

Inspiring people, churches and schools across our diocese.



A Vicar's Life Legacy

The broadcast of *A Vicar's Life* made a remarkable impact in this part of the world. Maybe it's no surprise that our clergy, should be stopped in the street by random strangers wanting to talk about the previous week's episode.

But regular church members too reported many conversations in the shops, in the hairdresser's, and with friends. Suddenly everyone had an opinion about the church and Christian faith. The programmes showed the church at the heart of the community. Christians – not just vicars – were seen supporting homeless people, encouraging young people to develop new skills, and building friendship between isolated individuals. Very clearly, these good works were their direct response to the love of God, and trust in Jesus Christ. Perhaps

viewers would expect the clergy to be articulate about their faith. It was more of a surprise to hear "ordinary" church members make a direct link between knowing God and helping their neighbours. There was also the moving testimony of one lady who started to attend church only after her own bereavement. She is now offering love and care to people from a different generation.

As Christians, we often feel that our response to the needs all around us is inadequate. Who can ever say they have done enough to support refugees, or rough-sleepers, or those who have been evicted from their homes through no fault of their own?

But the viewing public saw that we do more than wring our hands – we actively try to make a difference.

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Featuring:

Growing stories:

Reaching out to
dads at church

Building a relationship
with a local school

Looking ahead to:

Thy Kingdom Come
Who will you pray for?

Plus...

How a church
welcomed grieving
young people



Bishop Richard Inspiring each generation. . .

**Welcome to the second edition of
our magazine Inspire!**

There were two men who commuted to work at the same time every working day for years. On a Sunday, one of them played golf; the other went to church.

One day the golfer said to his travelling companion, "This church you go to: it doesn't seem to mean much to you." "Why do you say that?" replied the other man. "Well," he said, "Countless times I've asked you to play a round of golf and you've never asked me to go to church with you."

I'm grateful to the man who told me that story at a recent meeting. There's more to sharing our faith than inviting people to church, but the story does raise some questions.

- Do we want to share our faith?
- Is our church a community to which we'd be happy to invite others? If not, why not? If it is, what holds us back?
- Is church-going just a sort of hobby, a life-style choice like playing golf, knitting or visiting National Trust properties?

I rejoice in all that is happening to encourage us to grow in our Christian faith so that it makes a difference to our lives and can be shared with others.

Richard

A Vicar's Life Legacy

They also got the message about our motives. Underlying our activity is a compulsion which St Paul described this way: Christ's love compels us. . . He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him.

The broadcasts, and all the conversations that followed, revealed an important truth about our society. People – even those who rarely darken the doors of our churches – are intrigued by Christianity. They can see that the message is life-changing. They are open to learning more about Jesus, and deciding if there are

good reasons for trusting him. The challenge for us is to create stepping-stones for enquirers. We want to map a path from a conversation in the hairdressers, to discovering more about Jesus, and finally to trusting him as Lord and Saviour.

For almost everyone, the friendship of other Christians is a vital part of their own growth in faith. That means being willing to speak openly about what God means to us. But isn't that openness what attracted so many viewers to A Vicar's Life in the first place?



13-year-old Maisy, was one of those touched by what she saw in the BBC series of the vicars' ministry and after writing to Revd Ruth Hulse she was invited to visit. She's been considering what God's plan is for her and a possible vocation in the church. It took her family three hours to reach Holy Trinity church from their home in Carmarthenshire. Maisy said:

"I want to be a vicar when I grow up. I've got that feeling in my heart, that it's something God wants me to do. I don't mind talking about God to anyone as it just feels natural."

"Seeing Ruth was very inspiring to me as we don't have any female vicars where I live and it's nice to experience it first-hand."

Maisy participated in the service as a server and held the Gospel for the Gospel reading. She added: "Taking part in Church today is also something that I like doing now as well."

"I really think that as God wants me to do it I can do whatever I have to do as a vicar and I will support the community however it needs it."

Read more about A Vicar's Life on our website at:
www.hereford.anglican.org/AVicarsLife



Thy Kingdom Come 2018

Thy Kingdom Come

Is the Archbishop's call to pray for people we know to find Jesus. Our main beacon event is at Hereford Cathedral. You can come straight to the cathedral or take part in one of our mini pilgrimages from several churches across Hereford.

Mini-Pilgrimages

Join in a mini pilgrimage from our hub churches in Hereford. A variety of walking distances are available. Gather at a hub church for prayers and then walk a companionable pilgrimage to the cathedral.

Hub churches:

St Paul's	35 mins walk	2. 45pm
St Martins	30 mins walk	2. 50pm
Holy Trinity	20 mins walk	3. 00pm
All Saints	5 mins walk	3. 15pm

Tell us you're coming via www.hereford.anglican.org/ThyKingdomCome/Pilgrimage

Resources

Free resources are on offer from our Diocesan Offices at Hereford and Ludlow. Email Mary Oxley at mary.oxley@hereford.anglican.org if you would like to arrange collection.

A contemporary prayer journal, a Novena 2018 and a Thy Kingdom Come Morning and Evening Prayer booklets are available. Or there's plenty more on the Thy Kingdom Come pages of our website.

Learn more at: www.thykingdomcome.global/

Beacon Event

Place: Hereford Cathedral
Date: Sunday 20th May
Time: 4. 30pm-5. 30pm

Celebrate Pentecost with your Diocesan family and pray for five people to come to know Jesus. The Beacon Event will be a family-friendly service, including plenty of opportunities for our younger members to engage in Thy Kingdom Come themed crafts and activities. Our All-Comers choir will lead part of the worship as we pray.

Please bring to the service a small stone that fits in your palm from your parish that will be used symbolically as part of our prayers. Also the 5 names of people you are praying for.

Please wear something flame coloured e.g. red, orange, or yellow.

Pray for 5

How much do you long for someone close to you, perhaps a family member, a friend or someone who lives near you to come to know Jesus?

Thy Kingdom Come is the Archbishop of Canterbury's call for us all to pray for five people to come to faith. You can pray alone or in company. Your local church may be offering special prayer times or other events this Pentecost or you might like to join in the Beacon Event at Hereford Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday (20 May).

All-Comers Choir

We are putting together an "all-comers" Choir for all ages and abilities - from the Diocese to sing at the event.

“By inviting families we found that children came with their mum, but by starting a group specifically for dads they also started to come along too”,



Welcoming the whole family

That's the experience of St George's Church in Pontesbury. They have been focusing on intentional activities involving the children who already attend the parents and toddler group, Little Dragons and the families they are in touch with through schools work.

Inviting the dads, through their established network of mums and grandparents who bring children to Messy Church or their toddler group, Little Dragons opened up a new way to connect with family members and to begin to strengthen those relationships.

Since its start a year ago, eight or nine dads now bring their families to the Saturday morning church meet up which also involves bacon sarnies. The number can vary as the group has also built a relationship with fathers who only have their children stay with them on weekends. Children and Families Worker, Mark Hackney described how the group fits into the Growth Cycle as outlined by the Bishop of Chelmsford Stephen Cottrell in his recent filmed lecture in Hereford,

“When I first got here I looked at all the activities that we were putting on and we were doing 31 different activities that were connecting or sowing. Therefore, there were plenty of one-off groups or

meetings where we were in touch with families but not doing anything about our faith.

“The next thing I would like to do is invite people to more social occasions with food where they can get to know us, we can get to know them and we can have conversations.

“We also need to do more to tell people at one event about another meeting or service that might interest them, but remembering that this is not only about Sundays it's about church 24/7 to fit in with modern life where people, particularly children are very busy.”

St George's in Pontesbury has also been looking at how it can better equip its wonderful volunteers who give up their time to help at events like Messy Church for their vital role of welcoming families and sharing the Good News with them. They have held courses and training sessions to help develop their Christian witness and ability to express how being a Christian influences their life. Mark continued:

“We've got 50 families that we're now in contact with and we are looking to complete the cycle, to develop the nurture side of things.

“The first step was to get the PCC to sign up to the growth cycle and then the Diocesan Little Steps strategy and they said yes - so it's a really wow moment for us, a feeling that we are really getting somewhere.”

“This commitment from the PCC and also by the LMDG means that we can put on more intentional activities but of course as Bishop Stephen said 'God is the evangelist', God is the one that does it and we've just got to keep on being truthful to the Gospel and telling people why we are Christians and let the Holy Spirit work in their lives.”

Growing God's Kingdom Together

Watch this space for details of a series of local conversations with our Bishops in the Autumn.

Further details on our website and to register your interest:

www.hereford.anglican.org/autumn





So many of the people who come to our churches asking for an infant or child baptism are not a regular part of our church community. How do we welcome them and nurture a Christian presence in their lives?



First steps in faith

Revd Matthew Stafford in the Wenlock Team Ministry in south Shropshire has seen a growth in the number of baptism enquiries, his efforts could be seen recently on A Vicar's Life.

"We forget that for a lot of people the only time they may come into a church building is for a wedding or a baptism or a funeral, which mean's we've got to go all out to make sure they get a genuine heartfelt welcome.

"It's really important from a teaching point of view that a baptism party go away knowing about the significant symbols of baptism, firstly the oil and secondly the water."

In the Church of England, we have a unique position of our churches being the parish church for everyone. Revd Matthew continues:

"I really try to ensure that parents understand that children are baptised on the understanding that as a family you will help them grow in God's love and the same applies to Godparents.

"We send out baptism anniversary cards through our Mother's Union and we send invitations to our Christmas, Easter and Harvest services to families who have had a child baptised.

"It's just trying to ensure you keep

the doors open for those that we have the privilege of welcoming into the Christian faith through baptism."

Just Published



The ministry offered by churches at key times of life has been the subject of a widespread study with the aim of fostering best practice and deepening theological and biblical understanding.

The Church of England's lead on Life Events, Sandra Millar led this study and in this book, she shares insights and practical steps for enriching the quality and depth of pastoral support offered.

How to... Christenings



The best news is that families want and expect churches to keep in touch with them. From fetes to holiday clubs and church picnics, summer offers many opportunities to be in contact.

There are plenty of church events and services where it's easy and feels natural to

welcome the families of recently baptized children. September is a significant time for families. The very young may be starting nursery; older ones may be starting school or moving up a class. It presents a brilliant chance for the church to stay in touch and show continued support as they grow up.

Find ideas and resources at: www.churchsupporthub.org

Remembering World War One

Later this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The national church will be making resources available to church communities looking to hold their own service or other event to commemorate this occasion. In Hereford just under 200,000 people came to see the Weeping Window sculpture made from several thousand handmade ceramic poppies during the recent installation.



HRH The Countess of Wessex was one of those to visit and wrote on a visitor card:

"The Weeping Window of Poppies is a beautiful and poignant reminder of the sacrifice given by so many. May we always remember them."

She was also drawn to the exhibition of art and writing produced by school children. Kym Wilcocks, organiser of the school project and member of the Diocesan Board of Education described the take up by schools:

"We ended up with 40 schools taking part and at one point I had 423 pieces of work at my house!

"A lot of church schools have taken part, the majority of them primary school pupils but we had entrants ranging from seven right up to 15 years of age.

"We ended up having two days of judging as we were just overwhelmed by the quality and the creativity of the work.

"Not only that but the way that teachers have taken children, some of them very young back in time to almost envisage themselves as a soldier saying goodbye to you family. There is some fantastic teaching going on behind it all.



National Resources

The Church of England website has a list of suggested readings, as well as hymns and artwork, which churches can use as part of WW1 commemoration services with more resources to come shortly.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/church-england-world-war-one/general-guide-resources-commemorating-world-war-i>

Working with your local School

If you were in the vicinity of Lord Scudamore Academy during Holy Week you may have caught a glimpse of 90 school children processing down the street, led by two donkeys, singing Hosanna and waving paper palm leaves. They were attending an Easter themed afternoon at St Nicholas church in Hereford.

Reader, Malcom Robertson described what the children got up to:

"When they arrived at church there was a short dramatization of the events of Holy Week, which included Palm Sunday, the crucifixion and above all the resurrection.

"Then we separated the children up into groups of 15 who circulated around different activities."

"We were looking at vestments, the different colours we use during Holy Week and their significance."

"Another one that was greatly loved was the Jelly Bean prayer. When they got back to school they were then each given a small bag of jelly beans which went down very well."

"Before the children left we also lit a small Easter Fire in the car park."

As a non-church school the afternoon was an ideal way to build a relationship and teach the children, all from Year One about the Christian faith.

Malcolm continued:

"It was tremendously successful with a lot of people mucking in. It was living the story rather than just being told it. That was our aim really for the children to really live and experience it."



How to... Schools

Building trust and relationship takes time. Don't expect to go to your first meeting with the head teacher and be enthusiastically asked to do everything. They need to get to know you and for trust to be built. There may be church members (or other local Christians) who work in the school as teachers, secretaries, or learning support assistants. It's worth chatting to these people about your ideas. They can advise on what would genuinely be of service to the school.

Save the date: Diocesan resource day for parishes on working with schools, children and families - 17th November 2018

Supporting Refugees

A "ramshackle bunch of people sorting donated clothes in a car port"

That's how churchgoers in Leominster started out helping refugees in Calais, Greece and Syria.

A bunch of friends shocked and upset by the image of three-year-old Syrian refugee Alan Kurdi lying dead on a beach in Turkey, met after church to work out what they could do to help children like Alan who are fleeing war and persecution.

Three and a half years later, the group, which joined up with another from Worcester, now makes up the charity, People in Motion. It has delivered more than 100 vanloads of donated aid and vital supplies, valued at a couple of hundred thousand pounds.

Volunteers with People in Motion make regular collections of food, clothing and sleeping bags in Hereford Diocese, taking them to Calais as well as supplying refugee camps further afield in Greece and Serbia. David Bland Leominster Priory churchwarden and trustee of People in Motion describes how his Christian faith influenced his response:



"It's a calling to love your neighbour, to love everybody.

"Everyone created in the image and likeness of God is special, is amazing and for me it is important to live that out in all that I do.

"It's the reason why I'm involved in helping refugees and migrants... they are people who are suffering dreadfully and who need love and the way we live out that love, is by providing a bit of decent food, a bit of decent clothing, a bit of decent shelter.

The glare of the media spotlight has moved on since the images of crowds of people desperately trying to cross from North Africa by sea and by foot were on television news reports and the front pages of

newspapers, but the need is just as great. People in Motion offers the opportunity for people to respond in the way they feel best placed to do so.

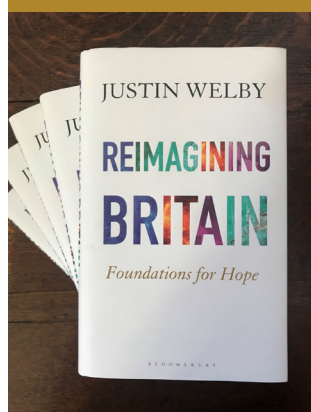
"We have a van that we use to distribute clothes, sleeping bags and food, people can donate money, or they can help sort donations here in the UK or volunteer for short periods of time in Calais to help at the warehouse and kitchen."

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/peopleinmotion15

PEOPLE
IN MOTION

A GOOD READ

Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope by Justin Welby (2018)



As the national debate since the Brexit vote continues about where our country may be heading in the future, it is well worth reading the insightful contribution of our Archbishop.

Ranging across a wide area of public policy, Reimagining Britain argues that we still have a sense of common life on which to build, even if much less solid by comparison with our last significant national reimagining after 1945, and weakened by diminishing Christian faith.

Reimagining Britain also challenges fearlessly those parts of our national life – aid to the wider world, immigration and the environment – where there may seem to be a temptation to turn inwards to selfish and short-term decisions. And therein lies the challenge for us all. Buy the book:

<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781472946072/reimagining-britain>



A Christian Community for all

In December last year 18-year-old Lydia Cole died unexpectedly. At her funeral the newly in post Christine Cattanach heard two of her friends discussing how the church felt like theirs because they have all of their family weddings and funerals there but they didn't come at any other time.



The Intergenerational Missioner for Ross on Wye, began thinking about how she could help these young people feel that the church was their space the whole of the time. She asked God to help her make them feel welcome and loved.

Christine said:

"I just prayed on whether there was something I could do to change this situation. I just prayed a lot really and asked how should I help?"

"And then when I went back to the church the following week, without it being full of people and saw the great space at the back, I just got this vision of young people gathered there with candles and hot chocolate and cookies.

"It just made me think could we the church community welcome and bless this family and these friends of Lydia – not hard-line evangelism or anything like that but just love them and bless them."

Out of this vision and with the support of the congregation at St Michael's and All Angels church – Lydia's Place was born, a time to remember together. Her sisters invited Lydia's friends on Facebook and members of the congregation baked cakes and biscuits.

More than 40 friends of Lydia and family members came along to the gathering, which also featured a prayer time, and the lighting of a candle for Lydia. People also filled out cards about their memories of Lydia. Christine continues:

"We made little parcels for people who came and put in a tea light and underneath it a square of paper which folded out, and on it we thanked

people for coming and assured them that they would always be very welcome to come and spend time in the church.

"Sometimes you create avenues and people don't always walk down them but they're still there for the future, this has been a lot about building a relationship with them, but we'll see as it's in God's hands now."



UNITE
YOUTH GATHERING

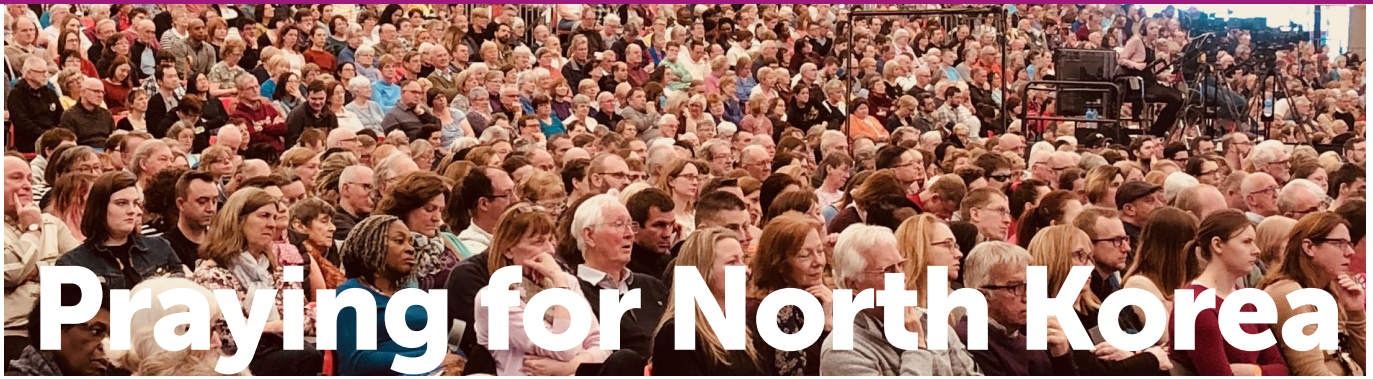
**New Youth
Event**

Sunday 24th June
3.00-5.00pm
Bishop's Palace
Hereford, HR4 9BL
Ages 15+

Unite is an event for young people created by young people with a passion and heart for Jesus, giving the chance for them to come together and share in a time of discussion, worship and praise. We invite you to join us for games, food and music with an amazing opportunity to deepen your faith and get to know people across the diocese.

<https://www.facebook.com/uniteyouthgathering/>





1,500 people were gathered in the main arena at Spring Harvest in Minehead in April – they were there on this particular evening to hear from Hea Woo who came to faith after her husband, who was a Christian, died in a prison in North Korea.

She escaped the regime for China where she became an evangelist and was arrested, tortured and after almost dying in prison was sent to a Labour camp. Among those listening to her powerful testimony, delivered through an interpreter was a group from Holmer Church in Hereford.

They heard how one of Hea Woo's children, a daughter of 26 died of malnutrition in a famine, Janis Gough was among the crowd who after hearing Hea Woo's incredibly moving story prayed for peace.



"One of the leaders said we're all going to pray, but we want to focus all our prayer on Kim Jong-un and you just felt at that moment as if everybody's minds were absolutely focused, pleading with God, saying 'God you've got to do something. He's got to be changed.'"

"Coming out of that hall, knowing that we had been of one mind, we all filtered out quietly thinking wow - this was a special moment."

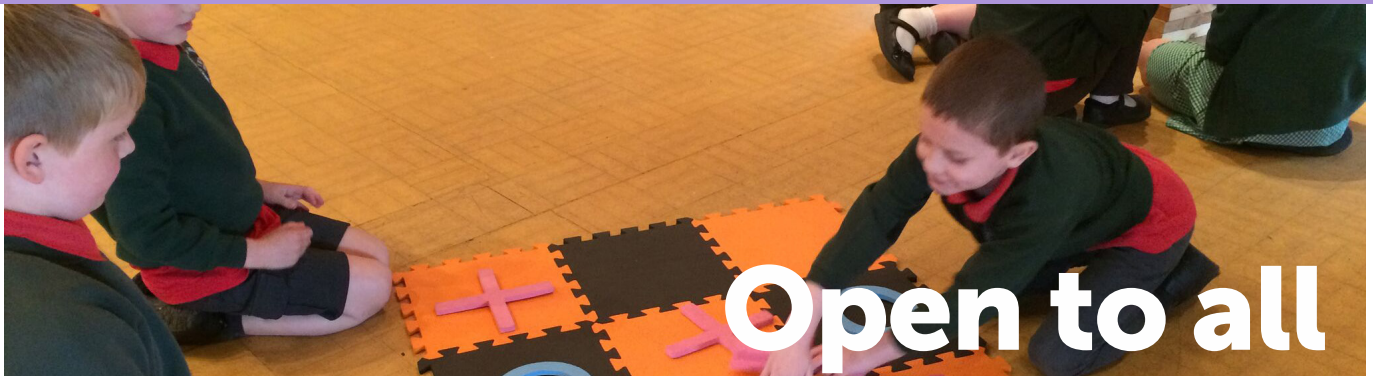
Less than two weeks later, Janis heard the news that the leaders of North and South Korea, were not only holding a summit but had shaken hands on the border between the two nations.

Janis explained:

"My husband likes to have Radio 4 on in the morning as we have our morning cup of tea and I was sat there in bed – thinking yes!

"I thought about those people eating bark from the trees and racing to eat a blade of grass because the country was so barren and so great was the famine. "It just felt like a fissure had been formed, a crack. I looked out at the garden and thought perhaps it's a bit like spring, whatever people say about how Kim Jong-un has made different movements in the past – this perhaps is a green shoot."





Adapting for the future

Free fantastic resources



St John the Baptist, Doddington, Shropshire was recently awarded £9,954 from the National Lottery's Awards for All scheme for their A Church Worth Looking At project.

The grant has funded a feasibility study, enabling them to consult with the local community, to evaluate which solutions best meet their needs and determine the costs of the urgent repairs and possible building changes.

Spurred on by this success, work is now underway developing a project that will give them the facilities they need, undertake repairs to the building, and create an environment in which to celebrate God and grow discipleship.

The National Lottery's Awards for All grant scheme offers funding of between £300 and £10,000 for community-led projects. If you'd like to know more about how this scheme could help your church and community, contact Simon Whaley, Church Projects and Funding Support Assistant on 01584 233125, or visit:

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>



Setting up a new group or offering different activities for children and young people in your church needn't cost a fortune. Hereford Diocesan Resource Centre offers a range of play equipment, teaching materials and books. As well as giant Jenga, the centre also stocks a large selection of Godly Play boxes, a simple way to illustrate Bible stories, thousands of books and also faith teaching resources for schools.

The centre is open to everyone who lives and works in the Diocese of Hereford and there is no charge for joining. The Resource Centre is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm, outside of this time a self-service system is in operation. Group visits are also available outside of these times by arrangement and items can be delivered to the Hereford Diocesan Office if collection from there is easier. Resources manager, Mel Wilson-Claridge said:

"The games are really popular, especially during the summer months when churches have holiday clubs and fetes. Although we do have two sets of the most popular games it can lead to disappointment so the message is book the games as soon as you have a date planned"

Come in and have a browse, you will be amazed at the range of subjects covered.

The Resources Centre can be found at the Ludlow Mascall Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1RZ. You can email Mel Wilson-Claridge the Resources Manager at:

admin@bmresources.org.uk
or telephone 01584-879307



Clergy Appointments

Canon Derek Chedzey is to become the next Archdeacon of Hereford. Canon Derek is currently Head of Ministry Development and a member of the Bishop's Staff at Bristol Diocese and Residentiary Canon in Bristol Cathedral (Diocesan Canon). He also has a parish role as a Self-Supporting Minister in Yate. Canon Derek will be licensed at Hereford Cathedral in the autumn.



Also moving:

Revd Anna Branston, to Rector of the Arrowvale Group of Parishes,

Revd Phil Brown, to Priest in Charge of the Burghill Group

Revd Preb Jane Davies, to Vicar of the Canon Pyon Group

Revd Mark Godson, to Priest in charge of the Ewyas Harold Group of Parishes

Revd Lynn Money, to Rector of the Ashfields Group

Revd Luci Morriss, to Priest in Charge of the Border Link Benefice

Revd Justin Parker, to Rector of the Bromfield Group

Revd Paul Roberts, to Rector of the Maund Group

Changes in the Diocese



The Diocesan Director of Education, Philip Sell will be retiring.

We thank Philip for his eight years of service to schools in our diocese.



Our new Programme Manager David Morris started in March. He supports the design and delivery of projects to fulfill the Diocesan Vision for mission and growth. The role is funded for three years by the Church Commissioners.

Where does all the money go?

Diocesan Secretary Sam Pratley and Director of Finance Stephen Herbert discuss where funding for the diocese comes from and how it's spent.

Date: 19th June 2018, 7-9pm.

Leominster Community Centre, HR6 8NJ

To book: msd@hereford.anglican.org or 01584 871085

Parish Giving Scheme reaches 100

Our 100th parish joined the Parish Giving Scheme in early May. Richard Jones, one of the diocesan Parish Giving Advisers says:

"We have been bowled over by the enthusiasm and engagement of parishes across the diocese".

Revd Rana Davies-James, Priest-in-Charge for the Magnis Benefice said:

"The PCC for St Michael and All Angels Church in Mansel Lacy are pleased to be joining the Parish Giving Scheme.

"We hope the straightforward nature of the scheme will encourage more local people to financially support the church they love."

For more on the PGS visit:

www.hereford.anglican.org/stewpgs/



COURTYARD
HEREFORD

LIVE

**A VICAR'S
LIFE LIVE**



Diocese of Hereford

Saturday 8 September, 7.30pm
Tickets £12

This is a joint fundraiser between The Courtyard (Reg. Charity No. 1067869) and Hereford Diocese (Reg. Charity No. 249685)

BOX OFFICE **01432 340555**
courtyard.org.uk

in partnership with
 

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