

Mission and Ministry August 2026

August 2026

This programme brings together formation and ministry development opportunities from the Diocese of Hereford, West Midlands Regional CMD and partner organisations.

Some programmes form part of diocesan formation or are normally expected at particular stages of ministry. Others offer opportunities to develop particular areas of practice, explore new learning, or take time to reflect on ministry and vocation.

A CELEBRATION OF LAY MINISTRY

Many gifts. One Church. A joyful celebration of shared ministry.

Saturday 10 October 2026, 11.00am

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

Everyone serving in a Local Ministry role, together with Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers, clergy, and those who support them, is warmly invited to our Celebration of Lay Ministry.

We will gather from across the Diocese to admit new Readers, affirm those serving in Local Ministry roles, and give thanks for the many ways lay and ordained people share in God's ministry.

Come to celebrate your own calling, encourage those beginning new ministries, and rejoice in all that God is doing through the gifts of God's people.

Reader and LLM Gathering

For Readers and LLMs, the day continues after the service.

Bring your lunch and join us at the Mascall Centre for our annual Reader Gathering. This year we will explore Shared Local Ministry: what it might make possible for our churches and communities, and the distinctive contribution Readers and LLMs can make within it.

Save the date and spread the word.

Contact: Mark Godson | Email: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

VOCATIONS

Vocations Gathering

Saturday 31 October 2026, 11.00am–1.00pm

Kemp Room, Ludlow Mascall Centre

Wondering where God might be calling you?

The Vocations Gathering is an informal opportunity to meet others exploring lay and ordained ministry in the Diocese of Hereford. There will be space to hear about different forms of ministry, ask questions and begin thinking about possible next steps.

Contact: Revd Dr Elizabeth Wild | Email: elizabeth.wild@hereford.anglican.org

LOCAL MINISTRY ROLES

Three-yearly recommissioning

The three-yearly recommissioning of those serving in Local Ministry roles is now underway. We will contact those concerned with information about what is needed.

Information about Local Ministry roles and the recommissioning process is available on the diocesan website.

DBS and safeguarding

DBS clearance and required safeguarding training must remain in date at all times.

Where either has lapsed, we will contact you so that this can be put right promptly. Ministry cannot continue while the required clearance or training is out of date, so please respond promptly if you receive a reminder.

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Bereavement and Funeral Ministry 2026–27

Called to accompany people through bereavement and funerals?

Few moments reveal the heart of parish ministry more clearly than a funeral.

To accompany people well through bereavement calls for pastoral sensitivity, theological depth and confidence in leading worship. It also requires careful attention to boundaries and safeguarding.

The Diocese is offering a Bereavement and Funeral Ministry Formation Pathway for those who want to develop in this searching and deeply rewarding area of ministry.

Who is it for?

The pathway forms part of IMD for all curates currently in training.

It is also open to new and experienced LLMs and Local Ministers who want to develop in bereavement and funeral ministry.

For lay participants, successful completion opens the way to diocesan authorisation to conduct funerals.

Formation grounded in practice

This is not simply a taught course. Formation takes place through a combination of learning, supervised practice and reflection.

- shadow experienced funeral ministers;
- co-lead a funeral;
- prepare for and lead a funeral under observation; and
- reflect on their practice with experienced colleagues.

The aim is to develop the pastoral, theological and practical judgement needed to accompany bereaved people well and lead funerals with confidence and care.

Dates

Tuesday 3 November 2026, 7.30–8.45pm: online

Saturday 14 November 2026: Ludlow Mascall Centre

Tuesday 23 February 2027: online

Saturday 13 March 2027: in person

Tuesday 20 April 2027: online

Saturday 22 May 2027: in person

Further information about the practical placement and observation elements will be provided during the pathway.

Contact: Louise Armstrong | Email: louise.armstrong@hereford.anglican.org

INCUMBENCY ESSENTIALS 2026–27

New to incumbency, or finding there's always more to learn?

Incumbency brings a bewildering collection of responsibilities that rarely make it into the ordination service.

PCC governance. Buildings. Registers. Churchwardens. Data protection. Leading change. Working with people. Occasional offices and their legal framework. Making decisions about things nobody quite taught you.

You are not expected to work it all out alone.

Incumbency Essentials brings together practical learning, conversation with experienced colleagues and space to think about how these responsibilities are exercised well in the particular context of our rural, multi-parish Diocese.

Who is it for?

Those appointed to an incumbency in the Diocese within approximately the past 18 months are normally expected to participate in the whole programme.

The programme is also open to more experienced incumbents who would value a refresher or want to join particular sessions.

Curates preparing for future incumbency are welcome, as are SSMs carrying equivalent responsibility. LLMs may join individual sessions where the subject is directly relevant to their ministry.

Dates

Thursday 15 October 2026, 10.00am–4.00pm | Diocesan Office | Leading Change

Thursday 19 November 2026, 10.00am–12.30pm | Online

Thursday 21 January 2027, 10.00am–12.30pm | Online

Thursday 11 March 2027, 10.00am–12.30pm | Online

Thursday 20 May 2027, 10.00am–4.00pm | Venue to be confirmed

Planned themes across the programme include working with churchwardens and lay leaders, data protection and communications, occasional offices and their legal framework, leading change, and sustainable ministry in rural multi-parish settings.

Full details of each session will be circulated in advance.

Contact: Mark Godson | Email: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Booking: Eventbrite booking details will follow.

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL CMD

These programmes bring together clergy and ministers from across the West Midlands.

Transforming Ministry in a Changing Church

Does conflict in your parish leave you at a loss?

Conflict is part of church life, but it can become particularly difficult when disagreement becomes entangled with heightened emotion, difficult behaviour, questions of trust or long histories within a community.

Transforming Ministry in a Changing Church offers a different way of understanding and engaging with conflict.

Participants develop skills for working with difficult behaviour, heightened emotion and open disagreement, and for responding authentically rather than defensively.

The work is practical. Participants are encouraged to identify how they will apply what they learn to relationships and situations within their own ministry.

The course is for post-curacy clergy and ministers and can be taken at any stage of licensed ministry. It sits alongside and complements Leadership in a Liminal Space.

Dates

Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October 2026 | Two-day residential | Shallowford House, Stone, ST15 0NZ

Wednesday 18 November 2026 | Online follow-up day

The programme is hosted and led by Sandra Cobbin, who also helps to lead the Bridge Builders programme.

Contact: Mark Godson | Email: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Leadership in a Liminal Space: Working with Change

Wanting to work more confidently with change?

Change in a parish is rarely one thing. The approach that helps with one kind of change may be ineffective, or even counterproductive, with another.

This workshop begins by exploring our own responses to change before considering different kinds of change and the models available for working with them.

Participants will explore the main models, their uses and their limitations, and work throughout with change projects or situations from their own ministry.

Led by: Nicky McGinty

Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 March 2027

Holland House, Cropthorne, Worcestershire

Contact: Mark Godson | Email: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Celebrating Wisdom 2027

Long in ministry, and ready to take stock?

Long experience of ministry brings knowledge, loss, change, accumulated wisdom and sometimes questions about what the next season might hold.

Celebrating Wisdom offers those with longer experience of ministry an opportunity to step back from immediate responsibilities, look at the journey so far, and recognise something of the wisdom it has given them.

It also looks forward: towards continuing vocation, the gifts that remain alive or are emerging, and the next stage of the journey.

The programme includes a regular rhythm of prayer and worship through the Offices, Eucharist and Lectio Divina, personal reflection exercises, facilitated Wisdom Groups, and space for rest and recreation.

28 June–2 July 2027

Holland House, Cropthorne, Worcestershire

Contact: Mark Godson | Email: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Retiring Well

Thinking about retirement, and never quite finding the time to think about it?

Retiring Well is a three-night residential retreat for Anglican clergy approaching retirement.

It offers time for learning, reflection and planning, alongside space to step away from the demands of parish life and attend to the personal, vocational and practical dimensions of this significant transition.

Clergy and their partners are welcome to apply.

15–18 September 2026

Cost: £410, full board

Further information: contact the bookings team on 01285 850283.

BRIDGE BUILDERS

Tired of the same argument coming round again?

Church conflict is rarely only about the thing being argued over. Questions of trust, history, belonging, identity and authority can all become caught up in apparently straightforward disagreements.

Left unattended, conflict can harden. Relationships deteriorate, people withdraw, and sometimes people leave without ever saying clearly why.

Bridge Builders offers well-established residential training for church leaders who want to work with conflict rather than around it.

The work is both practical and personal. Participants explore how they respond under pressure, learn to read more accurately what may be happening within a disagreement, and develop the confidence to remain constructively engaged when conversations become difficult.

The residential format allows for a depth of learning, practice and reflection that is difficult to achieve in a single training day.

If you are carrying a difficult situation now, or simply want to be better prepared for conflict when it comes, contact Mark to discuss whether Bridge Builders might be useful.

Cohorts run throughout the year.

Contact: Mark Godson | Email: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS

Youthscape Essentials

Want to develop your church's work with young people, or gather a team of volunteers who need a good grounding in youth ministry?

We will be running Youthscape Essentials in the new year. The course offers practical training and insight for those beginning or developing ministry with younger generations.

It can be particularly useful where a church wants to train a team together rather than relying on one person to carry the work.

Contact: Heather Martin-Mayo | email heather.martin@hereford.anglican.org

Children and Families Ministry Essentials

We will also be running Children and Families Ministry Essentials in the new year.

The course is designed for those wanting to develop ministry with children and families and can be used to equip a developing team of volunteers as well as those already carrying responsibility.

Contact: Beckie Dotson | Email beckie.dotson@hereford.anglican.org

Open the Book Training

Could your local primary school benefit from a team bringing Bible stories to life?

Schools around the Diocese would love to have Open the Book teams telling Bible stories interactively in primary schools.

Online and in-person training is available through Bible Society, and local training can also be arranged.

Further information: [Bible Society: Open the Book training](#)

Contact: Kathy Bland, Intergenerational Church Enabler | Email:
k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

Messy Momentum Gathering

Do you have young people aged ten or over at your Messy Church, or young people who used to attend and are now growing beyond it?

As part of the national Messy Momentum project, we meet monthly with a group of young people connected with Messy Church.

The programme includes social time, games and activities, alongside space for discipleship and exploring faith together.

If one or two young people from your Messy Church might like to take part, please contact Kathy for forthcoming dates and venues.

Contact: Kathy Bland | Email: k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

Frontier Youth Trust

Supporting LGBTQ+ Young People

Saturday 7 November 2026

St Peter's Church, Bromyard

This workshop, offered in partnership with Frontier Youth Trust, is open to anyone interested in supporting young people. It is not limited to Children, Young People and Families leaders or volunteers.

Contact: Heather Martin-Mayo | Email heather.martin@hereford.anglican.org

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

These opportunities are offered by other organisations. Please book directly with the provider unless otherwise stated.

Exploring Theology, Sarum College

Wanting to read and think theologically, without committing to a degree?

Exploring Theology is a two-year course taught in ten-week terms, but participants can join at any point without committing to subsequent terms or years.

The autumn term begins on 22 September 2026 and explores where the Christian faith has come from and how it has developed. Sessions are online on Tuesday evenings.

Most participants come each week to read, listen and discuss without submitting written work. Those who want to take their learning further can submit essays, making the course a possible gentle route into academic study.

Provider and booking: [Sarum College: Exploring Theology Autumn 2026](#)

LoveRural 26: National Rural Mission Conference

Making disciples in the countryside?

LoveRural 26 is a 24-hour national gathering for those involved in rural mission.

It offers an opportunity to meet other rural mission practitioners, share wisdom and encouragement, discover agencies and resources, and hear from those researching and developing rural mission.

Themes include cross-denominational and multigenerational ministry, young people and families, how small can be beautiful, and learning from church planting and other new initiatives.

19–20 October 2026

Yarnfield Park, Stone, ST15 0NL

Provider and booking: [Arthur Rank Centre: LoveRural 26](#)

CPAS: Leading Well

Carrying responsibility for others and wanting to lead sustainably?

Leading Well is an online course for lay and ordained leaders who want to nurture a more missional culture in their church.

The course brings together two dimensions of leadership: the practical skills involved in leading churches and teams, and the rhythms and character that enable leadership to remain healthy and sustainable over time.

The next course begins on 8 October 2026.

Bookings close: 5 October 2026

Provider and booking: [CPAS: Leading Well](#)