



— Diocese of —  
**Hereford**

Proclaiming Christ + Growing Disciples



# 2024 Visitations

Hereford Diocese

[www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org)



# Welcome

(by the Rural Dean or Parish Priest)

*We stand to sing.*

Hymn:

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power.  
Crown Thine an-cient Church's story,  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil 'round us,  
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness,  
Bend our pride to Thy control.  
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,  
Gird our lives that they may be,  
Armoured with all Christ-like graces,  
In the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man nor Thee,  
That we fail not man nor Thee.

Save us from weak resignation,  
To the evils we deplore.  
Let the search for Thy salvation,  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving Thee whom we adore,  
Serving Thee whom we adore.

Henry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)  
Tune Regent Square 878787

*Please be seated.*

*Archdeacon*

O God, make speed to save us.

**All**

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Archdeacon*

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

**All**

**if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

*Archdeacon*

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;

**All**

**today I am glorified with him.**

*Archdeacon*

Yesterday I was dead with Christ;

**All**

**today I am sharing in his resurrection.**

*Archdeacon*

Yesterday I was buried with him;

**All**

**today I am waking with him.**

**All**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen**

*Archdeacon* That this time may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept*

As our prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts and set us free  
to sing your praise now and for ever.

**All**                    **Amen**

*The Reading (by the Rural Dean)*

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All**                    **Thanks be to God**

***The Archdeacon's address***

## Hymn:

O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour  
may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty  
and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty  
our sacrifice of praise.

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)  
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns  
Tune Thaxted 13 13 13 13 13 13

*Archdeacon* Let us pray

*We sit or kneel for prayer.*

*After prayer led by the Archdeacon/Bishop/Registrar  
all join in the prayer:*

**All**        **Merciful God,**  
**you have called us to be members of Christ**  
**and of his Church in this Archdeaconry.**  
**May we and our congregations**  
**reach up to your throne in adoration and worship;**  
**in to one another in love and fellowship;**  
**and out to the world in evangelism and care;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord,**  
**Amen.**

## The Declaration and Admittance of Churchwardens

*The Archdeacon invites the Churchwardens quietly to read through the declaration which they are about to make.*

*After a moment's silence, the Churchwardens stand and make their declaration together:*

Archdeacon

(Bishop /Registrar)

Churchwardens are officers of the bishop, responsible for representing the laity, supporting and co-operating with their incumbent and caring for the church building and its contents.

Will you, as leaders elected by your parish and as partners with your incumbent, promote God's mission through pastoral care, sharing the good news, serving the community and working for the unity of God's church?

Wardens

**We will, with the help of God**

Archdeacon

(Bishop /Registrar)

Will you do your best to ensure that the church building and its contents are properly maintained, and that they offer a welcome and a witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ?

Wardens

**We will, with the help of God**

Archdeacon

(Bishop /Registrar)

Will you care for your clergy and support them in their ministry, offering guidance and advice and ensuring that responsibilities are shared?

Wardens

**We will, with the help of God**

*Archdeacon* I invite you now to make your declaration together.  
(Bishop /Registrar)

Wardens **I solemnly and sincerely declare  
that I will faithfully and diligently perform  
the duties of the office of Churchwarden  
within the parish in which I am called to serve  
for the coming year.**

*Archdeacon* I admit as Churchwardens all you  
(Bishop /Registrar) who have made this solemn declaration.  
May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
in all you do in his service,  
and give you grace to fulfil this office  
to the glory of God and for the good of his people.  
**Amen**

*The newly admitted Churchwardens say together:*

Wardens **I will speak out for those who have no voice.  
I will stand up for the rights of all the oppressed.  
I will speak truth and justice.  
I will defend the poor and needy.  
I will speak out for those who have no choices.  
I will cry out for those who live without love.  
I will show God's compassion to the crushed  
and broken in spirit.  
I will lift up the weak in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**



*The clergy and others also stand:*

*Archdeacon* Let us now together reaffirm our various ministries.

Will you endeavour to continue  
in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread  
and in prayers for the church and the world?

**All** **With the help of God, we will.**

*Archdeacon* Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and in penitence and faith resolve  
to live a godly life  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ?

**All** **With the help of God, we will.**

*Archdeacon* Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Jesus Christ?

**All** **With the help of God, we will.**

*Archdeacon* Will you endeavour to serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself, and welcoming  
the stranger in your midst?

**All** **With the help of God, we will.**

*Archdeacon* Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over  
human society by prayer for the world and its  
leaders, by defending the weak,  
and seeking peace and justice?

**All** **With the help of God, we will.**

Hymn:

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in Heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Tune Blaenwern 8787D

## ***The Blessing***

*Bishop/Archdeacon*

May the Father, whose glory  
fills the heavens,  
cleanse you by his holiness  
and send you to proclaim his word.

**All**      **Amen**

May the Son, who has ascended to the heights,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

**All**      **Amen**

May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

**All**      **Amen**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All**      **Amen**

*Please join us for refreshments after the service,  
kindly provided by members of the parish.*

*Diocesan Officers and Staff will be pleased to talk to you,  
and to answer any questions you may have.*



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