Year of Celebration

Year of Celebration Dates for your calendar

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

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 Faith
A Service of Confirmation followed by a celebration tea with Bishop Richard
Saturday 10 Oct 2026 2:30 pm at Ludlow, St Laurence

Celebration Days | Pilgrimage
Worship and communion led by Bishop Richard

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/

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Journeys

by The Ven. Sam Hustwayte, Archdeacon of Ludlow

I wonder how many journeys you have planned in your lifetime: the daily trips and the longer adventures; the familiar routes we take almost on autopilot, and the journeys we plan carefully because of where we are going, or what we hope to do and see.

There are the journeys we make every day —to work, to school, or to see a neighbour. There are the journeys we make less often, but still regularly: visiting relatives, going to church, or attending commitments. And then there are the journeys we may make only once in a lifetime. Each journey has a purpose, a beginning and an end: to see a loved one, to celebrate, to earn a living, to shop for food, to visit the doctor, to take a holiday, or to explore somewhere new.

As a family, we recently spent hours planning the route and places to stay for a road trip through Italy—from Lake Como to Naples and back. We wanted to visit the places on our "we would really like to see" list, while also making time to rest, explore and enjoy being together. The planning resulted in a wonderful holiday: we saw amazing things, experienced busyness and rest, encountered a different culture, and came home refreshed — physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Throughout the Bible there is a great deal of journeying, and often in those physical journeys we see God at work in the lives of those who travel. We see the Israelites rescued by God and formed as his people; Elijah running away and discovering that God is with him; Paul shipwrecked yet protected so that he can speak to others about Jesus; and Jesus journeying to the cross, revealing God's ultimate love through his words and actions along the way.

At the beginning of July, I was part of two joyful services as Bishop Richard ordained our new priests and deacons. As I sat through those services, I was reminded again of journeys—not physical journeys this time, but spiritual ones,

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the journeys we make with God as we respond to his call and leading. As followers of Jesus, we are called by God into his service, a calling that takes many shapes and forms. Like our physical journeys, our spiritual journeys have a purpose. Paul speaks of doing whatever we do to the glory of God, and Jesus teaches that in all we do we reveal God to others—his light, his life and his love.

So, as we head into a season of holiday journeys, I wonder whether we might use the opportunity of a physical journey to reflect on our spiritual one, from beginning to end.

The Venerable Sam Hustwayte, Archdeacon of Ludlow



2026 Ordinations

On a hot weekend in early July, Hereford Diocese ordained eight new priests, and three new deacons were made. The cathedral played host to the traditional Petertide processions and joyful celebrations, presided over by Bishop Richard. The full list of all the new priests and deacons can be found on our website here:

https://www.hereford.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/ordination/.

Please join us in praying for all the ordinands as they begin a new chapter of ministry.

Caring for God's Acre

by Kaitlyn Elverson



Just another butterfly on the wall

As August rolls in, you might start to see some new wings fluttering in your local churchyard. The Wall Brown or Wall butterfly is named after its habit of basking casually on walls or rocky places. This behaviour allows the butterfly to raise its temperature enough to fly around comfortably. Perfectly camouflaged against stones, the best way to identify the species is by checking the eyespots on its wings. One large eyespot on the forewing and four smaller ones on the hindwing is a dead giveaway that you have a Wall on your hands.

The Wall's habitat is diverse across England and Wales, spanning coastal zones, open grassland, disused quarries, railway edges, gardens, field edges and even churchyards and cemeteries. They may be found in sunny spots, basking on warm stone monuments, walls surrounding the churchyard, or the gravel of kerbed graves. Walls lay their eggs on grass tussocks and the broader leaves of coarse grasses such as Yorkshire Fog. Larvae and caterpillars will munch away on the grasses, while the butterflies rely on a variety of grassland wildflowers for nectar.

Inland Wall populations saw dramatic decreases in the 1980s. Researchers proposed that warming climates were causing the species to have a third brood late in the year, leaving little time for the caterpillars to develop before winter. This brood was then unfortunately lost, causing the downward spiral. Though, this might not be the end for the inland populations. Many butterfly species can change their voltinism (the number of generations produced per year). This flexibility allows species to respond quickly to years with favourable conditions, producing more broods than would be typical. Based on this principle, we can expect inland Wall populations to experience strong natural selection as climates warm, eventually recovering and becoming as resilient as their coastal relatives, where temperatures are more consistent.

It's a waiting game for the Wall, but in the meantime, we can be doing our part to support the species. Leaving coarse, grassy and sunny patches in your churchyard or garden gives them places to do their sunbathing. Creating gorgeous wildflower meadow areas gives the Wall, as well as many other pollinators and invertebrates, lots of variety for food. If you spot a Wall, be sure to record it in your iNaturalist app or send us a photo, especially if you see one in your local churchyard or burial ground. Every record builds a picture of just how important burial grounds are for wildlife.

Kaitlyn Elverson
Engagement Officer, Nature in Sacred Places Project (NiSP)

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

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