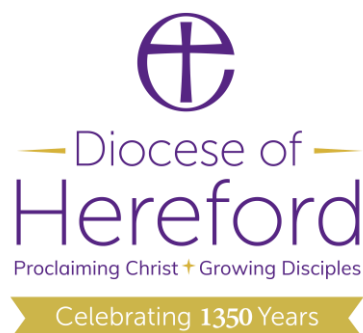




LAY MINISTRY NETWORK

Autumn 2026

Celebration, opportunities, local gatherings and ways to connect across the Diocese

Celebrate Lay Ministry with Archbishop Sarah

Saturday 10 October | 11am
St Laurence's, Ludlow

Join people from across the Diocese as we give thanks for the many ways people serve Christ, the Church and their communities.

Whether your ministry is licensed, commissioned, or locally recognised, this celebration is for you.



Welcome

Welcome to the first Lay Ministry Network news.

Across the Diocese, people are serving Christ in their parishes and communities every day: leading worship and prayer, visiting and listening, caring for buildings and churchyards, working with children and young people, offering hospitality, serving neighbours, sharing faith and helping sustain the life of their local church.

Much of this ministry is simply part of the life of a Christian community. Someone notices what needs doing, offers a gift, responds to an invitation or quietly takes responsibility for something that matters.

Sometimes a gift grows into a more defined ministry, or someone wants help to develop greater confidence, understanding or responsibility. Where that happens, the Church should make it easier to explore and grow, with the right support and safeguards, without losing the simplicity and generosity from which the ministry began.

The Lay Ministry Network is here to help people connect, encourage one another, share what is working locally, and find support or opportunities when these are useful.

As Shared Local Ministry develops, the Network will also help connect new opportunities with the gifts, experience and service already present across the Diocese.

Each term we will share opportunities, resources and news from around the Diocese. Choose what is useful to you.

Celebrate Lay Ministry with Archbishop Sarah

Saturday 10 October | 11am | St Laurence's, Ludlow

This autumn we gather from across the Diocese for a Celebration of Lay Ministry, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally.

As part of our Year of Celebration marking 1,350 years of the Diocese of Hereford, we will give thanks for the many ways lay people serve Christ, the Church and their communities.

During the service we will admit and license two new Readers, welcome Readers and LLMs who have transferred from other dioceses, and invite existing Readers, LLMs and Licensed Lay Funeral Ministers to renew their commitment to ministry.

We will give thanks for those who lead worship, visit and listen, share faith, care for buildings and churchyards, work with children and young people, serve neighbours and pray faithfully. The service deliberately celebrates gifts offered publicly and those used quietly.

Whether your ministry is licensed, commissioned or locally recognised, this celebration is for you.

Readers and LLMs are warmly invited to robe and will receive separate information about this.

Reader/LLM Afternoon Gathering and AGM

After the service, join us from 12.30 to 3pm at the Ludlow Mascall Centre for a discussion of Shared Local Ministry and the Hereford Diocesan Reader Association AGM.

Please tell us if you are coming – email Louise Armstrong: louise.armstrong@hereford.anglican.org

Bereavement and Funeral Ministry

Support for this important ministry | From 3 November

Accompanying people through bereavement and conducting funerals is a significant and valued part of ministry across the Diocese.

This year we are bringing together curates and lay ministers involved in this ministry for shared learning, reflection, and support. For those beginning in funeral ministry, there will be opportunities to develop confidence and experience. For those already involved, it offers space to reflect on and deepen their practice alongside others.

The pathway combines theological and pastoral reflection, liturgical judgement and supervised practice, with three online evenings and three Saturday learning days through to May.

If you already conduct funerals, this is about supporting and developing your ministry, not starting again.

Please contact Mark Godson if you would like to talk through if this might be for you – mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Shared Local Ministry: join the conversation

Shared Local Ministry is beginning to take shape across the Diocese. At its heart is a conviction that God is already at work in our communities, giving gifts and calling people to share in Christ's ministry. It builds on the ministry already happening in our churches, with lay and ordained people sharing responsibility and local gifts recognised, encouraged and supported.

This autumn's deanery roadshows are a chance to worship together, hear more, ask questions and contribute to how Shared Local Ministry develops locally.

You are welcome at whichever roadshow suits you, including one outside your own deanery.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SHARED LOCAL MINISTRY AND THE ROADSHOWS

Around the Diocese

Bishop Richard's Prayer Pilgrimage

7–13 September | Churches across four deaneries

During the Global Week of 24-7 Prayer, Bishop Richard will travel through churches in Abbeydore, Ludlow, Ross & Archenfield and Clun Forest. Join him at any stop for a short time of prayer.

Suicide awareness and the Orange Button Scheme

14 September | 9.30am–1pm | Chorley Village Hall

Learn to recognise when someone may be experiencing suicidal thoughts, listen safely, and signpost towards appropriate help. Free, with optional donations. Places are limited.

Contact the Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones for details: sally.wallace-jones@hereford.anglican.org

Lay Pastoral Visitor course

22 and 29 September | 7pm | St George's, Pontesbury

Two local evenings for Lay Pastoral Visitors, offering practical learning and support for this ministry.

Contact the Revd Dr Greg Smith: rectorpontstip@gmail.com

Issues Facing the Anglican Church

26 September | 10.30am–12.30pm | St Mary's, Fownhope

The Revd Preb Dr Chris Moore leads a Hereford Deanery Reader and LLM seminar exploring issues facing the Anglican Church, from the Anglican Communion to the Church of England and our own Diocese.

Vocations Awareness Evening

19 October | 7–9pm | St Mary's, Ross-on-Wye

An evening in Ross & Archenfield for anyone wanting to explore vocation and calling.

Supporting LGBTQ+ young people

7 November | 10am–4pm | Bromyard Methodist Church

A workshop with Frontier Youth Trust, organised through our Youth Hubs team, exploring how churches can support LGBTQ+ young people and others.

Quiet Day

28 November | Venue TBC

A Quiet Day being planned in Ross & Archenfield by Freda Davies and Laura Hewitt. More details to follow.

Someone local to support you

Our Sub-Wardens of Lay Ministry are local points of connection and support for lay ministry across the deaneries.

They can help you connect with others, find support and opportunities, or simply talk about how your ministry is going.

Deanery	Local contact	Email
Abbeydore	Sub-Warden vacancy – contact Revd Jane Rogers, Rural Dean	jane@abbeydoredeanery.org
Bromyard	Chris Evans	cfevans123@gmail.com
Clun Forest	Canon Julia Francis	jrf54reader@gmail.com
Condover	Sub-Warden vacancy – contact Revd Preb Chris Hargraves, Rural Dean	chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk
Hereford City	Malcolm Robertson	cmalcolm.robertson@hotmail.com
Kington & Weobley	Sub-Warden vacancy – contact Revd Preb Steve Hollinghurst, Rural Dean	revsteve.hollinghurst@gmail.com
Ledbury	c/o Mission & Ministry Team	louise.armstrong@hereford.anglican.org
Leominster	Culain Morris	morrisculain@gmail.com
Ludlow	Sub-Warden vacancy – contact Revd Preb Ashley Buck, Rural Dean	ashley.astrolabe@yahoo.com
Pontesbury	Canon Julia Francis	jrf54reader@gmail.com
Ross & Archenfield	Canon Freda Davies	freda@rossparishes.uk
Severn Borders	Revd Jon Aldwinckle	revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com

They will
be pleased
to hear
from you

Worth exploring

These are opportunities from beyond the Diocese that may be useful in your ministry.

God, the Planet and Us

St Augustine's College of Theology | Online | 22 September–20 October | £50

Five online evenings exploring creation, climate, Scripture, theology, spirituality and action.

Foundations in Pastoral Care

ACC UK | Online | 21 September–26 October | £80

Six online sessions exploring listening, boundaries, confidentiality, wellbeing and safe pastoral practice.

Help shape the Network

This is the first Lay Ministry Network mailing. We want it to grow from what people need and from what is already happening locally.

What would help you feel more connected, supported, or able to grow in your ministry?

And when you hear about something in your deanery that could support, encourage or nurture others in lay ministry, please let Louise Armstrong know so that we can share it in a future Lay Ministry Network mailing.

louise.armstrong@hereford.anglican.org

I hope to see many of you in Ludlow on 10 October.

Mark Godson – Mission and Ministry Team