

Events and Training

Year of Faith Bishop's Teaching Events

- **Saturday 11th May**
St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye
- **Saturday 13th July**
St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury
- **Saturday 5th October**
Bridgnorth Deanery (venue tbc)

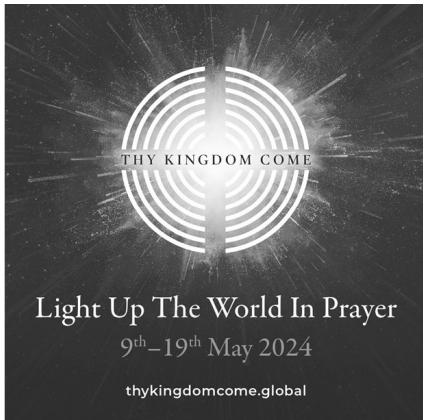
Year of Faith Bishop's Study Day 2

- **Thursday 24th October**
St Peter's Church, Hereford

For more information about the above, see our Year of Faith page on our website:

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/year-of-faith-2024/>

THY KINGDOM COME



May 9th to 19th

This year, the Diocese will again be hosting a 24/7 Prayer Vigil for Thy Kingdom Come, the global prayer movement that runs from Ascension to Pentecost/Whit Sunday. It will be held in the Private Chapel at the Bishop's Palace. Some church youth groups around the Diocese will also be participating in 'The Prayer', a nationwide event praying The Lord's Prayer on the final Sunday of TKC, 19th May.

More information on our website:

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/thy-kingdom-come/>

Hereford Diocese Environment Conference

22nd June & 28th September

If you are a church or school wanting to do more to care for God's creation, join us for our first Diocesan Environment Conference at Hereford Cathedral. Book free (for June date) on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/873207616487?aff=oddtcreator>

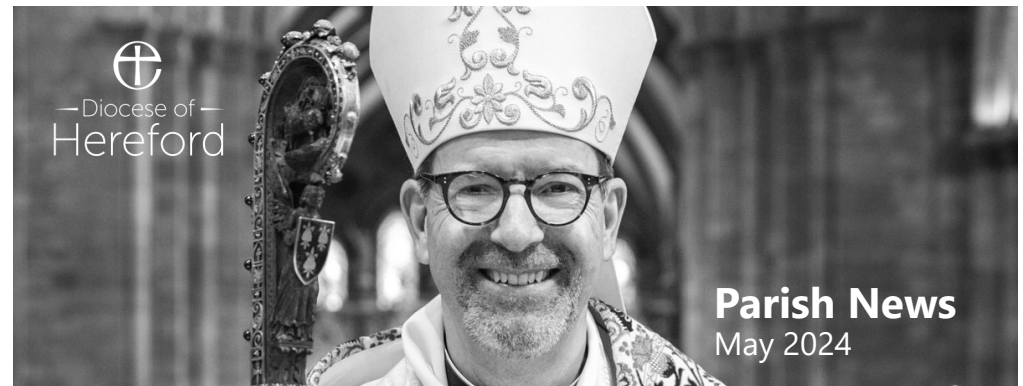
Rural Mission & Ministry Course

2nd-3rd October

King's Park, Northants

An ecumenical course organised by the Methodist Church exploring what community, mission, evangelism & leadership can look like in rural contexts. Suitable for CMD.

Further information: arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralministrycourse/



Parish News
May 2024

Come Holy Spirit

By the Rt. Rev'd Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford

Dear Friends

May marks the end of the Easter season and the beginning of what is affectionately known as 'ordinary time' in the Church calendar. The pivot happens at the feast of Pentecost, on May 19th this year. Every Sunday is always a celebration of the resurrection, so it's hard to see what is ordinary about it. The events of the Christ's death and resurrection are the turning point of history. It is a world-shattering event that means life can never be the same again. The book of Acts tells us how the disciples' lives were turned upside down by it. In their grief at the loss of Jesus a number were considering returning to their previous occupations. Once they encountered the risen Lord, they decided to change the world instead!

However, it was not just historical events which changed things. It was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Christian faith has always been a supernatural one. In the struggles to fill rotas, find volunteers, maintain buildings and serve our

communities we can easily forget this. If the Christian life was just a set of rules to obey, religious acts to observe and an institution to maintain, it would not have lasted very long.

Trusting in the Holy Spirit to empower and lead is less safe than seeking to control events ourselves. Periodically in the history of the Church the Holy Spirit has broken through in ways that have up-ended our conventional way of doing things. It happened in the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century, numerous mini revivals in the church (of which some happened in our diocese) and in the great outpouring in Azusa Street in 1906 that gave birth to Pentecostalism. This is now the third largest stream in the Church today. In many ways it is hard to see how our current institutional predicament can be served by strategic thinking alone. I am praying for another (likely messy!) outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Diocese of Hereford. Only the Holy Spirit can give us the courage we need

Contd/



What's working in the Year of Faith?

Focusing on simple things that make a difference.



Praying outside the box

Something is happening in the tiny rural border settlement of Marton, in sight of Offa's Dyke, south of Shrewsbury. 'The Gathering' is an 'evening of praising and worshipping God,' through contemporary evangelical music and blessing one another. That may not sound all that unusual, but this meeting is attracting new, younger Christians, from across the ecumenical spectrum to this tiny hamlet.

For some, the key attraction seems to be as simple as moving worship outside the walls of the church. Rev'd. David Moss, Rector for the Parishes of Westbury, Worthen and Yockleton, reminds us, "Jesus rarely spent time in synagogues or the Temple in Jerusalem. In fact, he preferred to 'meet people exactly where

they were' both spiritually and physically...at a local well, on the side of a mountain and beside the Sea of Galilee. That's something the people loved about him and why so many would come out to meet him, pressing against him to try and get closer. In that same way, Jesus meets us where we are.... Even in Marton!"

Rev'd David is encouraged that faith seems to be moving infectiously through the assembled group: "When we meet each month, many people get up and share what God is doing in their life or their village; the testimonies that are shared are amazing. A God who still heals physically today; a God who has rescued people in otherwise impossible situations; a God who loves us, right where we are... As St Paul says in his letter to the church in Corinth, '*What is the outcome then, brothers? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has a translation.*'"

The group meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall.

For more information, email Rev'd Moss at davidmosswwy@gmail.com

Come Holy Spirit, contd from p1

for the evangelistic challenge. Only the Holy Spirit can turn the hearts of those currently indifferent to Christian things to help see their need for the Lord. So, 'Come Holy Spirit and kindle the hearts of your people with the fire of your love'. Today, we need that more than ever.

Diocese News



Cathedral hosts Chrism Eucharist

The annual Chrism Eucharist took place in March at Hereford Cathedral. Clergy and lay ministers gathered from around the diocese for the service in which by tradition they renew their commitment to ministry and where three different oils used in sacraments throughout the year are blessed and distributed to the

assembled clergy by the Bishop.

The oils of baptism, unction and chrism were blessed before the main altar in the presence of the Bishop of Hereford, the Dean of Hereford, Assistant Bishops, Archdeacons, Deacons, Rural Deans, Prebendaries, Canons, Chapter Officers, Vergers of the Cathedral and other clergy and staff. Chrism is used at the ordination of priests and bishops, baptism, confirmation, the coronation of kings and queens, the consecration of altars and the blessing of churches. As part of the consecration, balsam was poured into the chrism oil, which gives it a sweet fragrance described as the "odour of sanctity".

The *Fairtrade* communion wine and organic extra virgin olive oil distributed was from the Holy Land.

Stories of Faith

Books for the Journey

Books that have influenced our Faith Journeys

We invited people from around the diocese to send us their recommendations of books that have influenced their faith journey. Here are the latest reviews. We'd love to hear yours too!

THE SPIRITUAL WARRIOR'S PRAYER GUIDE by Quin Sherrer and Ruthanne Garlock

Karen Mary Hudson says: "Filled with scripture and prayers for the most difficult of situations, this is a terrific, faith-building book and I keep it close to me all the time. It is easy to read from cover to cover, fantastic to dip into and a great practical resource for seeing answered prayer and increased faith."

THE HIDING PLACE by Corrie Ten Boom

Gwen Royall says: "Corrie Ten Boom is one person that has influenced me, she was the daughter of a watch maker in Holland. Her family risked everything for the sake of Jewish people (in WWII). She and her family ended up in a prisoner-of-war camp, where she discovered that God's love could shine through even there. She went on to have a worldwide ministry, telling people when the worst happens, the best remains. Her passionate love of the Bible and prayer and trust in God are what impressed me."

Email YOUR book recommendations to: comms@hereford.anglican.org !