

Year of Celebration

Spiritual Question Times

Evening conversations with Bishop Richard plus local panelist/s (venues tbc)

Tuesday, 13th January, 2026 – Marton Village Hall

Monday, 16th February, 2026 – Lugwardine, venue TBC

Monday, 20th April, 2026 – Abbeydore Deanery, venue TBC

Tuesday, 12th May, 2026 – Hereford Cathedral with Dean Sarah

Wednesday, 15th July, 2026 – The Garway Moon Inn, Garway with Dean Sarah

Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026 – Bridgnorth with Dean Sarah, venue TBC

Tuesday, 10th November, 2026 – with Chancellor James Pacey, venue TBC

Celebration of Lay Ministry

Worship and Admission of New Readers with Bishop Richard

Saturday, 10th October, 2026 10:30 am at Ludlow St Laurence

Celebration of Music

Choirs from the diocese sing music through the ages by local composers

Sunday, 19th April, 2026 6pm at Leominster Priory

Celebration of Faith

A Service of Confirmation followed by a celebration tea with Bishop Richard

Saturday 20 June 2026 2:00 pm at Hereford Cathedral

Saturday 10 Oct 2026 2:30 pm at Ludlow, St Laurence

Celebration Days | Pilgrimage

Worship and communion led by Bishop Richard

Saturday, 16th May, 2026 at Leominster, honouring St Eadfrith

Saturday, 19th September, 2026 at Much Wenlock, honouring St Milburga

Saturday, 17th October, 2026 at Golden Valley / Madley, honouring St Dyfrig

For more information and to register to attend, please visit our Eventbrite page at www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--county-of-herefordshire/hereford-diocese/



Parish News

March 2026

Reflecting on War and Peace

by The Venerable Derek Chedzey, Archdeacon of Hereford

As I write this we are fast approaching the fourth anniversary of the full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 22nd. I have learnt through listening to the Ukrainian community who came here following that invasion that for many this war actually began in 2014 when Russia invaded the Crimea. Our communities have offered hospitality, love and care to those displaced by this act of war.

Wherever we look our news is constantly full of conflict and around the world there are armed conflicts and tensions which cause us all to stop and ask is there not a better way to resolve our differences. Whatever the politics and reasons for the Russian invasion what is clear is that despite peace negotiations this war is continuing to see people killed and injured on both sides. It is important we do not lose sight of the fact that in war there are no winners only losers.

There are many theological arguments on whether warfare can ever be just and how we appropriately remember those lost in war. For us as Christians the Bible has a lot to teach us about the root

causes of warfare and bloodshed. We are also reminded in those same pages that we are called to serve one another and to care for those who suffer. The ultimate sacrifice will always be to give our lives away for others.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

As Christians we are called to build relationships that create peace and harmony and offer the reconciling power of Jesus' love. We are to offer a better more appropriate way to live and it is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit that we are changed. It is the Holy Spirit that builds the fruit of the Kingdom within each of us, and this enables us to bear one another's burdens and create communities of peace.

As Jesus prepared for his own death, he warns the disciples not to lose heart when they see strife in the world. As they stand outside the temple in Jerusalem, he warns them what is to happen in their lifetime. His words are fulfilled in

Cont'd on p2

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CELEBRATING 1350 YEARS

2026 Year of Celebration

Cont'd from page 1

stand outside the temple in Jerusalem, he warns them what is to happen in their lifetime. His words are fulfilled in 72AD when the Romans destroy the temple in Jerusalem, but they are also just as true today for us as for his disciples.

"Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." Matthew 24:4-8

Jesus does not mean that we have to accept war with its horror and bloodshed but that we should respond to it appropriately. The New Testament teaches us that human selfishness, greed and intolerance lead to conflict.

The church has a message of hope and the solution to these driving passions deep within humanity. If we are in any doubt, it is Jesus and his sacrifice for us that reconciles us to God and helps us offer peace in the world.

We are called to fight evil and stand up for the Kingdom and its values; in doing so we help to build a better world. Our job is not to judge but to offer love and support. As a clergy person I have had the privilege of hearing the stories and experiences of grief and pain that war brings from those most impacted by it. I have always tried to bring God's love, forgiveness and compassion to those who are tormented by memories of war.

As the church we are called to care for those who suffer and to build a more peaceful world. In this period of Lent perhaps we should all pray for peace and reconciliation wherever there is conflict

**The Venerable Derek Chedzey
Archdeacon of Hereford**

New contact information for the Diocesan Safeguarding team

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO): Lisa.Anderson@hereford.anglican.org

Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (ADSO): Carl.Steventon@hereford.anglican.org

Please make sure to update your safeguarding posters and other media including websites, social media profile pages and AChurchNearYou with the correct contact information. The revised posters can be downloaded from our website here

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/safeguarding/parish-safeguarding/>

Caring for God's Acre

by Harriet Carty



Lambs' Tails in the breeze

Whilst most plants are pollinated by insects, quite a few rely on the wind to reproduce. A common way for trees to do this is to have catkins, hazel and silver birch both being good examples with easily visible long catkins often called lambs' tails, but oak, beech, hornbeam, walnut, pine and other conifers do too. Catkins are actually long slim clusters of flowers which release large amounts of small, light pollen that can be blown a long way.

Most wind pollinated trees have separate male and female flowers, sometimes on different trees for example willow and poplar. The male flowers form in clusters making the catkin, whilst the female flowers stand upright individually. Catkins tend to be pale yellow, no need for bright colours, large petals or scent to attract insects when it is the wind that is doing the work! The female flowers catch the pollen as it is blown past, they usually stand upright on top of twigs and often have a sticky tip or 'stigma' as it's known, to catch the passing pollen. The female flowers are sometimes red, looking a little like a small sea anemone. Have a look on a hazel bush and see if you can see both the dangling catkins and also the small,

red female flowers, sometimes on the same twig. Once pollinated the female flower will develop into the seed, be it an acorn, pine nut or a hazel nut.

Wind pollination works well for trees that flower early, when few insect pollinators may be about. Hazel, birch, willow and pines are thought to have been among the trees that first colonised patches left bare by retreating glaciers after the last ice age. Wind pollination would have been an advantage in this.

Another important group of plants that are pollinated by wind are the grasses. Grass flowers tend to be green, yellow or pale brown rather than brightly coloured. They are produced at the top of a grass stem that usually stands vertical, bringing the flowers above other foliage and into the wind. They tend to be clustered, often in a spike rather like a vertical catkin and they produce a large amount of pollen which can be carried over distance.

Why not have a walk around your local churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery and see if you can see any signs of wind pollination taking place.

**All the best, Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental
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Individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code diomem22