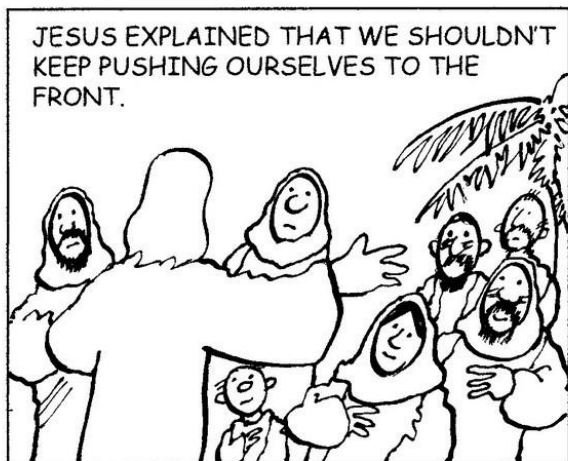
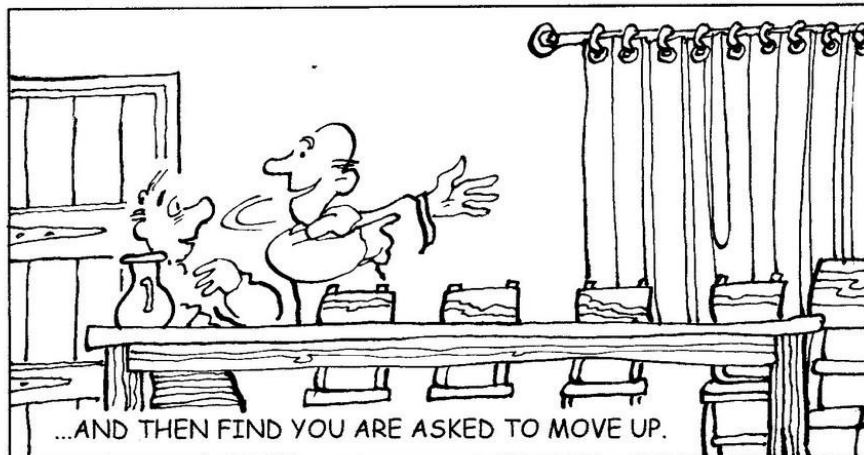
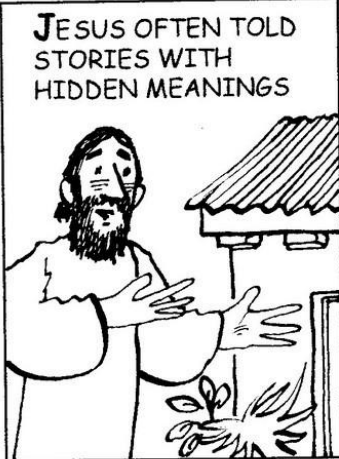
**Thank you, Jesus, that you are here.**

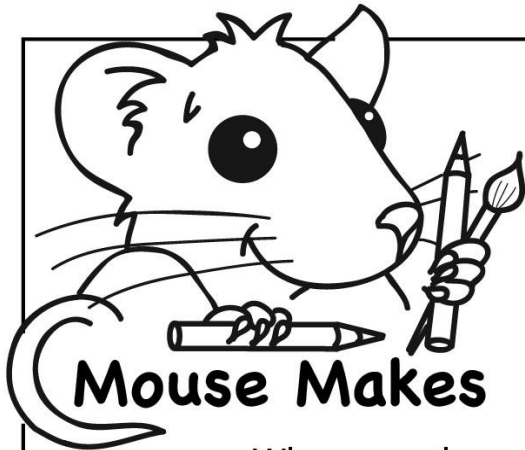
When we welcome the stranger, you draw near. (*Shake hands with someone.*)



**Messy Church at the Scout Hut  
Fridays from 3:30pm**

- 2nd May The Emmaus Road
- 6th June
- 4th July





**MIRACLES OF PETER**



At which temple gate  
did the crippled man lay?

-----  
*Acts 3:1-10*

Who were the man and wife  
who lied to God?

-----  
and  
-----  
*Acts 5:1-11*

People carried the sick into  
the streets so that when Peter  
came by at least his

-----  
might fall on them.  
*Acts 5:12-16*

How long had Aeneas  
been paralysed for?

----- years  
*Acts 9:32-35*

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?  
in the -----

*Acts 9:36-42*



E L P R A I S I N G M H  
B E A U T I F U L M I T  
S A R W S A P P H I R A  
A P A C R I P P L E A B  
N I L W O N D E R S C I  
A N Y P W D I R A I L T  
N G S R A A E R L C E H  
I H E A L E D O I K S A  
A K D Y K N F O V I L L  
S Y P E T E R M E D E B  
L I E D L A M E I G H T  
G S I G N S S H A D O W

After Jesus  
ascended into  
heaven, the  
Holy Spirit  
came upon  
the Apostles  
and Peter was  
able to perform  
many miracles  
in Jesus' name.  
**See the book  
of ACTS**

"And the word  
of God  
continued to  
increase,  
and the number  
of the disciples  
multiplied  
greatly."  
**Acts 6:7**

PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED  
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK  
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE





## For our Prayers

### Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Brenda Baylis	Maureen Gerard	Irene F	Margaret	Charlie
Irene Goodman	Irene Mussell	Mike	Win	Nathan
Shelley	Katie	Sue	Ian	

### Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Doris                      Phyllis                      Mavis Adams..

### Those preparing for baptism or blessing, their families and Godparents

Reginald                      Reggie                      Eileen

### Those preparing for marriage

Miroslav Kusmovic and Michelle Preedy

### A prayer for peace

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the  
nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Prayer Lists

If you would like anyone – including yourself – to be remembered by name in our intercessions, please could you let the office know in writing or by email to [office@stmartinshereford.org.uk](mailto:office@stmartinshereford.org.uk) or complete one of the forms in Church. Please include the name of the person to be prayed for, your name and a contact number or email address, the name by which the person would like to be referred to in the prayers ('Anne', 'Anne D', 'Annie', or 'Anne Dowdeswell', for example) and to which of the prayer lists the name should be added. Please ensure that anyone whose name is to go on the list has given their consent and do not include details of the nature of any illness or misfortune in your note.

*Anne*

### **A prayer following the death of His Holiness Pope Francis,**

Father in heaven, we praise your name  
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,  
for the example of their lives, the life and grace you gave them  
and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant Francis and for all that you did through him.  
Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,  
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Francis.  
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock,  
a sinner of your own redeeming.

Enfold him in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace  
and in the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

### **An Easter prayer**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### **For those who served and died in World War II**

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service,  
particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in  
your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

### **A Collect for Ascension Day**

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever. Amen



### Christian Aid Week - Dying crops means food stops

In Guatemala, the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin. Amelia says: **'I worry about what my children will eat.'** A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water. The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical: **'With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt.'**

Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser. Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and its supporters are joining together once again during **Christian Aid Week (11-17 May)** to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge. With **7 days to make a difference**, every gift, act and prayer counts. **Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?**

- £6 could pay for seed trays that kickstart a plant nursery at someone's home.
- £10 could pay for pruning scissors for a farmer to care for their cacao trees.
- £20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds to diversify a family's crop.

You can donate using the Christian Aid envelope included in paper copies of this magazine or in Church. We will be praying for and learning more about Christian Aid's current work at our 9:30am service at St Martin's on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

# St Martin's Food Share

*Reduce Waste - Help Out - Share Joy*



## Volunteer with us

St Martin's Foodshare is a project run by St Martin's Church, Ross Road Hereford. We obtain surplus food from local supermarkets, the national charity FoodShare and other sources. We share this food with people in our local community.

### What We're Looking For:

- Drivers to collect food and to drive the Van
- People to sort collected food in the evenings and for share days
- People to clean equipment and the van

### Contact us

**Cat** 07581 141100  
**Graham** 07870 529129

**Find us on Facebook**  
St Martin's FoodShare



**Funded by  
UK Government**

# WE ARE FARMING MINDS



**We are Farming Minds** registered charity has been set up by farmers for farmers to tackle mental health in the farming community within Herefordshire.

## How can we help?

### 24 Hour Support Line:

We run a **FREE 24 hour Support Line 7 days a week** for farmers and their families within Herefordshire who are feeling distressed and need someone to talk to anonymously.

### Counselling:

We provide **fully funded counselling to anyone in the Herefordshire farming community** who may be in emotional distress.

### Training:

We offer **FREE mental health awareness training** to anyone living or working in or with the farming community in Herefordshire.

### Social Events:

We run a series of **FREE social events throughout the year** to break the isolation often felt by the farming community in Herefordshire.

### Befriending:

Befriending volunteers offer companionship and support to people who are isolated and lonely – they may visit you at home and/or phone for a regular chat. A befriender can offer conversation and a listening ear to those that need it.



'Taking the bull by the horns' to tackle Mental Health in the farming community

Call our Support Line:

**0808 802 0070**

Or text:

**07786 203 130**

General enquiries: [wearefarmingminds@gmail.com](mailto:wearefarmingminds@gmail.com)

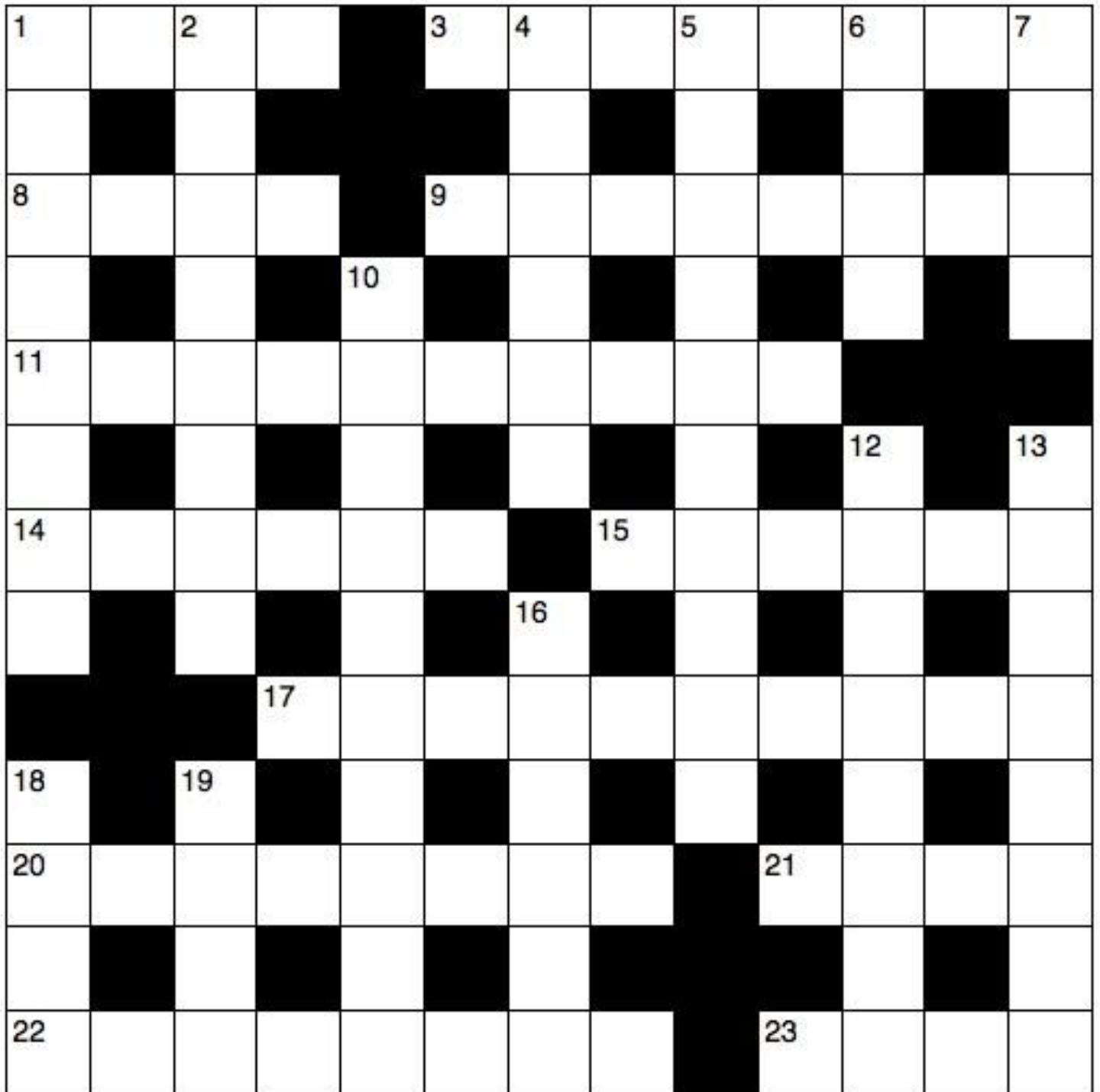
[www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk](http://www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk)

Registered charity number: 1191461



WeAreFarmingMinds

# Coffee Time



Doodle Box



## Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)  
 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)  
 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)  
 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)  
 11 Anglican form of church government (10)  
 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)  
 15 Ministers of religion (6)  
 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)  
 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)  
 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)  
 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)  
 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

## Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)  
 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)  
 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)  
 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)  
 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)  
 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)  
 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)  
 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)  
 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)  
 16 'About midnight the sailors - they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)  
 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)  
 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)



*Last Month's Solution*

## Life & Learning at Hereford Cathedral 2025

Life & Learning is the adult education arm of Hereford Cathedral, working to broaden understanding and debate in theology, social issues, and the arts. It offers a wide range of opportunities for study and learning, and for experiencing the Christian faith in many aspects. Open to all people, regardless of religious affiliation, it aims to be a forum of honesty and engagement. This year's programme features a diverse range of lectures, workshops and events which explore the Old Testament as well as other topics ranging from music and theology to the medieval Jewish history of Hereford. You can download a copy of the 2025 brochure from the Cathedral website and physical copies can be collected from the cathedral and Reading Room

The Revd Canon James Pacey, director of the Life & Learning programme says; "I am excited about the breadth of topics and the diversity of our speakers during 2025. So often, the Old Testament is approached with a degree of wariness and misunderstanding: this year gives us an opportunity to delve deeply into its riches and discover God's grace afresh."

All of the events within the Life & Learning programme, including those listed below, are available to book now from the cathedral website or the cathedral library on 01432 374 225 or [library@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:library@herefordcathedral.org) .

**Old Testament bible study** Bishop Donald Allister, Monday 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 June at 7 pm Online (Zoom) – this course is free. Two and a half thousand years ago, God's people had lost the plot. The rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer. Those who were living comfortably were oppressing those who weren't. The nation was under threat from its neighbours. Then the lion roared: God spoke to his people, a message for all time, words of judgement and of hope.

**Swords into ploughshares?** The Old Testament and War, Dr Andrew Mein, Tuesday 17 June 7 pm at College Hall (£10) In this session we will look at some key texts of war and peace which arose out of Israel's long and often bitter experience of warfare. These texts not only tell us about war in the ancient contexts for which they were originally written, but can also provide a lens through which we can look at our own complex assumptions about violence, war and the Bible, and help us think through difficult questions in a world still scarred by conflict and looking for peace. Dr Andrew Mein is Director of Research at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, where he also teaches Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

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—Diocese of—  
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## **Bishop's Teaching Event 1**

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### **Bishop's Teaching Event 1**

**31st May 2025 - 9:30am - 1:00pm, St George's Pontesbury**

This event will include a teaching session from Bishop Richard on proclaiming our faith to others. The event will begin at 9:30 am and end at 1:00 pm with repeated workshops, allowing participants to choose two of the three workshops. The three workshops will explore the five marks of Anglican mission:

**TELL** - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

**TEACH** - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

**TEND** - To respond to human need by loving service

**TRANSFORM** - To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

**TREASURE** - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

*Workshop 1* is expected to focus on schools, education, youth, children and families. Our Intergenerational Mission lead, Elizabeth Hackney, will lead it in partnership with our Education Team.

*Workshop 2* will focus on the environment and how we can care for God's creation. Our diocesan mission enabler, Revd Steve Hollinghurst, will lead this

*Workshop 3* will focus on Caring for those in need and how we can work for justice. Our diocesan Messy Church lead Kathy Bland will lead this,

If you're looking to join us at this event, please register for a place via the Diocesan website.

## St Martin's Eco Church Team

### Chewing Gum and Plastic

Most of us are used to hearing how microplastics are permeating every aspect of our lives, from the water we drink to the cloths we wear.

But did you know that your favourite chewing gum may also contain plastic in an ingredient called "gum base", which can contain synthetic materials such as polyethylene and polyvinyl acetate.



The same chemical ingredients in gum base can be found in shampoo bottles, carrier bags and glue.

The UK consumes approximately four billion pieces of plastic gum annually, equivalent to four billion plastic straws.

Each day the UK chews and discards 12 tons of gum, which is the equivalent weight of a bus.

*(City to Sea Feb 2025)*

### Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

Hereford Council have secured £1 million in funding from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, helping Hereford's new museum and art gallery become one of the most energy efficient heritage public buildings in the UK.

The £1 million award will improve the warmth and efficiency of the redeveloped museum building by providing for a new low carbon heating system, ventilation and insulation.

This means Hereford Museum and Art Gallery will be the first UK-based museum to be renovated to EnerPHit environmental standards the top international standard for energy-efficient retrofits will lead to potential energy cost savings of 75-95%.

## Thy Kingdom Come

This month millions of Christians worldwide, of every denomination, will once again join in with *Thy Kingdom Come*, a prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost (29<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June), to pray for the nation to know Jesus Christ. It is a time to seek the empowering of the Holy Spirit, that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.



Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives. As Paul writes: *'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.'* (Colossians 4: 2-4).

As Paul says, consistent praying for others involves discipline (*'be devoted'*) and responding to what God is already doing in people's lives (*'being watchful and thankful'*). We can pray for *'open doors'* to point people to Jesus and what He can mean in their lives. We all have opportunities to do this, as even Paul prayed as a prisoner in chains!!

Thy Kingdom Come encourages us to choose five people who we can pray for regularly. Why not ask God to guide you, as you settle on five names and commit to praying for them daily, perhaps by using the following prayer:

*'Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth. Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends the life of your Son and your love for all.*

*Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.'*

## Praying with the Prayers Of The Bible

### Praying in the Silence of the Heart

*'O Lord of hosts ... if you will give me a son ...I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life.'* (1 Samuel 1:11)

Three 'C's will help us to grasp this most personal and moving prayer.

First, the prayer's context. Hannah was the childless wife of Elkanah, who had sons and daughters by his other wife, Peninnah. As she longed for a child, she was taunted by 'her rival' (see v.6) who reproached her for being barren. It doesn't take much imagination to understand how miserable and lonely and useless Hannah felt. Although Elkanah loved Hannah, his well-meant sympathy, "Am I not more to you than ten sons?" (v.8) was hardly calculated to ease her pain! Making the annual pilgrimage to the Tabernacle at Shiloh, Hannah was 'deeply distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly' (v.10).

This is the Bible's first record of a woman praying. We can be certain that godly women, long before Hannah's time, had prayed but this is the first mention in Scripture of a woman praying.

Secondly, the prayer's content. Above everything else, Hannah longed to have a son. "O Lord of hosts, if you will look on my affliction and give me a son, I will give him back to You in service all the days of his life" (v.11). It was a cry from the heart. A lonely wife, longing for a child, taunted by her rival, and not really understood by her husband, poured out her very soul in grief. And it was all done without spoken words! As her lips moved, Eli the priest, misreading the signs, rebuked her for being drunk (v.14). There are times when the burden of our heart is so great that no words can express it, but how comforting to know that God hears us!

Thirdly, the prayer's consequences. The Lord graciously answered Hannah's distress and a year later she was nursing her baby son! (vv. 21,22). Hannah's dark night had been eclipsed by a glorious morning. Grief and sorrow had given way to joy and delight but as she cradled her infant son, Hannah did not forget what she had promised the Lord.



In token of His faithfulness, she named her son Samuel, meaning, 'asked of the Lord' (v.20). Some time later, Hannah took Samuel to Shiloh and presented him to Eli, fulfilling the promise she had made to the Lord. Hannah's dedication of Samuel is a reminder to all of us not only to give thanks to God for answered prayer but also to carry out whatever vows or promises we've made to Him.

Hannah's words to Eli are so full of praise and gratitude to God that they need no comment. Let them inspire thanksgiving in our hearts. "For this child I prayed ...therefore as long as he lives he is lent to the Lord" (v.28).

*Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle,  
former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History,  
Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.*

## **We Believe**

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325. The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity. After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## From the National Church

### **House of Bishops responds to Independent Reviewer's report**

The House of Bishops has issued a formal response to the Independent Reviewer's report on the submission from WATCH (Women and the Church) regarding the appointment of diocesan bishops who do not ordain women as priests.

The House expressed its gratitude to the Independent Reviewer for the work undertaken in producing the report and acknowledged the importance of the concerns raised. Recognising the need for further reflection and action, the House agreed on the following key points: the House:

- reaffirms that the flourishing of women as priests and bishops is integral to the outworking of the Declaration and the Five Guiding Principles. Ensuring that mutual flourishing is possible extends beyond the remit of the Independent Reviewer and requires additional provision to support this.
- acknowledges that more work is required to consider the provision for reviewing situations related to the Declaration that are impacting the ministry of women as priests and bishops, as well as those who fully support their ministry. The House is grateful to the Independent Reviewer for drawing attention to this.
- notes that any changes to the Declaration, including those related to the role of the Independent Reviewer, require consultation with General Synod and would necessitate two-thirds majorities in all three Houses. Care must be taken to ensure that any further provisions for reviewing situations relating to the Declaration and supporting mutual flourishing do not unintentionally undermine the 2014 Declaration.

To address these concerns, the House has asked the Standing Commission to consider these issues in greater detail and propose options for improving the provision for ordained women and the reviewing of situations relating to the Declaration and their ministry. The report also highlights the importance of considering all diocesan bishops' appointments in relation to the vacancy in see process. It has reminded the House of previous recommendations by a former Independent Reviewer and the Implementation and Dialogue Group regarding the theological and pastoral implications of episcopal appointments. The House is committed to exploring further work in this area.

The House remains committed to ensuring that all traditions within the Church can continue to flourish together.

## From the National Church

### **Surge in visits to church search site AChurchNearYou.com**

The number of page visits to the Church of England's church-finder website soared by 55 per cent last year to almost 200 million as growing numbers of people searched for their local congregation. Public page views on AChurchNearYou.Com hit 198.6 million in 2024 – up from 128.1 million in 2023 and up more than three quarters on the previous year.

The figure does not include the 9.7 million page impressions from the site's army of local editors who maintain and update parish pages, adding and tagging worship services, events and community action projects such as food banks. Users shared a total of 11,733 church services and events from AChurchNearYou.Com on social media last year – a 268 per cent increase in a year.

And 18,445 services and events were added to calendars on people's mobile phones and other devices, a 200 per cent increase on the previous year. The surging use of AChurchNearYou.Com comes after polls suggested growing interest in faith. The Bible Society report *The Quiet Revival* published earlier this week pointed to polling evidence showing a turnaround in the numbers of young people identifying as Christian and who say they regularly attend church.

The Church of England's Head of Digital, Amaris Cole, said: "We're delighted that more people than ever are looking for a local church via our church-finder tool, AChurchNearYou.com. The staggering increase shows the public are more interested than ever in connecting with one of our communities, whether for a service, an event, a family activity or one of the amazing projects our churches run. Our churches regularly report newcomers who have found them through the site, so the rise in page hits is giving our editors confidence in inviting the public in to one of our 16,000 spaces. This month alone, churches have added around 20,000 calendar events that the public are invited to attend as we look to celebrate Easter. Because everyone is welcome, we've prioritised accessibility by adding tags to help visitors find the service for them – whether there is wheelchair access, gluten-free refreshments, British Sign Language translation or dementia friendly. These can be found by using the tags when searching for churches in your area."

## From the Diocese of Hereford

### **Diocesan Day of Prayer for Generosity to be held on 12th May**

Incumbents, PCC members and churchwardens were among some of the 'faithful and regular churchgoers' who received a letter in April from Bishop Richard, urging them to participate in next month's diocesan Day of Prayer for Generosity. On Monday, 12th May, parishioners across the diocese are encouraged to pray earnestly for generosity of all sorts to unfold across the diocese, and in particular for release of "unrestricted financial reserves" especially where they are very large, to help cover the projected operating losses of about £1 million. The Bishop said the diocese will issue prayer resources to support individuals and groups who "set aside time that day to pray for God to release and provide the finances we need to sustain and grow our ministry."

Bishop Richard states, "Our predecessors made provision for years of need. Friends, those years of need have arrived." As he continued in his Easter Sunday sermon, Jesus' life, death and resurrection should give us confidence to remove "hopelessness that sees the world as irredeemable. Christ is risen. He is alive forever. He can be known. We can stake our lives on him now and trust him for eternity."

### **The Traherne Association 2025 Festival**

The Traherne Association's 2025 Festival will be held between 7 and 9 June in Herefordshire. Beth Dodd, Janet Wootton, Robert Walker and Richard Willmott will be the Saturday speakers, with music from Andrew Howse during supper. On Sunday Bishop David Thomson will preach at the Eucharist at All Saints, followed by a concert of Traherne-related recorded music compered by Ross Rosankiewiz, a lovely lunch from Bill's Kitchen, the AGM and then Choral Evensong, this year also in All Saints.

### **Three Choirs Festival 26 July – 2 August in Hereford**

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Full information available at [3choirs.org/hereford-2025](https://3choirs.org/hereford-2025)

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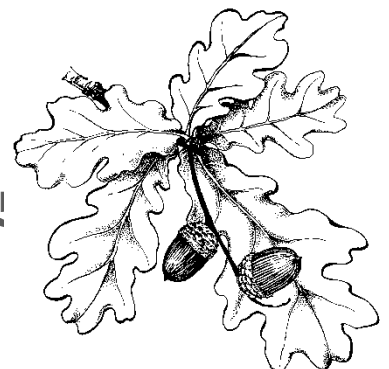
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