

Year of Celebration

Dates for your calendar

Spiritual Question Times

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



The continued existence of the church is one of the surest pieces of evidence for the resurrection.

by The Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford

May is a month of transition. At the beginning we can feel like we're still in the winter, with frosts and rain. By the end, summer feels just around the corner with longer evenings and warmer days. Our lives are still governed by these rhythms even though many of us no longer have the farming connections we once did. Our ancestors were much more bound by the clock and the seasons. The calendar year and liturgical year were entwined; the church was more central to people's lives.

Ecclesiastes contains that well known passage about times and seasons, a time to plant and a time to harvest; a time to mourn and a time to laugh; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. This year our diocesan family is focussing firmly on celebration. I have always thought that the continued existence of the church is one of the surest pieces of evidence for the resurrection. How could an organisation composed of frail, sinful people like you and me still be here but for divine

intervention? No other human organisation has continued in this way.

The world was vastly different 1350 years ago when Putta made the gruelling journey here from Rochester to become our first Bishop. England didn't exist. Our diocese was carved out of the corner of a Mercian kingdom and part of an old Roman settlement. Over the course of our existence, kings have risen and fallen; cathedrals have been burnt down and re-built, fallen and been re-built again! Previous Bishops, in a variety of acts of architectural vandalism, have used their own (or their wealthy wife's) money to re-model the Palace and even demolish bits of it they didn't like. Meanwhile, in over 400 churches faithful Christian people have gone about the work of the gospel. Priests have hatched, matched and despatched, celebrated the sacraments and taught the faith. Churches have fallen down and been rebuilt and populations have shifted.

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CELEBRATING 1350 YEARS 2026 Year of Celebration

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We have made the transition from Catholic to protestant; from Christendom to being a minority in a largely secular, indifferent and occasionally hostile culture. We have both stayed faithful to the tradition and found ways of proclaiming the faith afresh to each generation. There have been times of relative ease and times of real struggle.

All this has happened in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose gift we will celebrate at the end of this month. We have never had to do it on our own, dependant on our own ingenuity. To be a Christian is to be supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit. God's faithfulness and that power is definitely worth celebrating.

**The Rt Revd Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford**



NetZero Quick Wins grants available

We have a new round of NetZero Quick Wins funding totalling £75,500, over the next two years.

The deadline to apply for the first quarterly round is 10th June, 2026. The grant is designed to fund small NetZero projects that will make a difference in the long term, such as introducing three-phase electricity, improving rainwater goods, and installing under-pew heaters. The maximum amount that a parish can apply for is £10,000. The full eligibility rules and the application form can be found on our website:

<https://hereford.anglican.org/buildings-energy/net-zero-carbon-quick-wins-grants-for-church-buidings.php>

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



Here we go gathering nuts in May...

One of the joys of exploring a churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery can be the small, unobtrusive plants that you may find. Pignut is one of these. This plant has light, feathery leaves, looking like those found on a carrot top and you may find a near carpet of them in an old churchyard in the spring. It flowers in April and May, producing small, white flowers in clusters that are known as umbels. In fact, Pignut is a member of the umbellifer family, the same plant family as the more familiar carrot, cow parsley and fennel, but unlike its relatives, it is small, the leaves low to the ground and the flower on an upright stem of about 30cm.

Pignut has several names referring to the dark brown tubers found on its roots. Ground-nut, Cat-nut, Earth-nut, Earth-chestnut and the less obvious Jog-journals. Pignuts were dug up and eaten raw or cooked, when they taste like parsnips.

Pignut is a plant of undisturbed, flowery grassland which is often found within burial grounds as burial grounds, unlike surrounding the surrounding landscape, have seen little change, consistent

management and are relatively chemical free. Pignut is also found within woodland, in glades and sunnier spots. Again, burial grounds suit it well, having a mosaic light and shade creating different habitats.

So what of the nursery rhyme, Here we go gathering nuts in May, on a cold and frosty morning? Pignut leaves wither and disappear in late spring and, although the flowering stem with seedheads remains visible, the lack of leaves make Pignut plants hard to spot. The time of year to gather them is May, as opposed to other kinds of nut which are harvested in autumn. Another interpretation of the nursery rhyme is that it is a corruption of Here we go gathering knots of May, May being another name for Hawthorn. A knot is an old name for a bunch of flowers.

We would love to know which churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries contain pignut, in part because this unobtrusive little plant is indicative of species-rich grassland, a habitat which has declined by a staggering 97% since the 1930s. Please take a photograph using the iNaturalist app if you are a smart phone user. If not, use a field guide to check the identification, then send us an email.

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