

Year of Engagement Dates for Your Diary

Bishop's Teaching Events
Saturday, 8th November, 2025
9.30am-1pm
 St. Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye

Spiritual Question Time with Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah
 Tuesday, 25th November – Bromyard
 with Phil Miller

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.



Please watch out for calendar dates for our upcoming Year of Celebration, 2026!

Diocesan Finance Roadshow

This autumn our Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Andrew Wood supported by Sam Pratley, Diocesan Secretary, Stephen Herbert, Finance Director and The Archdeacons of Hereford and Ludlow, will be hosting a series of roadshow meetings which will provide an opportunity to engage in conversation in shaping plans, asking questions, and sharing your perspectives on the future of ministry in our benefices and deaneries. This event is for parish clergy, PCC Treasurers and churchwardens. Your experience and wisdom will help us to find a path that honours our traditions while embracing new possibilities for the future of funding in our diocese. Join us at one of the following Finance Roadshow events to discuss the future of ministry funding in our diocese.

Hereford Archdeaconry			Ludlow Archdeaconry		
Date	Time	Venue	Date	Time	Venue
10/11/2025	7pm	St Dubricius, Whitchurch	6/11/2025	7 pm	Aston-on-Clun Village Hall
19/11/2025	7pm	St Michael & All Angels, Kingsland	24/11/2025	7pm	St Laurence's, Ludlow



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Parish News
 November 2025

Remembering acts of love and sacrifice

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

The parish where I served as vicar in Sussex had a population of around 3000. In the first world war there were about 800 and 33 names were recorded on the roll of honour. It is hard to imagine now that level of loss. The vicar lost his son and nearly every family in the village was affected. Every year, helped by an exhibition of their lives by a wonderful Church Warden, the number at Remembrance Day service grew. His research at one point called into question whether one of the names remembered on the WWII board had actually died! A brief panic was relieved when he discovered the person living in Canada was the same name but a different person. Few had any connection now with those we remembered, even from WWII when another twenty lost their lives. For many people it was the only service of the year they attended. It never failed to be a moving occasion.

In part, attendance was an opportunity to pay respects to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. But there was a deeper action as well. Those we remembered died because they believed a particular set of values were worth fighting

for. They fought against tyranny, the treating of one group of people as inferior to others, and the idea that might makes right. The Nazi regime was the antithesis of the love that Jesus urges as our root value from which all else flows. These Christian values are not intuitive to human beings. As the historian Tom Holland has conclusively argued in his book *Dominion*, a society wouldn't have these values but for Christian faith. Even the nihilist philosopher Nietzsche recognised this when he said, "When one gives up the Christian faith, one pulls the right to Christian morality out from under one's feet. Christianity is a system, a whole view of things thought out together. By breaking one main concept out of it, the faith in God, one breaks the whole: nothing necessary remains in one's hands." He did this ending up with a philosophical system where power was the ultimate goal and looking out for the weak was despised.

In the confusing mixture of motivations that drove people to attend the 'Unite the Kingdom' march in London a few

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weeks ago were calls to reclaim the Christian heritage of the nation. In some way this is commendable, but the wielding of crosses in that context felt anything but the sacrificial love that the cross represents. Symbols are powerful things and need to be wielded with care. Crosses can be symbols of love and sacrifice or burnt by men in

white robes on the way to a lynching. As Christians we assert the former as the only true representation of our nation's values.

+Richard

The Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford

Diocese News and Events



Bishop welcomes Readers and Funeral Ministers

On Saturday, 4th October, a joyful congregation of Readers and their families shared in the Reader service at the cathedral. Bishop Richard admitted two Readers into the diocese and licensed three people into the new role of Funeral Minister. Paul Green and Kate Green were admitted to be Readers in Stretton Parish, and Keith Lawton, Sue Jackson and Gill Layton became the first people in our diocese to be licensed as Funeral Ministers. You can listen to their testimonies on our Youtube Channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@hfddiocese/videos>

If you are interested to learn more about both of these Licensed Lay Ministry roles, and other local lay ministry roles, you might like to attend one of our Vocations Gatherings, usually held at the Ludlow Mascal Centre, or contact our Mission and Ministry team for more information:

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/mission-and-ministry-team/>



Caring for God's Acre

By Harriet Carty



Overwintering reptiles & amphibians

Churchyards are great places to find both amphibians and reptiles. These two groups include frogs, toads, newts, lizards and snakes. The first three can come as a surprise as burial grounds rarely have ponds in them but frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their time on land and use ponds mainly for breeding and laying spawn. Amphibians (frogs, toads and newts) and reptiles (lizards and snakes) all hibernate, except for some individuals in particularly mild winters, and whilst some amphibians may overwinter within ponds, most find a suitable spot on land.

Both amphibians and reptiles need to overwinter in places that are frost-free and unlikely to flood. They need to be protected from predators and from disturbance. This might be within the soil, perhaps using a crack caused by grave subsidence or beneath tree roots, under stones and grave kerbs, inside a chest tomb with a suitable hole or wide crack to clamber in, between the stones of a wall, under a pile of leaves or in a pile of deadwood. Woodland soil, with shade and leaves can be particularly good.

Amphibians have smooth skin which can look velvety or have a bumpy, warty texture. Their skin is permeable which means they can dry out. When on land,

they need to keep moist, so will overwinter in a damp and shady spot, often under leaves or deadwood. Reptiles have scales and impermeable skin so don't need a damp spot and may use compost heaps as well as cracks in walls and monuments. Amphibian skin can also pick up chemicals easily, which can be fatal. You may see coloured frogs that have picked up the colour of the soil where they overwinter, these can be quite brightly coloured red, orange or yellow.

Try to imagine that you are an amphibian or reptile and take a good look around your local churchyard. You'll probably see that its full of good spots to hibernate. How about making a dead hedge or pile of deadwood in a shady spot? Do you have a compost heap? Try not to empty it after the end of October in case its in use for overwintering. Tussocks of coarse grass and grassland plants like hogweed, particularly when next to a wall are favoured by slow worms, probably the most common reptile found in burial grounds.

By November its likely that amphibians and reptiles will be tucked safely away, although the timing does depend on the temperature in a particular year, but it's nice to know that they might be there awaiting the warmer weather of spring. All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

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