

Year of Celebration

Dates for your calendar

Spiritual Question Times

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

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 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/



The power of friendship

by The Rev'd Jane Plackett-Ferguson, Chaplain to the Bishop of Hereford

Recently, I've been thinking a lot about friendship: what starts it, what builds it and what sustains it.

Our family moved to Hereford a little over a year ago. When we sensed a call from God to come here, we knew we would be starting again. We knew no one locally, which meant building friendships and community from the beginning.

Friendship doesn't arrive fully formed. It grows slowly, often in what Scripture calls "the day of small things": small conversations, small acts of kindness, small decisions to keep turning up. Like many relationships, friendship begins with connection but grows through countless small choices over time.

Even Jesus invested deeply in only a few close friendships. We cannot invest deeply in everyone, but we can choose to show up consistently for a few people: to cherish them, serve them, forgive them and remain faithful companions through life's ups and downs.

I have often found this challenging because it means choosing to go first:

starting the conversation, suggesting meeting up, offering help, buying the coffee and risking things feeling a little awkward. I have learnt from my husband, who is much more natural at including others and making space for friendship than I am. Yet, as I have been brave, I have discovered that many people are open to friendship. They are waiting, just as we are.

One of my most significant friendships began in my thirties in a very ordinary way. While volunteering, I simply said to someone, "This is a bit awkward, but I'd really like to be friends." It sounds disarmingly simple, but it takes courage. Often all it takes is one person willing to make the first move.

There are seasons in life that carry a particular loneliness: the early years of parenting, times of transition, when friends move away, or later, when friends go to glory. Loneliness is not unusual; it is part of the human experience. Yet rather than turning on the TV, perhaps

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the invitation is to look up and out: to join a club, volunteer, pick up the phone or invite someone for dinner regardless of the state of our life, kitchen or garden. Friendship is not only about reaching out; we also have to learn to receive. It can dent our pride to let it be known that we can't manage everything. Yet some of the greatest moments of friendship in my life have come through friends offering practical help when I didn't realise how much I needed it.

One of the great gifts the church can still offer is community: a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can

gather regularly, be known and build genuine friendships. When God said to Adam, "It is not good for a person to be alone," he knew that would apply to all of us.

So my prayer this year is to learn how to be a better friend to those I already love, and to ask God who in my life is lonely, where I could be their friend, and they mine.

I wonder if God might be asking some of you to pray this too?

**The Rev'd Jane Plackett-Ferguson,
Chaplain to the Bishop of Hereford**

2026 Ordinations

Saturday, 4th July, 2026

Hereford Cathedral

11.00 am Priests, 3.30 pm Deacons

This year, the Bishop will ordain seven ordinands as Priest and three ordinands as Deacon.

Priests

Vickie Dunlop (Stip) - The Benefice of the Bridgnorth and Morville Team Ministry

Kate Edwards (Stip) - Apedale Benefice

Christine Cattnach (Stip) - West Hereford Team

Geoff Holder (SSM) - The Black Mountains Group (Benefice) Abbeydore Deanery

Phillipa Wright (SSM) - Kington with Huntingdon, Old Radnor, Kinnerton and Titley (benefice)

Alex Mynors Herbert (SSM) - St Peter with St Owen and St James, Hereford

Suanna Rosier (SSM) - Lugwardine with Bartestree, Weston Beggard, Dormington, Westhild and Withington (The Bartestree Cross Group) (Benefice)

Deacons

Ian Williams (SSM) - Pontesbury and Minsterley

Sue Hodgetts (SSM) - Sutton Hill and Woodside

Pauline Mack (SSM) - Madeley, Telford

Monday, 6th July, 2026

6pm Ordination of a Priest

Ewan Gillings (Stip) - Ariconium Benefice at Weston under Penyard Church, by the Bishop of Oswestry

Caring for God's Acre

by Harriet Carty



How to look for hoverflies

Why not take time out on a sunny, calm July day and sit down in your local churchyard next to a flowering plant such as hogweed, yarrow or knapweed. After a while you may notice a wealth of variety amongst the various bee-like insects visiting the flowers. Whilst bees meander at a fairly constant speed, you'll also spot another group of insects, similarly banded in yellow and black, which dart quickly and then hover, staying quite still, like a miniature hummingbird. These are hoverflies and there are an amazing 280 different species in the UK, found in a wide range of habitats.

Hoverflies often look quite like bees or wasps, with stripey, sometimes furry bodies. They do not sting, however, but this mimicry discourages predators as the yellow and black stripes spell danger! Look closely and you'll see two large eyes and a single pair of wings, characteristics of flies (bees and wasps have two pairs of wings). The hoverfly beats these wings up and down several hundred times per second to stay stationary.

Hoverflies are a true friend to the gardener, the adults are important pollinators and nearly half of our hoverfly larvae feed on aphids and other plant sap-

suckers. Others eat fungi, yeasts, micro-organism and general detritus found in the soil, in deadwood and in stagnant water. They are key decomposers and recyclers. Many gardeners encourage hoverflies by planting suitable flowers for them: open flowers such as alyssums, yarrows, daisies and marjoram. Many of the wildflowers found in churchyards are great for hoverflies too: cow parsley, chervil or wild carrot (or any of the umbel family), dandelions and hawkweeds.

Hoverflies are an example of an insect group which is often overlooked, easily passed off as a bee until you look more closely. They are an important part of our ecosystem and, like butterflies, are sensitive indicators of environmental change. As well letting some grassland grow long so the wildflowers can bloom, how about planting suitable flowers if you have beds or planters? Creating a deadwood pile in a shady spot is great for hoverflies as well as many other species and leaving some leaf litter and woody debris under tree canopies supports pupae or, in some cases, overwintering adults, ready to emerge in the spring.

So have a look for hoverflies this summer and, if you are patient, photograph them hovering and feeding. This can help to identify what you have seen.

All the best, Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

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