

Year of Engagement Dates for Your Diary

Bishop's Teaching Event

Saturday, 8th November, 2025
9.30am-1pm

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

Bishop's Study Day

Wednesday, 22nd October, 2025
10am-3pm

St. Peter's Church, Hereford

Everyone is welcome to these events. For more information about 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



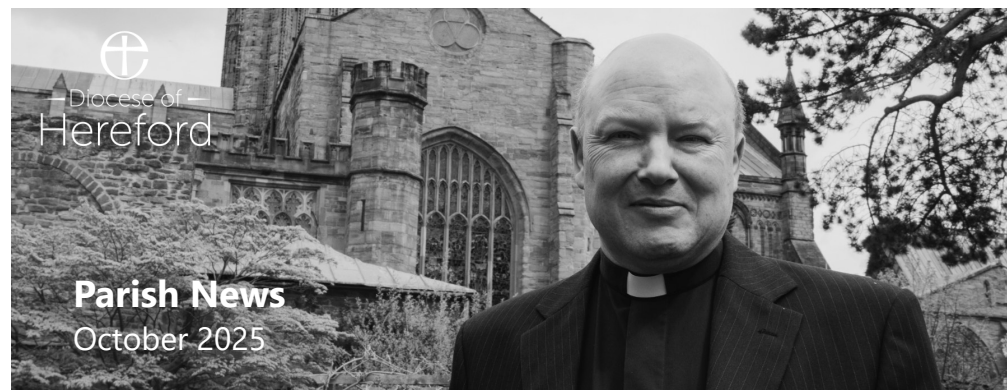
Order of St. Ethelbert's Award Recipients Announced

The Diocese has announced the names and citations of the 2025 recipients of the Order of St Ethelbert Awards. The awards will be presented by the Bishop at a unique evensong service at Hereford Cathedral, on Sunday, 28th September at 3.30pm. The full list and citations can be found [on our website](#).

This year's recipients are:

Rosemary Allworth, St Andrew's, Hope Bowdler
Gail Bonella-Foster, St Luke's, Ironbridge
Wendy Brogden, St James, Shipton
Carolyn Brunt, St Michael & All Angels, Smethcott
Andrew Coleman, St John the Baptist, Hughley
Thelma Davies, St Mary's, Bettws-y-Crwyn
Elizabeth Donnison, St Peter's, Rushbury
Calan Edwards, St Michael & All Angels, Mansel Lacy
Keith Hatfield, St Andrew's, Presteigne
Maggie Henderson, St Peter's, Lugwardine

Patricia Hockett, St James, Colwall
Steven Hockett, St James, Colwall
Beverly Jones, St John's, Eastnor
Brenda Jones, Wentnor, Myndtown, and surrounding parishes
Anne Jordan, Much Marcle and Yatton
Christine Lively, St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy and Moreton Jeffries
Brenda Lind, St Peter's and St James, Hereford
Simon Lind, St Peter's and St James, Hereford
Verity Look, St Andrew's with St Mary's, How Caple
Ray Morris, St Mary's, Burford
Robin Peers, St Bartholomew's, Westhide
John Stone, St Michael's, Brimfield
Robin Symonds, Hentland with Hoarwithy
Robert Taylor, St Mary's, Llanfair Watterdine
Jessica Tidball, St Mary's, Marden
Kenneth Tinsley, St Andrew's, Hampton
Bishop
Mary Wall, Christ Church, Llangrove



Reflections on Harvest

by The Venerable Derek Chedzey, Archdeacon of Hereford

Harvest - as I drove out of Hereford, I was struck by the hard work that is going on in the countryside around the city. Straw is being collected from the fields, in some places silage is being cut and in others harvesting continues. When we were in Devon the celebration of Harvest took place across our villages from the end of August through to early October. Here in Hereford the pattern is similar, and our rural multi-parish benefices are now beginning to celebrate Harvest.

The modern harvest festival celebrations that we know today were introduced in the Cornish parish of Morwenstow in 1843 by Rev Robert Hawker. Hawker was quite the eccentric and also on occasions was reputed to have dressed up as a mermaid! He invited his parishioners to a Harvest service as he wanted to give thanks to God for providing such plenty. However, this was to counter the festivities and merriment of much more ancient pagan celebrations, and he was keen to turn his parishioners towards a Christian celebration of harvest. The Christian Harvest celebrations that Hawker wanted to connect with were

based on what he saw in the Old Testament, and he drew on the Jewish festival of Sukkot or feast of Tabernacles.

"You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the first fruits of your labour, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labour."

Exodus 23:16

Even today with modern farming methods it is still an opportunity to give thanks to God for his provision for us and an opportunity to share with generosity the riches we have received. Paul was very clear in his teaching that generosity begins in our hearts and is a reflection of the gratitude we have towards God for what he has done for us. Generosity is not something we have to be coerced into but instead it is something freely given. We perhaps need this reminder because our wealth and belongings ultimately belong to God, and we are simply stewards of what we have.

"So, I thought it necessary to urge the

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brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:5-7

Our harvest services should reflect this attitude of generosity because it points to what is at the heart of our faith that God has given us new life in Jesus freely and without condition. This is the grace of God at work in our lives. However, as Christians we are also called to work in God's harvest field. Jesus in his teaching told the disciples that they were called to be labourers in the Kingdom.

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:36-38

As disciples we are called to share the good news of the Kingdom and to help bring in God's harvest of new followers of Jesus. These are the disciples that Jesus calls us to make in the Great Commission, and it is part of our role not simply to make converts but to mentor and coach the next generation. We need to see the harvest not just in terms of crops, fruit and vegetables but as a spiritual reality that sees us offer the story of Jesus to a world in need.

Archdeacon Derek

Diocese People news

The Rev'd Canon Andrew Piper, retiring as Precentor of Hereford Cathedral, effective 30th September

The Rev'd Stephen Griffiths, Assistant Archdeacon of Ludlow

The Rev'd David Andrews, moving to RAF Chaplaincy

The Rev'd Joe Simons, Church & Society Officer (Voluntary)

The Rev'd Luci Morriss, Priest in Charge of the Black Mountains Group & Assistant Curate of Ewyas Harold with Dulas; Abbeydore; Bacton; Kentchurch with Llangua; Rowlestone and Llancillo; Walterstone; and to be Rector Designate of the proposed Black Mountains Group and Rural Pioneer Minister (Ewyas Harold with Dulas; Abbeydore; Bacton; Kentchurch with Llangua; Rowlestone and Llancillo; Walterstone; Clodock and Longtown; Craswall; Llanveynoe; St Margaret's; Michaelchurch Escley; and Newton)

The Rev'd Jonathan Widdess, Priest in Charge, West Hereford Team Ministry (Rector Designate)

The Rev'd Luke Aylen, Associate Minister (Assistant Curate), St Peter with St Owen and St James Hereford

The Rev'd Lauren Bell, moving to Warrington in Liverpool Diocese

Caring for God's Acre

By Harriet Carty



Putting your meadow to bed for the winter!

It's often thought that encouraging wildlife into churchyards or cemeteries is a case of leaving them to go wild and stopping management. Actually, this is not the case. Many of the species and habitats have been present for decades or even centuries. To maintain or increase wildlife in your local churchyard then the best thing to do is to continue this traditional work rather than leaving things unmanaged. Most churchyards are a mix of grassland with individual trees or groups of trees which can be thought of as small woodlands. It is the grassland that needs regular management if it is not to change its character and we can look to the history of churchyards for clues on how to do this.

We know that churchyards were kept accessible as they were always important community spaces, used for outdoor services, archery practice, markets and fairs as well as for burial. There are records of a hay crop being taken which formed part of the vicar's stipend and of grazing after the hay was cut. For much of history, grass was an important energy crop, so a meadow would be cut at the height of its growth in summer, and any cut grass would be dried as hay, raked up and taken to feed animals in winter. The wonderful shows of wildflowers that we see in our churchyard meadows are made of plants able to survive cutting and grazing. Meadow plants tend to be

perennial, these can survive the winter, often living for many years. There are a few meadow plants that are annuals and don't survive over winter but these, such as yellow rattle, tend to flower early prior to the hay cut, so can grow each year from the seed that has fallen.

Thinking in this way can help to make meadow management easy to understand:

Let the grass grow long for 3 or 4 months over the spring and summer, follow this by a summer cut and rake. Don't worry about cutting flowers, the plants will survive and some species may regrow and flower again.

Keep grass short over the autumn and winter, the time when it might have been grazed in the past. You'll probably use a mower for this. Again, do not leave grass cuttings in situ, try to collect them all up and remove for composting.

Set the mower blade high and leave some rough edges or corners. These tussocky corners will contain coarser grasses such as false oat grass and cocksfoot, plants with hollow stems such as hogweed and dead flower heads – all really good places for insects, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals to hide, hunt and hibernate over winter.

So what can you do in October? Not much actually, the hard work should be over! You can make sure that all meadow areas have been cut, raked and are now short, ready for the winter.

All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**