

## Year of Engagement Dates for Your Diary

### Bishop's Teaching Events

**Saturday, 31st May, 2025**

**9.30am-1pm**

St. George's Church, Pontesbury

**Saturday, 19th July, 2025**

**9.30am-1pm**

St. Michael's Church, Madeley

**Saturday, 13th September, 2025**

**9.30am-1pm**

St. Michael & All Angels, Ledbury

**Saturday, 8th November, 2025**

**9.30am-1pm**

St. Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye

### Bishop's Study Days

**Tuesday, 24th June, 2025**

**10am-3pm**

Craven Arms Community Centre,  
Shropshire

**Wednesday, 22nd October, 2025**

**10am-3pm**

St. Peter's Church, Hereford

To discuss holding a **Spiritual Question Time** for the Year of Engagement, please contact Rev'd Stephen Hollinghurst by email at

**Stephen.Hollinghurst@hereford.anglican.org**

Everyone is welcome at these events. For more information or to register for these and all our events please visit our diocese Eventbrite page online at <https://bit.ly/HfdDioYOE> or scan the QR Code on this page.



### Archdeacons' Visitations 2025

It is a legal requirement for ALL Churchwardens, whether newly elected or continuing, to be sworn into office each year, which happens at an Archdeacon's Visitation Service. Here are the 2025 dates and venues. To book, email Sarah Hedley at: [annualreturns@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:annualreturns@hereford.anglican.org).

#### Hereford Archdeaconry

Date	Time	Venue
10/06/25	2 pm	Holmer: St Bartholomew
11/06/25	2 pm	Colwall: St James the Great
6/06/25	7 pm	Pembridge: St Mary the Virgin
18/06/25	2 pm	Llanwarne: St John the Baptist
24/06/25	7 pm	Wellington: St Margaret of Antioch
01/07/25	7 pm	Kingstone: St Michael & All Angels

#### Ludlow Archdeaconry

Date	Time	Venue
23/06/25	7 pm	Much Wenlock: Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock
30/06/25	7 pm	Annscroft: Christ Church
02/07/25	7 pm	Clungunford: St Cuthbert
08/07/25	7 pm	Cleobury Mortimer: St Mary the Virgin
09/07/25	7 pm	Bridgnorth: St Mary Magdalene



The Diocesan Office • The Palace • Hereford • HR4 9BL

t: 01432 373300 e: [info@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:info@hereford.anglican.org)



**Parish News**  
May 2025

## Living in the Overlap

by The Venerable Dr. Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow

Dear friends

I seem to live in overlaps and borderlands. What do I mean? Well, our diocese is one that occupies space between Wales and England, criss-crossing the border. We exist in (largely) two counties – Shropshire and Herefordshire (not overlooking our parishes in Monmouthshire, Powys, Worcestershire, and Telford & Wrekin). I live and serve in Shropshire, a county that straddles two dioceses: Hereford in the south and Lichfield in the north.

The Ludlow Archdeaconry is in the overlap, the centre of the Venn diagram.

Then there's my role as Archdeacon. My colleague, Archdeacon Derek, and I minister in the overlap. We represent parishes to those working in the Bishop's Office and the Diocesan Office and vice versa. We provide a link between multiple overlapping groups and individuals.

As Christians we all live in the overlap. We are already saved by grace, we are being saved and sustained by grace, and one day we shall be fully saved by grace when Christ returns. God's king-

dom of justice and joy has already begun with Christ's first coming, his death, resurrection, and ascension, and one day it will fully begin at his return. We are citizens of the nation in which we live, and we are citizens of heaven.

We live in the Now and the Not Yet, the time between.

This month marks 80 years since VE Day, Victory in Europe Day, when the evil of Nazism was defeated in Europe. My late mother would tell me stories of how she and her friends, children at the beginning of the war and teenagers at its end, celebrated with overwhelming relief. We remember with thankfulness the courage and sacrifice of all those who served at home and abroad to win the fight for freedom against Nazi tyranny.

But that wasn't the end of the war. In Burma, Singapore, and other places, the war raged on as fiercely and cruelly as ever. VJ Day, in August 1945, finally brought hostilities to an end. The troops still fighting between May and August, and their families, often felt overlooked

**Cont on p2**

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

# CREATING COMMUNITY Year of Engagement 2025



## contd from p1

in the celebrations of VE Day. They were existing in the overlap.

This season of the Church's year is the time in between. We are between Easter Day and Pentecost. We have celebrated the joy of the resurrection, and we await the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit in power to set the Church alight in love and witness.

I wonder how that idea of living in the overlap, grounded in the past and moving to the future, knowing that we and all our times are held in the hands of our unchanging and faithful God, could help us as we continue on our pilgrimage?

**The Ven Dr Fiona Gibson**  
Archdeacon of Ludlow

## Diocese News and Events



### VE Day Church bell-ringing Thursday, 8th May, 2025, 6.30pm

Is your church going to be part of the nationwide commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day this month? Church of England is offering resources for churches to use in their commemorations on 8th May, 2025. The key ask is that churches ring out their bells on 8 May at 6:30pm.  
[www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/80th-anniversary-end-second-world-war](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/80th-anniversary-end-second-world-war)

The government has also launched a web page for VE Day commemorations, in-

cluding branding, and an interactive map of events: <https://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/>



### Vocations Gathering Saturday, 24th May, 11am - 1pm 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: Widsom, Fruitfulness and Potential, ending with worship. Information on Local Ministry roles, Reader Ministry and Ordained Ministry will be available. For more information email [elizabeth.wild@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:elizabeth.wild@hereford.anglican.org).

## Caring for God's Acre

By Harriet Carty



### Learning to love moles!

Many of us rarely if ever see an actual mole. We do however see signs of moles, their molehills. Moles breed in spring, between February and June and this is a time when we see new molehills that have been dug by male moles expanding their tunnel network in search of female mates. They also create spherical nests which they line with dry leaves and grass and the moles will sleep in these nests as well as rearing young there.

Male and female moles spend most of the year alone, living underground and feeling their way around their network of tunnels using their sensitive noses and also their tails. They have poor eyesight and are at risk from predators when above ground but underground they are in their element, using large, spade-like forelimbs to expand the tunnel network as needed.

Most of the tunnels are permanent and quite deep and may cover hundreds of metres. Moles are fiercely territorial, familiar with their own tunnels and using them to suit the season. In colder or drier weather they head for their deepest tunnels where their main source of food, earthworms, will be found. A tunnel network is thought to last for many years, through several generations of moles.

Moles feed mainly on earthworms they create a winter 'larder' by storing earthworms in a chamber, keeping them alive but immobilising them with a bite to the head segment. Up to 450 worms have been found in one chamber.

Moles used to be killed in large numbers by trappers to make moleskin clothes from their pelt, and were thought of as a problem needing controlling. Actually, moles are both friend and foe to the site manager, friends as they eat many pests such as wireworms, slugs and snails and also aerate the soil with their tunnelling, foe as they throw up molehills which some see as a problem. There are numerous theories as to how to get rid of moles: burying glass bottles, garlic or elder twigs pushed into the molehill to name a few. Poison and traps are cruel and are not recommended. Actually, getting rid of your resident mole may not be a good idea as it leaves a territory open for another mole to move in. It may be best to learn to live with your mole and to press molehills back into the ground or move the soil to flowerbeds or planters. The bare ground they produce also makes space for wildflower seeds to germinate which may not happen in a tight grass sward. So all in all, moles add to the rich diversity of life found within our churchyards and we need to learn to love them!

**Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor**

[harriet@cga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cga.org.uk),  
[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

To receive 20% member discount on all CfGA materials, use the discount code **diomem22**