

Year of Engagement Dates for Your Diary

Bishop's Teaching Events

Saturday, 19th July, 2025

9.30am-1pm

St. Michael's Church, Madeley

Saturday, 13th September, 2025

9.30am-1pm

St. Michael & All Angels, Ledbury

Saturday, 8th November, 2025

9.30am-1pm

St. Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye

To discuss holding a Spiritual Question Time at your church or local venue, please email Rev'd Stephen Hollinghurst at Stephen.Hollinghurst@hereford.anglican.org

Everyone is welcome at these events. For more information or to register for these and all our events please visit our diocese Eventbrite page online at <https://bit.ly/HfdDioYOE> or scan the QR Code on this page.



Archdeacons' Visitations 2025

It is a legal requirement for ALL Churchwardens, whether newly elected or continuing, to be sworn into office each year, which happens at an Archdeacon's Visitation Service. Here are the 2025 dates and venues. To book, email Sarah Hedley at: annualreturns@hereford.anglican.org.

Hereford Archdeaconry

Date	Time	Venue
10/06/25	2 pm	Holmer: St Bartholomew
11/06/25	2 pm	Colwall: St James the Great
6/06/25	7 pm	Pembridge: St Mary the Virgin
18/06/25	2 pm	Llanwarne: St John the Baptist
24/06/25	7 pm	Wellington: St Margaret of Antioch
01/07/25	7 pm	Kingstone: St Michael & All Angels

Ludlow Archdeaconry

Date	Time	Venue
23/06/25	7 pm	Much Wenlock: Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock
30/06/25	7 pm	Annscroft: Christ Church
02/07/25	7 pm	Clungunford: St Cuthbert
08/07/25	7 pm	Cleobury Mortimer: St Mary the Virgin
09/07/25	7 pm	Bridgnorth: St Mary Magdalene



The Diocesan Office • The Palace • Hereford • HR4 9BL

t: 01432 373300 e: info@hereford.anglican.org



Guided by the Holy Spirit

by The Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford

Dear friends

By the time you read this the Conclave is likely to have concluded. There will be a new Pope. The selection process for the Archbishop of Canterbury will take significantly longer! Both processes seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit, it's just one seems to be more efficient, although less consultative. The work of seeking the Spirit's guidance is not straightforward. I'm fascinated by oblique references in the Bible to this apostle or that going on a mission with the confident assertion they were, 'led by the Holy Spirit'. The Old Testament prophets seem even more confident, their words often appended by, "thus saith the Lord", or equivalent. I wonder what form that leading took? Was it a strong inward impression; an audible voice, or a response to what they had read in scripture? I remember someone coming to me for counsel many years ago who said he felt the Lord was leading him to leave his wife because he had gone off her and had fallen for a work colleague. I suggested obeying the command not to commit adultery probably applied in this case. It didn't need a strong sense of the presence of God.

Those commands are there for a reason, especially when unruly human passions get the better of us.

How are we to distinguish the actual leading of the Holy Spirit from too much cheese before bedtime, or vain attempts to sanctify retrospectively what we would have done anyway? In the Bible discernment in big areas of life is almost invariably corporate. Multiple voices and perspectives come together, each with a piece of a puzzle, each reflecting something of the work of the Spirit within them. Individuals need an objective view. Our capacity for self-deception about our gifts is almost boundless. It is more likely that God will lead us in directions that cohere with the way he made us rather than contradicting them.

But sometimes corporate discernment in the Bible leads people in directions that are risky and don't make much sense. Paul is led by the Spirit to Rome to arrest and execution. The Holy Spirit might nudge us into a spiritual

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conversation that we would otherwise avoid out of English politeness. Ultimately, there is no fail-safe guide to getting it right. Desiring to follow the Lord's guidance is a necessary first step. Regular worship and Bible reading, forming our minds in Christian ways will certainly help also. Being part of a community where we can be open

to the wisdom of others is also vital. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would lead his followers into all truth after Pentecost. Through mistakes and humility I believe he leads us in his way in the end.

The Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford

Diocese News and Events



Nominations now open for St Ethelbert Awards

Nominations for the Order of St Ethelberts for 2025 have now opened. The Order of St Ethelbert is awarded to those in the Diocese of Hereford who have given long and distinguished service to the diocese. Our parishes are wonderfully served by men and women who give selflessly of their time and skills and to uphold the life and ministry of our communities. Awards are made in a special service at the Cathedral each autumn. You can find more details on our website at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/order-of-st-ethelbert/>.



Youth Hub up and running in Leominster

Last month, the diocese's Youth Pioneer for Leominster Ed Ceney led our first Youth Hubs event in the town, a Youth Engagement Week, featuring afterschool drop-in sessions at the Moravian Church Hall. The venue is right next to Earl Mortimer College and dozens of students popped in for free drinks and activities, with a chance to participate in shaping the future of youth provision in the Leominster area. Sessions are being led jointly by the Leominster Youth Hub and Leominster Town Council, which kindly funded the events.

Caring for God's Acre

By Harriet Carty



Profusion in June

June is a great month for spending time close to nature in your local churchyard or cemetery. The second week of June sees three initiatives; Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature and National Cemeteries Week all taking place in celebration of these special places and the fantastic volunteers who care for them.

You may be able to attend an event as part of one of these, take a look on the Caring for Gods Acre website map to see what is happening near you but if not, please go to a churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery on your own, with your family or friends and see what you can see.

Wildflowers may be present in profusion if there is a meadow area, look out for oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw, vetches, cat's ear, hawkbit amongst others. Is there a patch of medium length grass, where shorter-stemmed plants can flower without the mower cutting them off? If so search for bird's eye speedwell, self-heal, red clover, buttercups and medics. Burial grounds can be rich in species as they contain a mosaic of habitats, with large trees, areas of shaded woodland, stonework as well as grassland of varying lengths. The butterflies to be found can

be a mix of species usually found in woodland, grassland and scrub. In June you may find a rich array, look out for comma, red admiral, small copper and common blue which favour shorter vegetation such as grasses and nettles for laying their eggs, all plants found in meadows or in the dappled shade of a woodland or large tree canopy. You may catch a glimpse of a yellow brimstone, which lays its eggs on buckthorn, a woodland shrub.

June is also a good time to sit quietly and watch birds busily feeding young, darting in and out of nests. Again, burial grounds can be rich in birds which may also use neighbouring gardens. The church itself can host house martins under the eaves, swallows in the porch or lychgate and perhaps swifts, nesting invisibly in the eaves or in boxes behind tower louvres. A visit in the early evening may be rewarded with the sound of screaming swifts circling around the church building.

Please let us know by email or by post what you see and hear, be it plant, insect or bird. You can record species using a smart phone and the iNaturalist or iRecord app. Visit our website (address below) to find out more about how to make a recording.

All the best,

Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental
Advisor

harriet@cfga.org.uk,
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

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