

Inspire!

Inspiring people, churches and schools across our diocese.



Be bold and share your story

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave a clear message at the end of his three day visit: *"Hereford Diocese has an exciting story to share."*

The Archbishop took part in 30 engagements and covered over 200 miles across the counties of Herefordshire and Shropshire during his visit.



Day one started with a visit to Hereford Sixth Form College meeting students before moving on to visit the city's proposed university, NMiTE and in the afternoon he took part in a Messy Church event in the city.

The evening ended with a special event held at The Courtyard Theatre in Hereford.

Day two, saw him launch the diocese' Mission and Mortar tool at breakfast in Peterchurch before travelling north to Shropshire to join a Follow! event at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow. He spent the rest of the day at a number of other engagements at schools, care homes, a community centre and a foodbank. The evening included worship followed by an event at Ludlow Brewery supporting Christians in their everyday faith.

The final day of his visit took in a business breakfast meeting at The Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford, addressing pupils at Hereford Cathedral School

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Featuring:

Growing stories:

Growing Messy Church disciples

Confirming your faith at any age

Plus...

Radio Times Award for A Vicar's Life

Mission and Mortar tool

Hundreds join farewell service for Bishop Richard

New Bishop of Hereford announced



Bishop Alistair

Faithfulness and imagination. . .

This fifth edition of Inspire is filled with so many wonderful stories of the people and places in our diocese.

It reflects on a wonderful, varied year of achievements and looks forward to the next chapter in the story of our diocese. During the autumn we were challenged to "be bold in our experimentation as a Diocese" during the visit of Archbishop Justin.

I have been reflecting on what this means to each of us and I invite you to continue to pray for faithfulness and imagination across our diocese. Be encouraged in your work to deliver our mission and live out your everyday faith.

Finally I am very much looking forward to the arrival of Bishop Richard Jackson later next Spring as he takes up the role as the 106 Bishop of Hereford, please pray for him and his wife Deborah as they prepare to move across the country.

+Alistair



during their morning school assembly and opening the Diocese Education Conference at Hereford Cathedral, before calling in for a final stop at Hereford Livestock Market, where he spoke with Farmers about the impact of Brexit, climate change and the stress of TB testing.

At every location he was given a very warm and hearty welcome. The lasting legacy of the three day visit remains a highlight for many who shared, personal stories and moments with a man-of-God who showed humility and inspired people.

During a special event held at The Courtyard, Hereford "A Conversation with..." Archbishop Justin shared stories from his own journey of faith, including many moments which tested him. His honest and often humorous responses were testimony to the very real love Jesus Christ offers each of us in our Christian lives.

A spiritual presence was clear to many people and organisations Archbishop Justin encountered:

Patricia Hales, Chairman of Horizon Training, Hereford said:

"On the day of the visit, I was astonished to see our students turn up early. They helped us prepare the building and buffet for everyone."

"For many of our students at Horizon Training we spent time explaining what an Archbishop does. He is best known [to them] as the man who married Prince William and Kate at Westminster Abbey."

"There was a real sense of calm before and after his visit."

Charlie Greene who attended Horizon Training and has since gone on to full-time employment shared his experience of talking to the Archbishop:

"I told him what the students learn at Horizon and why they are there."

"I shared that I used to be a bit of a 'bad lad' when I was younger and how Horizon sorted me out. I'm more confident and I have useful skills that helped me get a job."

"I liked meeting him and I got the impression he's really kind and listens."





iKnow Church



iKnow Church is a cloud based software designed to lift the burden of church management and administration off your team, and give you more time to do what it is that you're called to.

Designed for anyone to use, this tool is easy to manage and administer.

Find out more:

www.iknowchurch.co.uk

Lent Pilgrim



LentPilgrim and EasterPilgrim are the Church of England's 2019/20 Lent and Easter campaigns. These resources are designed to help your church mark these important seasons in the Church calendar.

What will be available for you to use?

- 40 daily reflections based on the Beatitudes to run from Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday.
- Full-colour booklet published by Church House Publishing
- App for Android and iOS, based on the award-winning 2018 #LiveLent app
- E-mail sign-up for daily content
- Social media campaign
- And much more...

#EverydayFaith

The Church of England is launching a new campaign starting in the New Year.

#EverydayFaith encourages Christians to explore God in their everyday lives and examine how they express their faith on a day-to-day basis, not just on a Sunday Morning.

Learn more:

www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith

Are you following us?

Want to keep up to date with information across our Diocese?

Want to hear inspirational stories of faith?

Want to learn the various ways we are spreading the gospel in other parishes?

Be sure to follow us on our Social Media Platforms to for more inspirational content:



@HerefordDiocese



@HerefordDiocese



@HerefordDiocese

#FollowTheStar



The main aim of #FollowTheStar is to encourage people to a local church service or event to share in the joy of Jesus' birth. There are various ways for parishes to take part, such as:

- A Journey Through the 12 Days of Christmas
- Consider being a 'star church' by displaying stars prominently
- Share Christmas videos and social media posts
- Download and buy materials from the National CofE Website and through the Church Print Hub

Find out more at:

www.churchofengland.org/christmas





Radio Times Award for A Vicar's Life

The BBC Two programme A Vicar's Life scooped the Radio Times Readers' Award at the annual Sandford St Martin Trust ceremony back in the summer. The Awards celebrate the best TV and radio programmes touching on faith, belief and ethics.

Revd Nicholas Lowton said: *"It was a privilege to be part of a programme that helped to show the real day-to-day life of rural ministry in Hereford Diocese to a wide audience of TV viewers. We were surprised and thrilled to win the award, particularly given it was an open vote by Radio Times readers."*

Three of the original four priests who feature in the program headed to London for the award ceremony at Lambeth Palace.

The BBC Two programmes followed the lives of Reverends Matthew, Ruth, Nicholas and Curate Matthew Cashmore highlighting the challenges of rural ministry in our diocese.

Readers of the Radio Times magazine chose A Vicar's Life in an open vote against Canvey: the Promised Island, Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago, My Dad the Peace Deal and Me, Heart and Soul: Faith in Freedom, and Chris Evans' interviews with Rev Ruth Scott. Well done team!



Mission and Mortar: A Parish resource tool

Since the Archbishop of Canterbury launched the new, free, Mission and Mortar toolkit in October, over 20 parishes across the Diocese have accessed the site.

The toolkit, supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund, has been designed to provide resources and information to church and community groups that will help parishes to better use their buildings for mission within their community.

In Allensmore, south of Hereford city, local resident Nick Chapman along with Church members of St Andrew's PCC tried the survey toolkit. The report provided the group with detailed information and resources tailored to the size and demographics of the parish.

"We discussed the survey in general terms," explains Nick,

"we all felt the exercise was very thought provoking. It tested our knowledge of our church building and really made us stop and think."

"We identified a few 'quick wins' from the report" he continued, including:

"updating notice boards; improving St Andrew's welcome notice and considering the Christian significance of certain items in our church, including the stained glass and the font."

The toolkit highlights the most relevant resources from its huge library of information and provides a useful report for groups to start a discussion. Further resources have been added since the launch in October and the team continues to work on feedback.

To find out more about the toolkit and look at the resources available visit:

www.missionandmortar.hereford.anglican.org



Eco Church

St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton embraced green living when it signed up to become a pilot Church for the A Rocha Eco Church.

Aimed at Churches to improve their environmental credentials, A Rocha UK has set out an accreditation scheme, which is now being adopted by Churches and Diocese across the UK.

Eco Church focuses on being able to demonstrate five criteria:

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Church buildings
- Managing Church land
- Community and local engagement
- Lifestyle

Isabelle, Churchwarden from St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton explains:

"About eight or nine years ago the Church had a massive refurbishment. The floor was taken up and we had underfloor heating installed and then a thick layer of insulation and that's made a huge difference to our energy bills."

"The PCC took a bit of persuading, the Treasurer looked at all the details and said 'I think this will work.' Two years later he said 'this has been the best investment this Church has ever made.' So not only is it eco but it's also brought in quite a lot of income on the [electricity] feed-in tariff."

"We have got a lovely lot of campion, oxeye daisies, knap weed and all sorts of things are coming up now, which is good. We have bird boxes, bat boxes and up in the [church] tower a couple of swift boxes."

Many Churches across our diocese are considering how becoming an Eco Church can help them to reach out in other ways to their local community and schools. Offering Messy Muddy Church and outdoor spring time bluebell walks are just a few examples.

To find out more about how to become an Eco Church, we have produced a video and information on the diocesan website:

www.hereford.anglican.org/M-CENT/eco-church



The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Revd Richard Frith retired at the end of November, with a farewell service at Hereford Cathedral.



Saturday 23 November saw hundreds of well-wishers and supporters turn out to say thank you and pray God's blessing upon Bishop Richard and his wife Kay as they begin the next chapter of their life together.

Bishop Richard held the post for five years, helping the diocese to shift towards intentional intergenerational church.

He led development of a diocesan mission strategy focused on Proclaiming Christ and Growing Disciples by inspiring each generation.

He successfully supported a Strategic Development Bid, which funded six intergenerational Missioners in five of our market towns and cities and actively sought development of relationships between civic, statutory and community groups to look at issues relating to the common good agenda.

During his five years in the diocese, he encouraged and supported a number of projects and individuals to re-imagine church buildings, and empowered church members in their roles and responsibilities to develop a variety of ministry and worship across the diocese, including supporting the growth of Messy Church and fresh expressions.

"I thank God for the people of this beautiful diocese. It has been a privilege being Bishop of Hereford over the past five years."

Upon his departure Bishop Richard said:

"I will continue to love and pray for the people and the area. I have found it hard to say goodbye but I am reminded that my faith keeps me looking forward to the next chapter."

"Lastly thank you for the wonderful gifts and kind messages. They mean a great deal to Kay and me"

Speaking to others before the service of farewell, the Bishop of Ludlow the Rt Revd Alistair Magowan said:

"Kay and Richard have served the Diocese of Hereford for just over five years, during which time I have come to know them not just as colleagues but friends."

Kay said:

"Richard and I have had a wonderful time over the last five years, getting to know this beautiful area and the wonderful people. We are sad to leave our home, friends and colleagues who have felt like an extended family."

"The greatest challenge I have will be encouraging Richard to enjoy life without committing to every volunteer request."





Next year we look forward to welcoming the next Bishop of Hereford, Rt Revd Richard Jackson. Bishop Richard, will become the 106 Bishop of Hereford, in Spring 2020. On the announcement of his appointment Bishop Richard said:

"I am immensely humbled to have been chosen to become the next Bishop of Hereford. This beautiful diocese is in my DNA."

"I've traced my family tree and if I took a journey visiting churches from Leominster to the Welsh Border, I would be able to see the graves of my ancestors dating back to the 13th Century."

Bishop Richard, who is known for his work as a pastoral and teaching bishop, said:

"I am looking forward to talking to the people of our diocese."

"I hope I can energise people to consider that the Christian life - with all its joy, peace and purpose - is for everyone, young and old."

"I would like to think that I could help, support and inspire people to follow Christ in their daily lives."

His call to ordination came later in life following an early career in agriculture.

One summer, he attended a Christian summer conference:

"It was another dramatic moment. It was something I resisted strenuously, but in the end God's call was irresistible."

"It was there that I felt called to ordination."



A quick CV summary of Bishop Richard Jackson

Personal Info

- Age: 58
- Married: Deborah, a farmer's daughter who grew up in the Cotswolds and is a learning support teacher.
- Children: Three children; Annabel, who's a psychiatric nurse, Sam, who works in marketing communications, and jazz musician, Charlie.
- Childhood: His childhood was spent in Uxbridge, on the outskirts of London and came from a non-Christian family.
- Came to Faith: A dramatic conversion at the age of 17, when his sister took him to a church youth group in Ealing.

Interests:

- He is affectionately known as the 'biking bishop' as a result of his passion for motor biking on his 'Fat Boy' 1.4L Harley Davidson.
- In September 2019 he took a leap of faith out of an aeroplane in a charity skydive for the Church Urban Fund.

Education:

He studied agriculture and forestry at Christ Church at the University of Oxford and completed a Master's degree in soil and water engineering at Cranfield. He then worked in agriculture as an agronomist, advising farmers.

Vicar Training:

He studied at Trinity College in Bristol and served as a Curate between 1994 and 1998 in the Parish of Lindfield in the Chichester diocese.

Service to the Church:

- 1998 - appointed Vicar of Rudgwick, near Horsham
- 2005 - appointed Rural Dean of Horsham.
- From 2009 - Mission & Renewal Adviser and Leader of the Church Growth Team for the Chichester Diocese.
- 2014 - installed as Bishop of Lewes.
- 2019 - announced as 106 Bishop of Hereford

Social Media:

He's @rickthevic22 on Twitter



Growing Messy Church disciples

A grant of £100,000 has been awarded to the Church of England's Evangelism and Discipleship Team to study deepening the discipleship of Messy Church congregations. Hereford is one of only three dioceses in England that the study is focused on.

The national research project aims to help deepen the faith of families and children attending 'Messy Churches' – non-traditional church gatherings that attract hundreds of worshippers across our diocese.

In our own diocese, Messy Church is drawing people of all ages into a regular gathering, often after school; giving people time to be together and enjoy being part of a church community.

Kathy Bland, Messy Church co-ordinator for Hereford Diocese, said:

"This is a really exciting opportunity for our diocese. We have decided to focus on developing seven of the Messy Church congregations across our diocese and we are trying out two of the BRF Messy Church discipleship 'tools' with them.

"One of our 'tools' is social action. Some of our Messy Churches are helping people to grow in their faith as they get to grips with some practical service in their community. We are encouraging people to find hands-on ways to care for our world and the people in it. As they do, they will be learning more about what it means to follow Jesus.



"Our second discipleship 'tool' is maturing our Messy Church teams. As our Messy Church leaders grow closer to Jesus, our belief is that people attending Messy Church will also grow in faith. Our teams are finding imaginative and creative ways to help stretch and deepen their faith; theologically reflecting and praying together, holding 'Messy book clubs' to grapple with some 'Messy issues' and going on 'Messy retreats,' as well as lots of opportunities to spend time growing together as friends.

"We want people to be growing deeper in relationship with Jesus, so this is an exciting opportunity to find ways to help them to do that through Messy Church."

She added:

"We have people who are coming regularly to Messy Church each month, even when they don't have their children or grandchildren with them, because they feel part of this community.

"As people at Messy Church become our friends, we find that we can all help each other on our faith journeys. That is the intention at the heart of our 'Deepening Discipleship' project."





Confirming your faith at any age

Confirmation is an important part of a lifetime journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ. During preparations for confirmation, we are given a safe place to ask any questions we have about God, Jesus and the journey of faith.

So when Paula a resident at Wykenhurst Care decided she was ready to step forward in her faith, a very special service of confirmation was arranged by Revd Ruth Hulse and Rt Revd Richard Frith, Bishop of Hereford.

Paula who regularly attends worship each week, asked to be confirmed after reading a book called 'The Sound of Music.'

She told us:

"I just love music, which I think comes from God. I read the book and wanted to get confirmed."

Following the confirmation service, Bishop Richard, Revd Ruth and residents enjoyed eating the confirmation cake, made especially to celebrate this very special occasion.

If you're considering confirmation, please speak to your local vicar. To find your local church, visit:

www.achurchnearyou.com



Life Events: How to...

If you are wondering how your church can grow through life events or how to get started, a useful tool to use is the Life Events Diary.

The Life Events Diary is an online administration tool to help churches streamline the administration of Baptism, Weddings, Banns, and Funerals, so that they can focus on the ministry and mission.

The Life Events Diary is available FREE to every church in the Church of England, paid for by the Church of England's Life Events Team.

It is designed to work with any parish structure, from a single church, a multi-parish benefice, even a whole deanery.

To learn more visit: www.lifeeventsdiary.org



a church
NEAR YOU | THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The new A Church Near You website is now live.

For help and advice email: comms@hereford.anglican.org





Lighting up Pink and Blue for Baby Loss Awareness Week

October 9 - 15 marked National Baby Loss Awareness Week. This year Hereford Cathedral got involved for the first time and was illuminated in blue and pink alongside Hereford County Hospital, Wye Valley NHS Trust.

As part of an act of remembrance held in the Lady Arbour gardens, nearly 70 people took part in the Wave of Light helping to raise funds for Wye Valley NHS Trust Umbrella Charity for a new bereavement suite on the maternity unit.

During the week, the Miscarriage Association worked alongside 60 other charities and groups to raise awareness of key issues that affect people who have lost a baby, highlighting the need for improvements in bereavement care, research and prevention.

The last two years have seen a growing number of public buildings and landmarks lit up in pink and blue in support.

Photos of the candles on social media tagged #WaveofLight are expected to create a wave of light that spreads across the globe.



New Interns



We're excited to have three new interns serving in our diocese, as part of the Discover program, a one-year internship program for young adults to explore Christian ministry.

If you know someone who may be interested, go to: www.hereford.anglican.org/discover/

New Registrar



Jeremy Wilding a Director and Solicitor at Gabbs Solicitors, Hereford, is set to become the official Diocese of Hereford Registrar from next summer. He takes over from London based firm, Lee Bolton Monier-Williams.

The Registrar is the Bishop of Hereford's legal advisor as well as registrar of the diocesan synod - the governing council of the diocese.

The role also included giving legal advice on any decisions or issues including works to churches and churchyards across the diocese.

The role includes providing advice to parishes and church officers

on the variety of legal matters which arise from time to time in parish life supporting hundreds of churchwardens, clergy and PCC members about their various roles and duties, as well as being the Bishop of Hereford's legal advisor.

Jeremy said:

"I am delighted to have been chosen as the Diocesan Registrar to the Bishop of Hereford."

"There is so much good work and I will be very glad to be a part of that."



Pupils enjoy a special mini education conference

Over 60 pupils and staff from 17 schools came together during the annual Education Conference this year to take part in the first ever mini conference for pupils.

Pupils joined the opening keynote address at Hereford Cathedral which this year was given by Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Revd Justin Welby, before moving to the Left Bank Centre.

The conference included a number of workshops, the first one on worship was led by Mark Harrington, the Diocese's Education Development Officer. Using magic tricks and music to tell the story of the gospel, the pupils were encouraged to think about the theme of the conference, 'Building Bridges.'

Other workshops included pupils and staff working together on a bridge building exercise using lollipop sticks and wooden pegs. As they built their structures, there were lots of discussions between them about the different links that they have between their school and the local church.

The mini conference included a Prayer Space, allowing pupils an opportunity to experience interactive prayer stations.

Mark said:

"It was a wonderful morning of prayer and worship with pupils from across a number of schools. I hope this is something we will continue to do as part of our main conference each year."



Cathedral invites schools to help mark the start of year of the Pilgrimage



Children from St Thomas Cantilupe Primary School in Hereford and Hereford Cathedral Junior School took part in the service of Faith and Reconciliation at Hereford Cathedral back in October.

The special service marked the start of the Cathedral's year-long celebration of St Thomas led by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, now the Rt Revd Lord Williams of Oystermouth, and the former Bishop of Hereford Rt Revd Richard Frith.

The children led a re-enactment of the story of St Thomas who was excommunicated from Canterbury by Archbishop Peccham in 1282 following a disagreement between Hereford and Canterbury.



Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a 21st century solution to offset one of the greatest threats to parish income - static giving.

The scheme has been adopted as the preferred way of giving by the National Stewardship Committee. It is a charitable company owned by participating dioceses.

Since its launch in 2017, over 200 of parishes within our diocese have joined the Parish Giving Scheme.

For more on the PGS visit:

www.hereford.anglican.org/stewpgs



Open the Book

We are growing a generation of children who have a better knowledge of Bible stories than their parents.

You don't need special skills or acting ability to be an Open the Book storyteller.

Open the Book has a new resource linking Bible Stories with School Values.

Find out more about Open The Book at:

www.openthebook.net

Kathy Bland - our Diocesan Intergenerational Church Enabler - can help you set up an Open the Book Team or link you up with other Open the Book teams in our diocese.

Contact Kathy on:

k.bland@hereford.anglican.org



Holy Land



If you are interested in going to the Holy Land, follow this link for more information and to apply:

www.lightline.org.uk/images/brochures/israel/2020/2020_hereford.pdf

Contactless Payments



We now have more ways to give with contactless payment terminals.

For more information about different ways to give to your church, visit:

www.hereford.anglican.org/donate