

Diocese of Hereford Mission and Ministry Mailing

Candlemas 2026

This mailing contains news and contact information for mission and ministry programmes in the Diocese and beyond, and resources for wellbeing and retreats.

For general Mission and Ministry Team enquiries, please contact:

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Discipleship and Growth

Discipleship Enablers Learning Community

Growing as a follower of Jesus, and learning to help others to do the same

Are you hungry to go deeper in following Jesus, and passionate about helping others to do the same? Discipleship Enablers is a new monthly learning community for those who support others to grow in faith (for example small group leaders, youth leaders, licensed lay ministers, clergy) and want to see discipleship develop in local churches.

Across the programme, participants will:

- Explore simple principles and questions that help us go deeper with God across the whole of life
- Practise these in a supportive culture of mutual accountability

- Reflect together on how to apply these approaches in your context, enabling others to grow in faith too

Format: monthly sessions on Wednesday evenings (2 hours) over 12 months. Monthly sessions will take place at Cawley Hall, Luston HR6 0DS (near Ludlow). The programme is run jointly by the Diocese of Hereford and St Peter's Saltley Trust.

Next steps:

- Taster session: Wednesday 4 March 2026 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Day retreat: Saturday 18 April 2026
- Monthly sessions begin: Wednesday 6 May 2026 (6.30-8.30pm)

Contact:

Elizabeth Wild | elizabeth.wild@hereford.anglican.org

Ian Jones | director@saltleytrust.org.uk

Leading Your Church into Growth

Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) Hereford provides a monthly learning community for incumbents, supporting sustained, peer-based reflection on leading churches into growth in local contexts. It is designed to support leaders who are navigating complexity, sustaining momentum, and discerning wise next steps over time, rather than relying on quick fixes. There is a **LyCiG conference** for clergy and lay teams on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June 2026, offering input, encouragement, and practical resourcing for local growth and renewal.

Learning community dates:

Tuesday 10 February 2026

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Thursday 16 April 2026

Tuesday 19 May 2026

Tuesday 2 June 2026

Tuesday 23 June 2026

Thursday 16 July 2026

Thursday 1 October 2026

Website: <https://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/>

Contact:

Suzan Williams | revwilliams1991@icloud.com

Laura Hewitt | laura.hewitt@hereford.anglican.org

Mark Godson | mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Licensed Lay Funeral Ministry

Becoming a Licensed Lay Funeral Minister offers a distinctive way of serving people at one of the most significant moments of their lives. It is a vocation that combines deep pastoral listening, confident public ministry, and gentle witness to Christian hope, often among those who rarely engage with the Church. For those with compassion, emotional maturity, and a sense of call to this work, it can be a profoundly meaningful and fruitful ministry.

Licensed Lay Funeral Ministers are authorised by the bishop to lead funeral services on behalf of the Church. They work pastorally with bereaved families, listening with care, shaping services that are personal, prayerful and theologically grounded, and leading funerals with confidence and compassion.

Rooted in local communities, Licensed Lay Funeral Ministers offer a visible Christian presence at times of loss, working collaboratively with clergy, parish teams and funeral directors to serve those who may have little other contact with the Church.

Initial training consists of three Saturday sessions, each running from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Attendance at all three days is required:

Saturday 25 April 2026
Saturday 9 May 2026
Saturday 23 May 2026

These sessions provide a solid grounding in pastoral practice, liturgy, and the practicalities of funeral ministry, including how to work well with families, clergy, and funeral directors, and how to lead services with confidence and care.

Contact: Elizabeth Wild | elizabeth.wild@hereford.anglican.org

Children, Young People and Schools

Open the Book

Local training available in Hereford Diocese

Open the Book enables small teams to tell Bible stories interactively in school assemblies and collective worship. It strengthens links between church and school and helps children encounter and enjoy the Bible. Teams can be ecumenical, shared across neighbouring churches, or organised deanery-wide.

Contact: Kathy Bland | k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

Messy Meet-Ups (online)

A monthly online hour for anyone interested in Messy Church, alongside existing leaders and volunteers. A chance to share ideas, learn together, offer mutual support, pray, and hear updates from the wider Messy Church network.

Contact: Kathy Bland | k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

Messy Momentum (young people aged 10+)

A developing programme to help Messy Churches strengthen engagement with older children and young people through regular gathering, games and activities, and intentional discipleship. If you have a young person (10+) who might like to be involved, please get in touch so they can be included.

Contact: Kathy Bland | k.bland@hereford.anglican.org

Frontier Youth Trust
Training Workshops

If you work with children and young people or would like to build confidence in youth ministry where you are, these workshops offer practical, experience-tested training in a supportive learning environment. Frontier Youth Trust will be with us for three day-long sessions (10.00am–4.00pm), each designed to strengthen skills, share good practice, and help churches respond well to real pastoral and safeguarding realities.

Saturday 28 February 2026
Detached Youth Work (Bromyard Methodist Church)

Saturday 27 June 2026
Managing Challenging Behaviour (St Peter's Church, Bromyard)

Saturday 7 November 2026

Supporting LGBTQ+ Young People (St Peter's Church, Bromyard)

Contact: Heather Martin | heather.martin@hereford.anglican.org

Impactful Collective Worship for Churches

Date: Tuesday 10 February 2026

Time: 1.00–2.00pm (online course)

As part of your ordained or lay ministry, would you like support to plan and lead collective worship for schools?

This short online session is for any clergy or lay volunteers who plan or lead collective worship in church or community schools. Together we will explore what collective worship is (and is not), how it differs from worship in church, and what helps it be invitational, inclusive and inspirational. We will also look at resources and share ideas and ways of working from across the diocese.

Book [here](https://www.hereford.anglican.org/education-events/) <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/education-events/>

Nurturing relationships between Church and School

Free to all schools and churches in the Diocese of Hereford

Time: 10.00am–12 noon (in-person workshops)

Would you like to build a better bridge between your local church and school? These in-person workshops bring school senior leaders together with local clergy and lay leaders to explore how to build upon existing links, or create new ones, between church and school communities. Together we will share good practice and practical ideas, keeping the spiritual life of the child at the centre of our work.

To get the most from the workshop, schools are encouraged to book alongside their local church so you can explore this together.

Tuesday 3 March 2026 | The Bishop's Palace, Hereford

Wednesday 4 March 2026 | Diocese of Hereford MAT Offices, Ludlow

Book [here](https://www.hereford.anglican.org/education-events/) <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/education-events/>

Church & School Partnerships Toolkit Online Launch

Date: Thursday 19 March 2026

Times: 1.00pm or 7.00pm (Zoom)

Is your church already supporting local schools, or are you looking to increase your engagement with schools? A new resource and toolkit are being developed to support churches and schools to nurture their relationships together, alongside a support network to help develop your ministry with schools. Suitable for clergy or laity, whether you have church schools or community schools in your parish.

This new toolkit is designed to help schools and churches build better bridges between each other via:

A getting started guide for those at the initial stages of developing their partnership.

Follow up resources shaped around the Five Marks of Mission and how you can serve each other and the local community together.

Termly online networks for churches and/or schools to share ideas and learn from each other.

Opportunities to share and celebrate good news stories about what is happening through your church and school partnership.

Schools and/or churches will need to register to receive the resource, and/or attend the online launch events (Zoom) on 19 March at 1.00pm or 7.00pm.

Register your [interest](https://www.hereford.anglican.org/education-events/) <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/education-events/>

Formation, Development and Wellbeing

A Season of Assessment and Review

January to April is a focused season of Assessment and Review. This includes Reviews of Curacy (within Initial Ministerial Development) and Annual Review for Licensed Lay

Ministers (Readers/LLMs) and Licensed Lay Workers (LLWs). Together, these rhythms support faithful ministry, encourage growth, and help ensure discernment and decision-making are fair, proportionate, and evidence-based.

For curates, there are three key points: the first at around six months (a formative early check-in); the Second Review (including a curate-led, relational 360 process, leading to a single reflective summary); and, for those nearing completion, the end-of-curacy review and discernment process. This final stage draws together cumulative evidence and formation reflection, with an explicit check-in around trustworthiness and fitness to practise, enabling a clear recommendation and a coherent handover into first-post development. Training Incumbents are integral throughout, offering supervision and evaluative input so that Reviews remain both rigorous and supportive.

Alongside this, many Readers/LLMs and LLWs will be completing Annual Review and, where relevant, licence or PTO endorsement. Annual Review provides a structured opportunity to reflect on the past year and agree an appropriate focus, support, boundaries, and expectations for the year ahead, including wise conversations about capacity, wellbeing, and transitions.

Please hold our curates, Training Incumbents, and Licensed Lay Ministers and Workers in your prayers during this season: for steadiness in prayer and rest; honesty about what is going well and what is hard; confidence to ask for what is needed; and supportive relationships with colleagues and reviewers

Pastoral Supervision for Incumbents

Hereford Diocese, in partnership with St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing

Ministry brings deep joy and meaning, yet it can also carry weight, complexity, and a quiet cost. As incumbents, you faithfully hold space for others, often without much space held for you.

In partnership with St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing, the Diocese of Hereford offers pastoral supervision for incumbents: a confidential, structured space to reflect on your ministry, explore challenges, and attend to your spiritual, emotional, and vocational wellbeing.

This isn't line management, therapy, or appraisal. It's a supportive, reflective conversation: time to be listened to, to make meaning, and to be gently held to account in your ministry. It can be particularly helpful when ministry feels pressured, when difficult dynamics or safeguarding questions need careful thought, or when you want to sustain good practice over the long haul.

Supervision can help you to:

- Reflect in a safe, non-judgemental environment
- Navigate complex pastoral or leadership dynamics
- Strengthen clarity, resilience, and vocational imagination
- Notice how God may be meeting you in the midst of it all

Sessions take place every 4–6 weeks, online or in person, with trained and accredited pastoral supervisors. You will be matched according to your context and preferences. Places are available now, as a positive, proactive investment in your wellbeing and sustainability in ministry.

Website: <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/clergy/wellbeing/>

Contact: Mark Godson | mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing

Clinical and pastoral wellbeing support for clergy and their households, alongside preventative wellbeing provision for dioceses.

Website: <https://www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk/>

Contact: enquiries@stlukesforclergy.org.uk | 020 4546 7000

Clergy Support Trust

Grants and services supporting Anglican clergy (training, serving and retired) and their households, including help with unexpected costs and support for wellbeing, retreats and sabbaticals where eligible.

Website: <https://www.clergysupport.org.uk/>

Contact: <https://www.clergysupport.org.uk/contact-us>

Sheldon: Heart and Soul for Ministry (Society of Mary and Martha)

Specialist space for people in ministry at times of stress, crisis, burnout or breakdown, and for regular retreat. Confidential, individually planned visits may

include retreat accompaniment and a listening ear, shaped by an understanding of the joys and risks of ministry.

Website: <https://www.sheldonretreat.com/>

Contact: 01647 252752 (via website)

Continuing Ministerial Development

Hereford Diocese, in partnership with West Midlands CMD

Working with Change:
Transforming Ministry in a Changing Church

A residential course for clergy and ministers who want to grow in confidence and skill in leading through change, with time for reflection, shared experience and practical tools for parish life.

Date: 16–17 March 2026

Venue: Holland House, Pershore

Website: <https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/working-with-change/>

Contact: Mark Godson | mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

New Area and Rural Deans Learning Community

A year-round learning community for recently appointed Area and Rural Deans from across the West Midlands. One in-person meeting and one Zoom meeting each term (join at any point). Themes include deanery direction, managing change, working well with Chapter and Synod, and practical guidance for day-to-day issues, with strong peer learning across diverse contexts.

Website: <https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/newly-appointed-area-rural-deans/>

Contact: Mark Godson | mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

Letting Go to Live Anew

A 48-hour residential retreat for clergy and their spouses or partners preparing for retirement (typically within the next 12–18 months). A structured, prayerful space to reflect on transition, name hopes and concerns and discern what may be life-giving in the next season. Led by Stewart and Julie Jones.

Date: 6–8 July 2026

Venue: Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY

Cost: covered by the diocese

Website: <https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/letting-go-to-live-anew/>

Contact: Mark Godson | mark.godson@hereford.anglican.org

External Resources

CPAS (Leadership development and resources)

Training events, webinars and a substantial library of leadership resources and practice-facing reflection (including support for multi-parish benefice leadership).

Website: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/>

Contact: supporter.relations@cpas.org.uk | 0300 123 0780

Faraday Institute

Summer Course 2026: Science, Religion, and Society

A week-long course exploring how science and religion interact with major public questions shaping contemporary life (including AI and technology, democracy and data, migration and culture, freedom and surveillance, and the future of human life and wellbeing). In-person and online participation.

Dates: 6–10 July 2026

Location: Hughes Hall, Cambridge, and online

Website: <https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/faraday-institute-summer-course-2026-science-religion-and-society/>

Contact: events@faraday.cam.ac.uk | +44 (0)1223 748888

Are Natural Disasters Inevitable? Insights from Science and Religion (Faraday Institute, Public Lecture)

A free public lecture exploring how hazards become disasters, and how scientific and theological perspectives can inform faithful, constructive responses. Particularly relevant for preaching, teaching, and public theology in relation to climate, risk and responsibility. In-person event; recording to follow.

Date and time: Saturday 18 March 2026, 6.00–7.00 pm

Location: Queen's Building Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Website: <https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/prof-bob-white-are-natural-disasters-inevitable-insights-from-science-and-religion/>

Contact: enquiries@faraday.cam.ac.uk | +44 (0)1223 748888

New Wine Leadership Conference 2026 (Harrogate)

A national gathering for church leaders, staff teams and volunteers focused on Spirit-filled worship, equipping for mission, and practical breakout streams (including a dedicated Kids and Youth Ministry stream).

Website: <https://new-wine.org/events/nwlc/>

Contact: info@new-wine.org | +44 (0)20 4583 2935

ReSource (Resourcing Renewal)

Retreats, consultations and events focused on renewal, prayer and resourcing leaders, with a mix of online and in-person provision.

Website: <https://www.resourcingrenewal.org/>

Contact: office@resourcingrenewal.org

Rural and Wild (Arthur Rank Centre)

An immersive weekend exploring what it means to be church beyond the walls, discovering God together in churchyards, hills, fields, forests and the wider countryside. Outdoor worship, reflective pilgrimage and creative sessions on pioneering, community engagement and nature-based spirituality.

Website: <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralandwild/>
Contact: info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk | 024 7685 3060

Rural Mission and Ministry Course (Arthur Rank Centre)

A practical, ecumenical course for rural clergy and lay leaders exploring how rural churches can flourish amid change. Topics include rural context and community dynamics, pioneering and partnership, engaging children and young people, agriculture and the farming year, and responding to rural margins (housing, poverty, transport) through faith-rooted community organising.

Website: <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralministrycourse/>
Contact: info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk | 024 7685 3060

Sarum College (Salisbury)

A wide range of ministerial development opportunities, from short courses and taught weeks to longer learning pathways, across biblical and theological study, spirituality, preaching and formation-focused learning (online and onsite).

Website: <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/short-courses/>
Contact: bclover@sarum.ac.uk (short courses) | info@sarum.ac.uk (general)

St George's House, Windsor Castle (Clergy Consultations)

A development environment for senior clergy through the Clergy Consultation programme. The 2026 Consultation focuses on how we speak about God amid contemporary pressures and questions.

Website: <https://www.stgeorgeshouse.org/clergy-consultations/>
Contact: clergy.consultations@stgeorgeshouse.org

The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham

Development opportunities combining theological depth with practice-facing reflection, including open lectures, forums and short courses to strengthen contextual awareness, preaching and leadership.

Website: <https://www.queens.ac.uk/>
Contact: enquire@queens.ac.uk

Retreats

Association for Promoting Retreats (APR)

A national directory of retreat houses and retreat leaders, with an interactive map and calendar. APR also supports diocesan spirituality advisers and administers a bursary fund to help with retreat costs where finance is a barrier.

Website: <https://www.promotingretreats.org/>

Contact: promoting.retreats@gmail.com

Bernardine Cistercians: Brownshill Guesthouse (Stroud, Gloucestershire)

A monastic guesthouse offering simple, warm hospitality for those wanting to "come away for a while", within the rhythm of prayer of a Cistercian community.

Website: <https://www.bernardine.org/brownshill-welcome>

Contact: +44 (0)1453 488174 (Guesthouse, via website)

Buckfast Abbey (Devon)

A working Benedictine abbey offering worship, hospitality and accommodation in a setting of beauty and tranquillity on the edge of Dartmoor.

Website: <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/>

Contact: enquiries@buckfast.org.uk | 01364 645500

Holland House (Pershore)

An ecumenical retreat house offering quiet days, reflective evenings and residential retreats, creating protected space for prayerful reflection, vocational resilience and renewal (for individuals, small peer groups, and groups by arrangement).

Website: <https://www.hollandhouse.org/>

Contact: enquiries@hollandhouse.org

Llannerchwen Retreat Centre (Brecon Beacons)

A place of stillness and deep listening offering self-catered solitude retreats (2–9 nights), Ignatian individually guided retreats (with daily accompaniment), and a small number of themed retreats. Accommodation is in self-contained hermitages and cabins, in the Welsh landscape.

Website: <https://rscjuk.org/llannerchwen/>

Contact: retreatsllannerchwen@gmail.com

Llangasty Retreat House (near Brecon, Powys)

A Christian retreat and conference centre long used by churches and study groups, offering peace, prayer and hospitality in a setting of natural beauty and abundant wildlife.

Website: <https://www.llangasty.com/>

Contact: enquiries@llangasty.com | 01874 658250

St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre (North Wales)

A Jesuit retreat centre rooted in Ignatian spirituality, offering individually guided retreats, themed retreats and training (including spiritual direction formation), in a setting shaped by prayer, silence and the Spiritual Exercises.

Website: <https://www.beunos.com/>

Contact: info@beunos.com

The Retreat Association

An ecumenical charity helping people find and book retreats across the UK via an interactive map and member listings (including retreat centres, quiet days and events).

Website: <https://www.retreats.org.uk/>

Contact: <https://www.retreats.org.uk/contact/>

The Society of Retreat Conductors

An Anglican Ignatian grant-making body that supports clergy and lay people in undertaking Ignatian retreats and training in spiritual direction.

Website: <https://thesrc.org.uk/>

Contact: Kathy Redington | redingtonkathy@hotmail.com