

MISSION & MINISTRY

Leading Your Church into Growth

Children & Young People | Ministry Development | Year of Engagement

In this edition

Leading Your Church into Growth

- New LYCiG Partnership
- Launch and Briefing Date

Children and Young People p.4-9

- Infuse Online
- Messy Meet-Ups
- Missional Youth Church
- Open The Book
- Weekend Away

Ministry Development p.10-15

- Accompanying
- CMD - a new look
- Enabling Leaders
- Initial Ministerial Development
- West Midlands CMD
- Oversight Ministry
- College of Preachers

Vocations Gathering p.16

- 25th October 10-3

Year of Engagement

- Teaching Events 3 & 4
- Study Day 2
- Spiritual Question Time



Leading Your Church into Growth

Leading your Church into Growth (LYCiG) is a national mission charity with a proven track record of helping churches grow in spiritual depth, in service to their local community, and in numbers.

They are a team of passionate and missional individuals made up of bishops, archdeacons, parish clergy and lay leaders of all traditions. LYCiG provides training days and resources as well as supporting dioceses in developing their own growth programmes.

New Partnership for Hereford Diocese

The Diocese of Hereford has forged a new partnership with LYCiG to offer a specially tailored rural approach focussed on creating a learning community of clergy and lay leaders to oversee, create and develop opportunities for growth. At the heart of this approach is a local LYCiG conference **6-7 June 2026** that will use interactive talks,

KEY LYCiG DATES

LYCiG Briefing

Monday 20th October 2025
12pm - 2pm including lunch

at The Diocesan Office,
 Hereford with Bishop Richard,
 Archdeacon Fiona and Sue
 Cooke LYCiG national director

Learning Community

January 2026 onwards

a monthly onsite/online
 resource for parish clergy with
 oversight of a local LYCiG team

Diocesan Conference

Sat & Sun 6-7 June 2026

at a venue in the Diocese for
 parish clergy and members of
 the local leadership team

DISCOVER MORE about LYCiG

Sue Cooke, LYCiG national
 director, introduces the
 conference [in this video](#).



And there's lots more [here](#)
[https://www.youtube.com/
 @LYCiG/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@LYCiG/videos)

practical exercises and space for personal reflection to
 inspire and enable churches to grow at their own pace,
 in their own way.

Archdeacon Fiona writes,

"I first came across LYCiG when I was serving in the
 Diocese of St Albans, and I was extremely impressed
 with the quality of the training and the team. I went to
 the core conference with a group of lay people from
 my benefice and all of us benefitted from it.

The aspect I found most helpful was that this wasn't
 training directed either at clergy alone or laity alone,
 but deliberately aimed at teams of clergy and laity
 attending together, learning together, praying together,
 and implementing plans back in the benefice together.

The group that came with me became the core of the
 lay team who lead our parishes in mission over the
 months after the conference, and that carried on after I
 left to move to the Diocese of Hereford.

LYCiG works across all church traditions and all ministry
 contexts, and really does put the emphasis on knowing
 our contexts, finding an agreed vision for moving into
 God's future, and making the steps towards that vision
 clear and manageable.

I warmly commend LYCiG to your prayerful
 consideration, along with your lay leaders."

An Invitation to leaders

Pray, reflect, wonder about how LYCiG might play a part
 in supporting your church community to become open
 to new ways of being, to reimagining relationships with
 your local communities, to growing closer to God who
 calls us into ever-widening circles of possibility.

"Leading Your Church into Growth is a transformative
 force within the church, offering a practical, hope-
 filled pathway from maintenance to mission. Rooted
 in prayer, simplicity, and real-world parish experience,
 LYCiG has helped churches rediscover their purpose,
 reimagine their potential, and re-engage with their
 communities." 9 Dot Research

Please contact Mark Godson (Ministry Development) for
 more details of the partnership with LYCiG.
mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Summary for clergy and lay leaders

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG)

- New diocesan partnership with LYCiG offering a tailored rural approach.
- Key Dates:
 - Briefing: Mon 20 Oct 2025, 12–2pm (Diocesan Office)
 - Learning Community: Monthly from Jan 2026
 - Conference: Sat–Sun 6–7 June 2026
 - Encourages clergy and lay teams to attend together for shared vision and practical growth strategies. See also p.16

Children & Young People p. 4–8

- Messy Church: Online meet-ups and national pilot Messy Momentum launching Jan 2026.
- Open the Book: Info session Mon 15 Sept 2025, 7–8.30pm.
- Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN):
 - Intro dinner: Fri 26 Sept
 - Learning Community: Sat 27 Sept
- Scargill Residential: 15–17 May 2026
- Youth Weekend Away: 17–19 Oct 2025 at Cefn Lea. See also p.15
- Weekly prayer gatherings for youth discipleship: Tuesdays at 1pm (national) and 1.30pm (diocesan).

Ministry Development p. 9–14

- Accompanying Programme: Support for clergy new in post.
- CMD Refresh: Survey launching Sept 2025 to shape future ministerial development.
- Initial Ministerial Development: New integrated pathway for curates and LLMs.
- Oversight Ministry: Community of practice for clergy in collaborative leadership roles.
- College of Preachers Events:
 - Wonder of Words Conference: 9–11 Sept 2025
 - Zoom Workshops: Psalms (20 Sept), Matthew (3 Nov), Christmas (15 Nov)

Vocations p.15

Vocations Gathering: 10–3 Sat 25 Oct 2025, Ludlow Mascall Centre.

Year of Engagement. p.15

- Bishop's Teaching Events:
 - Event 3: Sat 13 Sept
 - Study Day 2: Wed 22 Oct (with Dr Krish Kandiah)
 - Event 4: Sat 8 Nov
- Spiritual Question Time: Tues 21 Oct, New Harp Inn, Hoarwithy

CONTACTS

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Children & Young People



Six Pilots in 2026

- **Intentionally Intergen** - involve all ages in all aspects of Messy Church.
- **Friday Night Messy** - happens in the evening, in a community space.
- **Pick 'n' Mix** – providing a space within an existing MC that focuses on young people
- **Co-journeying** – a 'buddy'-style system, asking people in the church to be a co-journeyer (co-jo) to a young person
- **Messy Gather** – connecting the young people from MCs locally and regionally to grow their faith.
- **'I'd like to try this...'** – what's that one new idea you've had to engage young people that we haven't thought of?

Messy Meet-Ups

An online opportunity for people interested in finding out about Messy Church as well as existing Messy Church leaders and volunteers to meet for an hour to share Messy Church wisdom, ideas and expertise, offer support in the highs and the lows of Messy Church and pray for each other as well as hearing the latest news from the national Messy Church BRF team.

This autumn we'll be particularly focusing on how we can join in with the 'Messy Momentum' national project which is all about young people in Messy Church.

Email Intergenerational Church Enabler,

Kathy Bland k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

for the zoom link if you would like to attend any or all of these sessions.

- Monday 8th September 2 pm
- Wednesday 15th October 11am
- Monday 24th Nov 7pm

Messy Momentum

With funding from the Church of England, the national Messy team are looking into how we make Messy Churches more engaging for young people.

With this 'missional challenge' highlighted, we to run six pilots and find creative ways to keep young people in Messy Church.

These pilots will start in January 2026, but right now, we need Messy Churches all over the UK to sign up to be involved and run one of these pilots. Find out more [here](#) or go to:

<https://www.messychurch.brf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/06/Messy-Momentum-Project-Info-Pack.pdf>



- gives the school a link with the community
- provides opportunities to build cross-generational relationships
- offers a time of quiet reflection that schools are required to build into their school day
- makes an engaging school assembly
- requires no extra work or planning from school staff
- is successful in multi-faith contexts.
- Staff in schools value Open the Book because they know exactly what has been said and can answer with confidence any questions they may be asked about the content of the assembly.
- Storytelling teams are trained and safely recruited volunteers from local churches and organisations, who sign up as members and follow the Open the Book Code of Practice.

Open The Book

Open the Book Information Session

Monday September 15th 7-8.30pm

Open The Book is a well-loved Bible Society resource, enabling small teams to interactively tell Bible Stories for school assemblies/ collective worship. It's a wonderful tool for making positive links between school and church as well as enabling a new generation of children to know and love Bible stories.

An opportunity for people unfamiliar with Open the Book to find out more and also for existing Open the Book team members to have an update on recent changes.

Please contact Kathy Bland, Intergenerational Church Enabler, to book a place or to arrange local training.

k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

The Bible Course

The New Edition is now available

This new and improved, **free** small group resource will help you and your church discover how Bible characters, stories, and themes are connected, from Genesis to Revelation.

"We have people in our group who have been studying the Bible for decades and others who are new to it, ... it's accessible to everyone within the group."

Eight sessions with films, course Guidebook and the Digital Hub. The course is accessible for people new to Christianity, ideal as a follow-on from courses like Alpha or for mature Christians wanting to increase their understanding of the Bible. It's a brilliant resource for small groups and churches.

Find out more [here](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course) or go to: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course>

Missional Youth Church Network

Young Leaders

At the learning community we are running a Young Leader stream and launching the new young leaders resource 'Ignite'.

Young people will be gathering with Jane our young leader's networker for some discussion and games, and in the afternoon doing some more exciting activities run by the pioneer centre.

It would be great to have as many young people as possible. If you have any questions contact Jane on jane.henderson@churcharmy.org

Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN is part of Church Army UK) has received C of E funding to develop new worshipping communities in partnership with churches and dioceses, as part of the Growing Younger strategy.

They work with over 50 projects across the country who each engage with unchurched young people and develop pathways from initial engagement to youth discipleship and worship. They enable teenagers to become young leaders and team members.

MYCN Learning Community

Sat 27th Sept 9.30am - 4pm
The Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster

We would love to invite you to join us for our next learning community. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other leaders from across the country, to learn together and talk about how best to connect with unchurched young people. We would love to see you there!

Sign up [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mycn-learning-community-tickets-1416658346249): <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mycn-learning-community-tickets-1416658346249>

On the Friday evening (Sept 26th), church leaders and youth leaders who want to find out more about Missional Youth Church network are invited to join us for a FREE evening meal and opportunity to meet the team, too. Book this directly with Lizzie Hackney – e.hackney@hereford.anglican.org

It's exciting to hear of 'quiet revival' and stories of young people turning up at churches and groups asking questions about faith! Something amazing is happening but for these unchurched young people to take root, find faith and become disciples – we'll need to build relationships really, really, well.

Without good relationship building, youth work tends to fall apart sooner or later.

As relationships form - how we bring these relationships together as community or family is vital. Listening and involving young people, being prepared to let them help shape the church of today (as well as tomorrow) is crucial because we know God speaks through young people today...

At this learning community, we're going to focus on: - how can we build relationships & how to form Christian community with young people as these are two building blocks to growing healthy youth work.

Youth Weekend Away 17-19 October 2025

A residential for young people across the Diocese connected with any of our projects or activities

At Cefn Lea SY16 4AJ

Christian Conference and Holiday Park <https://www.cefnelea.co.uk/>

£95 per person (with 50 spaces available)

An opportunity to spend some time with other young people across the Diocese and see what God has to say about all of our favourite things, from sport and drama, to art and music.

We know there are many young people who go to church, attend youth groups or Christian Unions across the Diocese and we want to provide an opportunity for you to connect with God through your chosen stream of sport, drama, art and more!

Contact: Heather Martin
(Youth Hubs Coordinator)
heather.martin@hereford.anglican.org



Thursday 21st August, 7-8pm
and Thursday 20th November, 7-8pm
Infuse Online creative prayer zoom for young people.

Thursday 28th August, 11am-1pm
Online Intergenerational Learning Community
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456751039?pwd=x35UHXhGmyl6nxKqrx7uQbA0eLhuma.1>

Tuesday 28th October 11am – 2pm
Intergenerational Mission Learning Community
If you would like to host this Learning Community, please get in touch!

10th – 16th November
National Youth Ministry Weekend
This is a really inspiring national conference in Birmingham and we will have a group from our diocese attending again this year. If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch. More details [here](https://www.youthscape.co.uk/nymw/home): <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/nymw/home>

Thursday 27th November, 11am-1pm
Intergenerational Learning Community
at St. Peter's Church, Withington,

Monday 15th December, 1pm – 3pm
Online Intergenerational Learning Community
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85892765979?pwd=HlVgDaCdXAF16MwVUhxizSONmJbZal.1>

Date for next year Friday 15th – Saturday 17th May
2026 MYCN Scargill Residential – with Missional Youth Church Network

It's very encouraging to see all that is happening across our diocese, but I am also aware that those involved in intergenerational mission are on the front line and often face huge challenges in ministry and wider life – as an Intergenerational Team, we hold you in prayer, but please get in touch if we can support you in any way – please ask.

Lizzie Hackney and Heather Martin

National Prayer for Children & Young people

Every Tuesday 1pm for 20 minutes

More details [here](https://youtu.be/T4kOckRVdLE) <https://youtu.be/T4kOckRVdLE>

You are invited to join a weekly twenty-minute online prayer gathering for Doubling the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030. It would be great if you could come, and if you could, spread the word about these prayer times. Who can you invite to come too?

When joining, you may want to add Hereford Diocese to your 'Participant Name' so we can see others who are praying locally. We look forward to seeing you there!

The prayer gathering will be reasonably fast-paced, and start and end bang on time. Some of the time may be spent in breakout rooms, but, all the way through, prayers can be offered verbally, in the chat, or silently.

Across the Church of England there are many preferred ways of praying. We aim to use a variety of styles but hope you will join whatever your preferences.

If you have a longing to see new young disciples of Jesus, this would be a great use of twenty minutes of your time each week.

We know we are not the main agents in seeing this change. We believe God is. Therefore, our first commitment in seeking to double the number of children and young people is to pray – asking God for his enabling and empowering, his leading and guiding, his work to open hearts and draw young people to himself.

You can sign up to be emailed the link, or add the link to your online calendar [here](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/children-and-young-people/praying-doubling-number-children-and-young-active-disciples-church-england-2030): <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/children-and-young-people/praying-doubling-number-children-and-young-active-disciples-church-england-2030> scroll down!

Diocesan Prayer for Children and Young People

Every Tuesday 1.30pm

An opportunity to pray for children, young people and their families who we minister to through our Diocese. Meeting for half an hour following the national Zoom Prayer.

Zoom Link - all welcome: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114482667?pwd=aDU2a1BGWGxtZEc3VnIHQXZwb0ZCQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 1448 2667

Passcode: 690062

Ministry Development

ACCOMPANYING

An evaluation of our programme to offer support for clergy in a new post of primary responsibility was presented to the Bishop's Council. One of those surveyed said,

"Participating in the accompanying programme was a true privilege, and it was an invaluable experience that greatly assisted me at the beginning of my first incumbent role. Through sharing what I was experiencing and discerning, my accompaniment was able to provide guidance that was instrumental in shaping my understanding of God's mission and vision for the benefice."

The Accompaniers are priests with significant experience of parish ministry in a variety of contexts who walk alongside those new in post for up to two years. Each receives training and supervision, and is approved by the Bishop's Staff Meeting.

Another of those surveyed, commented,

"Because it is offered to all clergy who are new to the Diocese, it means that there is a range of experience that can be shared and encouraged. It has enabled me to feel welcomed and supported by the wider Diocese. I have found the Accompanying journey very helpful, and a positive element of the welcome to, and support from Hereford Diocese. I hope that others have found it as positive experience as I have.

If you'd like to know more, contact Mark Godson mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

CONTINUING MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

CMD - a new look

Whether you're newly licensed or have decades of experience, your insights matter.

This is your opportunity to:

Share what's helped you grow

Highlight what could be improved

Suggest new ideas and priorities

Help us tailor CMD to better support your context and calling

Help Shape the Future of CMD

We're inviting all clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers/Readers to take part in a short but important survey to help shape the future of Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) across our Diocese.

Your voice will directly influence how we support and resource ministry in the coming years. CMD is not just about training — it's about flourishing in your vocation, deepening your discipleship, and being sustained in the work God has called you to.

An email with the survey link will arrive at the beginning of September. Further details from Mark Godson mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

ENABLING LEADERS

Nominations Open: Enabling Leaders 2026

Do you know someone with the potential to lead — someone who brings wisdom, creativity, and resilience shaped by lived experience of disability or neurodivergence? We're now inviting nominations for Enabling Leaders 2026, the third year of this transformative leadership development programme established by the Committee for Ministry of and Among Deaf and Disabled People (CMDDP).

This national initiative is designed to equip and empower disabled and/or neurodivergent leaders both lay and ordained to flourish in their calling and contribute boldly to the life of the Church.

Hear from previous participants: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0hDkhGa4xE>

Nominations are presented by the Diocesan Bishop. If you'd like to suggest someone or explore whether this might be for you please contact the Bishop's Chaplain in the first instance: chaplain@hereford.anglican.org

INITIAL MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

From Autumn 2025, the Diocese of Hereford is launching a refreshed and collaborative approach to initial ministerial development designed to support both curates in training and newly admitted Licensed Lay Ministers (Reader/LLM) as they begin their journey in ministry.

This new pathway brings together ordained and lay ministers in shared learning, reflection, and formation recognising the richness of each calling and the value of growing together.

What's new?

- Development Days held on Sundays to better support Self-Supporting Ministers
- Sessions hosted in curates' training benefices, rooted in real ministry contexts
- Joint learning with other local lay leaders to foster collaboration and mutual support

Supportive structures include:

- Reflective Practice Groups for curates and LLMs/Readers
- Group supervision for training incumbents, supported by facilitators trained through our partnership with St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing and accredited by the Association for Pastoral Supervisors and Educators

Curate placements:

- Year 1: Church School or Academy (with Diocesan Education Team)
- Year 2: Hereford Cathedral
- Year 3: Mission-focused placement

Leadership preparation: From Year 2, curates training for posts of primary responsibility will join Update Days alongside new and existing incumbents. These sessions, led by diocesan experts, will cover key aspects of church leadership where incumbents play a distinctive role.

This renewed approach reflects our commitment to nurturing confident and collaborative, ministers who are equipped to serve and lead with wisdom and grace.

For more information, contact Mark Godson: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

WEST MIDLANDS CMD

West Midlands CMD is a collaborative initiative by the six dioceses of the West Midlands Training Partnership, working in partnership with Derby Diocese.

For each of the following, there are more details on the WM CMD website:

<https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/> If you wish to attend any of the programmes or retreats, please contact Mark Godson: mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

CELEBRATING WISDOM 2026

The programme is for those in ministry with more than 10 years of ordained experience. It is particularly valuable for those wanting to 'take stock' and ponder the next phase of their ministry whether its time to move posts, shift gear, or keep on keeping on. It provides a process for reflecting on vocation and discern the future.

LETTING GO TO LIVE ANEW 2026

The retreat is for those who are considering retirement within the next 12-18 months and offers the opportunity to reflect on the transition into retirement. This time can be one of huge potential leaving a specific role and responsibilities to re-discover oneself and one's vocation for the next phase of living. Letting go can be both disturbing and freeing, disorientating and liberating, feared and desired, so is potentially deeply creative.

NEW RURAL DEANS PROGRAMME

Stepping into the role of Rural Dean is a significant and often demanding responsibility, one that adds to an already full ministry. To support clergy in this vital leadership role, West Midlands CMD offers a dedicated programme designed to encourage, equip, and connect those who have recently taken on the role across the region.

This is more than training or a course, it's a space to reflect, share, and grow alongside others who understand the unique challenges and opportunities of deanery leadership.

OVERSIGHT MINISTRY CONVERSATIONS

As ministry becomes more collaborative and diverse, Oversight Ministry offers a way of leading that is relational, empowering, and responsive to local realities.

Rather than focusing on doing everything, Oversight Ministry is about enabling others, lay and ordained, to flourish in their own callings. It's a model of ministry rooted in trust, discernment, and shared responsibility.

What is Oversight Ministry?

Oversight Ministry is not a new title or role, but a way of exercising leadership that:

- Supports and nurtures others in their ministries
- Discerns vision and direction for local mission
- Builds teams and encourages collaboration
- Connects local contexts with diocesan strategy and wider Church life

It's especially relevant in multi-parish benefices, rural settings, and emerging ministry models, where traditional leadership structures may not be sustainable.

Oversight Ministry helps the Church respond to:

- The need for flexible, sustainable leadership
- The call to equip the whole people of God
- The opportunity to grow in depth, number, and service

It's a ministry of presence, encouragement, and strategic support, helping churches move from maintenance to mission, and from isolation to shared purpose.

If you'd like to join a group of clergy from the Diocese who meet once a term to learn together as a community of practice, please contact Mark Godson:

mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

COLLEGE OF PREACHERS

The Wonder of Words – Preaching Conference

Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 September 2025

Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, DE55 1AU

Keynote Speaker: Margaret Cooling, author of *Preaching that Shows*

Even in our image-obsessed world, words still matter. Join us as we see how poetry, humour, writing-craft, and art can all help us make best use of words in preaching.

- Stand-up comedy performance by Paul Kerensa
- Poetry reading by Tim Watson

- A range of exciting workshops
- Preaching and visual art, led by Margaret Cooling
- Using humour in preaching, led by Paul Kerensa
- Poetry workshop, led by Tim Watson
- The craft of writing, led by Colin Heber-Percy
- Preaching for broadcasting, led by Grace Thomas

To book your place, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preaching-conference-the-wonder-of-words-tickets-1055279442219>

Preaching the Psalms

Saturday 20 September, 10.00-13.00 | Online via Zoom

Workshop leader: Philip Jenson

The Psalter was the prayerbook of Jesus, quoted more by him than any other book. The Psalms teach us who God is and what he has done in the most direct and personal way. They instruct us in how we can bring all our emotions to the Lord, ranging from sorrow and anger to joy and wonder. When we pray them wholeheartedly, they refigure our thoughts and desires from deep within. Yet despite their depth and richness, the psalms are rarely preached. In this workshop, we shall explore ways in which we can bring the Psalms to life and encourage our congregations to make them central to their prayer and spirituality.

This workshop will be led by the Revd Dr Philip Jenson. Now retired, Dr Jenson formerly taught Old Testament at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He is passionate about demonstrating the relevance and excitement of the Old Testament for Christian faith today.

Book tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preaching-the-psalms-a-preaching-workshop-tickets-1086879649289>

Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10

Booking closes 8 September 2025

The Wonder of Words – Preaching Conference

Preaching Matthew's Gospel

Monday 3 November, 10.30-13.00 | online via Zoom

Workshop leader: A.K.M. Adam

Matthew brings a very specific perspective to his gospel, including some unique narratives, such as the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, and frequent references to Old Testament

prophecies. This workshop will examine Matthew's Gospel and how preachers can use its unique perspective to bring the gospel message to life in new ways.

This workshop will be led by the Revd Dr A.K.M. Adam. Dr Adam is a lecturer in New Testament at Oxford University and a Church of England parish priest in the Oxford Diocese.

Book tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preaching-matthews-gospel-a-preaching-workshop-tickets-1086966438879>

When prompted, enter password Preach311

Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10

Booking closes 30 October 2025

Preaching the Christmas Story

Saturday 15 November, 10.30-13.00 | Online via Zoom

Workshop leader: Jennifer Brown

The Christmas story is a familiar one. So much so, in fact, that it can be daunting to preach it. "What can I say that hasn't been said before?" may be a familiar feeling to many preachers as they approach the Christmas sermon. In this workshop, we will look at the Christmas readings from Luke's and John's Gospels, and consider how we can approach these from new angles and fresh perspectives in our preaching.

This workshop will be led by the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown. Jennifer is the Director of Training for the College of Preachers and worked for over 10 years in theological education. She is also a priest in the Church of England, currently serving in a parish in the Diocese of Oxford.

Book tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preaching-the-christmas-story-a-preaching-workshop-tickets-1087081713669>

When prompted, enter password Preach151

Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10

Booking closes 12 November 2025



VOCATIONS GATHERING

Saturday 25th October
11:00-13:00
Ludlow Mascall Centre

All those who are exploring a calling to lay or ordained ministry are welcome to join us for refreshments at 11am, followed by time to explore some of the Qualities for Ministry: Wisdom, Fruitfulness and Potential, ending with worship.

Information on Local Ministry roles, Reader Ministry and Ordained Ministry will be available.

For more information contact Elizabeth Wild: elizabeth.wild@hereford.anglican.org

YEAR of ENGAGEMENT 2025

Bishop's Teaching Event 3
Saturday 13 September 9:30am - 1pm

A teaching session led by Bishop Richard followed by three workshops which are repeated twice. Teas and Coffees are provided upon welcome.

Spiritual Question Time - Hereford Archdeaconry
New Harp Inn, Hoarwithy

Tuesday 21 October 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Bishop's Study Day 2 - St Peter's Church, Hereford
Wednesday 22 October 10:00am - 3pm

Lunch is included (please register any dietary needs), and our guest speaker is Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, founder of The Sanctuary Foundation. (Doors will open from 9:00am for tea and coffee)

Bishop's Teaching Event 4
Saturday 8 November 9:30am - 1pm

A teaching session led by Bishop Richard followed by three workshops which are repeated twice. Teas and Coffees are provided upon welcome.

More information and booking links are available here: <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/year-of-engagement-2025/year-of-engagement-2025>



What is Leading your Church into Growth?

Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) is a national mission charity with a proven track record of helping churches **grow in numbers, in spiritual depth and in service to their local community.**

"Leading Your Church into Growth (LyCiG) is as a transformative force within the church, offering a practical, hope-filled pathway from maintenance to mission. Rooted in prayer, simplicity, and real-world parish experience, LyCiG has helped churches rediscover their purpose, reimagine their potential, and re-engage with their communities." 9 Dot Research, June 2025

What should I expect?

Your conference will be hosted by a team of passionate and missional individuals. All have a proven track record in growing churches in a variety of different contexts and are able to draw on personal experience to illustrate the theory with lived examples. We work to understand your diocese and context to send those with the most relevant experience.

The conference will cover the 7-Steps of church growth using interactive talks, practical exercises and space for personal reflection. **We aim to inspire and enable churches to grow at their own pace, in their own way and with God's help.**

What kinds of churches do you help and who should come?

Our programme is successful across the mixed ecology of the Church of England: **it is for all kinds of churches in all kinds of contexts.**

Research shows that parishes which have recently sent their church leaders on a LyCiG conference typically grow by 10% per annum above the national average and their under-18s by 18% above the national average. Beyond the statistics are **countless stories of people coming to faith and of churches engaging afresh with their communities.** Numerical growth is, of course, only part of the story: we also focus strongly on spiritual and missional growth.

LyCiG encourages parishes to bring a mixed team of clergy and laity to a conference as we believe that is key to success in the churches. Our feedback is most positive from parishes and benefices who come in teams. Those who come on their own usually comment that they wish they had brought others. As you think about who to invite think of those who are passionate about growth, welcoming newcomers and perhaps gently working behind the scenes in missional ways. It does not have to be your up front service leaders or wardens.



Scan this QR code for a short film to understand more about LyCiG.



Scan this QR code for a short film to learn more about the value of our conferences.

"The future of LyCiG lies in its ability to walk alongside churches as a trusted companion—encouraging, equipping, and empowering them to grow in faith, number, and service. With continued collaboration, creativity, and Spirit-led vision, LyCiG can help shape a Church that is prayerful, outward-looking, and full of life." 9 Dot Research, June 2025



YOUTH

WEEKEND AWAY

WHEN? 17-19 October 2025

WHERE? Cefn Lea, SY16 4AJ

WHO? 11-18 year olds

WHAT? A weekend together with other young people, exploring faith, full of activities and lots of fun.


WHY? We know there are many young people who go to church, attend youth groups or Christian Unions across the Diocese and we want to provide an opportunity for you to connect with God through your chosen stream of sport, drama, art and more!

COST? £95 per person

You can either register your interest or book straight away. If you would like to come but have questions around accessibility, please get in touch. Spaces are expected to fill up quickly.

Contact: heather.martin@hereford.anglican.org



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Hereford