

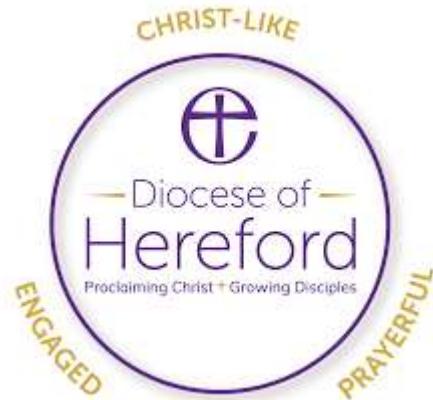


Hello. If you would like to send me any information for the September 2023 newsletter, please send it by 25th August. Thank you!

The Food Bank in Leominster are looking for volunteers to join the team. They are particularly looking for people to fulfil volunteer management roles which would mean being able to commit half a day per week or more and be physically strong enough to manage regular lifting of supermarket food crates. There are other roles available including supermarket food collections and also food deliveries to client's homes at 9-9.45pm in the evenings which would best suit a couple due to the nature of the role. Leominster Food Bank are also looking for people to train as money mentors and to join the team of trustees. If you are interested in finding out more or applying to volunteer, then please email them at leominsterfoodbank@gmail.com or call them on 07715410575. If you would like to donate any food to the Food Bank, please go to <https://www.leominsterfoodbank.org/> to find out which items are needed or sign up to the free app www.bankthefood.org



Director of Education



Would you rather lead than manage?

Do you enjoy developing a strong team?

Are shared values important to you?

If so, talk to us about this key position in our thriving Diocesan Education Team. We are looking for a senior leader with a passion for Education and excellence to ensure that the children in our Church of England Schools are able to flourish.

For a conversation, please contact:

Sam Pratley, Diocesan Secretary on
01432 373300 Application details:
www.hereford.anglican.org/vacancies

Application closure date: **7 September 2023**

Interview date: **15 September 2023**

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applications from all suitably qualified people. As UKME /GMH individuals are currently underrepresented within our Diocese - we would particularly welcome applications from these candidates.

For a more detailed job description and an application form, please click on the link:

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/xdb/vacancies/show/diocesan-director-of-education>

Tricks & Laughs starring Steve Legg

Sunday 20 August, 5pm

A night of tricks and laughter for all ages! Comedian and magician Steve is back with a special selection of his very best tricks along with some brand-new material for a night of laughs and hilarious moments to celebrate 35 years on the road. This event is suitable for ages 5 - 105!

Tickets cost £8 for adults and £5 for children – please book in advance via the cathedral website.

Messy Church Goes Outside!

Monday 21 August, 11am – 3pm

Messy Church is church for all of the family, from toddlers to grandparents. Join us in the marquee for a day of Christ-centred crafts and activities for all ages based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

Messy Church is a free drop-in event with no pre-booking required, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

View all of the events and find out more about Cathedral on the Close here: www.herefordcathedral.org/news/cathedral-on-the-close



From Wednesday 16 – Monday 21 August, Hereford Cathedral will be sharing a programme of teaching, creativity and discovery on the Cathedral Close! They will be hosting several days of activities and events in their marquee for everyone to join in with. Highlights from the week include...

Katharine Hill (UK director of Care for the Family) - Parenting in the Digital Age

Wednesday 16 August, 4pm

While technology threw us a lifeline during the pandemic, there are also many dangers. Come along to this talk and gain wisdom, practical help and renewed confidence in not only keeping your children safe, but also making the most of all the digital age has to offer.

Please book your free ticket via the cathedral website.

Revd Steve Hollinghurst - Christianity: Environmental Hope or Environmental Problem?

Wednesday 16 August, 6.30pm

We live in an age of climate anxiety in which sometimes hope for the future of our planet can be in short supply. So, what might Christianity have to offer our environmental crisis? Is there hope for us and our planet?

Please book your free ticket via the cathedral website

Play in a Day: Sharing The Parables!

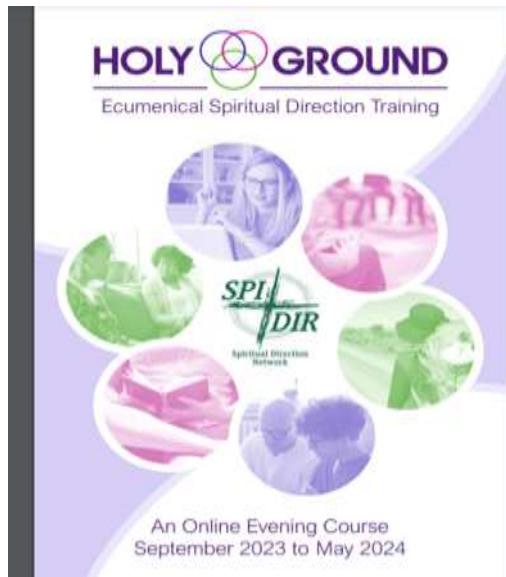
Friday 18 August, 6pm

Come along and cheer on the cathedral's budding thespians as they take to the stage with their creative interpretation of The Parables. This is a relaxed and fun theatrical sharing of the parable stories, suitable for all.

Tickets cost £5 for adults and children (aged 16 and under) go free – please book in advance via the cathedral website.

[Join the global wave of prayer](#) calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. There are lots of new resources available to use in church services, small groups or individually.





Holy Ground is an ecumenical spiritual direction training course for Christians who find themselves accompanying others on their spiritual journey. This may be in a formal capacity as a minister, pastoral assistant, or mentor, or perhaps you have noticed that others turn to you for a listening ear. This foundation course is ideal for all those who would like to train in the ministry of spiritual direction whether ordained or lay.

The course aims to:

- Explore the relationship of spiritual direction in the light of our own life experience and of the experience of being alongside others
- Develop skills, understanding and resources for accompanying and encouraging personal growth and fulfilment
- Nurture a growing competence and awareness of our own sense of vocation in relation to the Christian tradition of spiritual direction

COURSE CONTENT

The course will run over three terms, consisting of 22 online evening sessions (Thursdays 6.30-9.30pm), and 3 in-person day sessions (Saturdays 10am-4pm). In-person days will take place at St Francis Church, Amersham Road, High Wycombe HP13 5AB, which has plenty of parking and is accessible by public transport. Under certain circumstances these days may be accessed online. A dedicated Zoom link, and a secure online Student Portal for course resources and materials will also be provided.

The course will include:

- Theoretical sessions, in which the background and practice of spiritual direction will be explored, including:
 - Biblical and theological perspectives
 - Themes within Christian spirituality and spiritual direction
 - Issues concerned with human personality, psychology, and growth
- Experiences of different forms of spirituality and prayer relating to the spiritual journey

Please note - this newsletter strives to share a wide range of ecumenical news and opinions and is not necessarily a reflection of the views of CTiH.

- Experiential sessions, in which an aspect of spiritual direction will be explored, including:

- Reflecting on our own experience
- The use of role-play
- Directing and being directed in small working groups

- Regular written and reflective assignments and tutor feedback

- Monitoring of progress and student appraisals

COURSE DATES

Term 1 (2023): Sep 28; Oct 5, 12, 19; Nov 9, 16, 23, 25, 30

Term 2 (2024): Jan 13, 18, 25; Feb 1, 8, 22, 29; Mar 7, 14, 16, 21

Term 3 (2024): Apr 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16

STUDENT COMMITMENT

Participants are required to:

- Be receiving regular ongoing spiritual direction. If you do not have a spiritual director at this time, please contact the SpiDir Network for a list of spiritual directors in your area: www.spidirnetwork.org.uk

- Complete assignments and recommended reading to assist reflection and learning

- Be open and willing to work with their own experience within the group context and in one-to-one spiritual direction practice sessions

- Participate in self, peer, and course evaluation to assist constructive development of self and others

A Certificate of Completion will be presented at the end of the course to all students who have attended at least 80% of the course, completed all assignments and paid all fees. Those students, for whom the tutors have discerned a vocation to the ministry of spiritual direction, will receive a recommendation to this ministry at the completion of the course.

COURSE TUTORS

The course is led by experienced spiritual directors and teachers both lay and ordained.

Joanna Gallant

Joanna is Vicar of St Francis of Assisi, Terriers, and was founder and Executive Director of Pelagos Spirituality & Retreat Centre from 2009-2019. She also ministers in a broader context of Christian spirituality as a teacher, external tutor for Ripon College Cuddesdon, spiritual director, supervisor, retreat leader and guide for the Ignatian Exercises. Joanna has an MA in Christian Spirituality from Heythrop College and loves walking with her husband and their black Labrador by the coast.

Nick Gallant

Nick is a spiritual director, tutor and supervisor, and was co-founder and Communications Director of Pelagos Spirituality & Retreat Centre from 2009-2019. He studied at the London

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Centre for Spirituality where he learned to give the Ignatian Exercises and is currently writing a series of books on Ignatian spirituality. Nick has a passion for helping others deepen their faith and realise their true potential under God. As a former professional trombonist and singer, Nick loves to minister through music.

Beryl Maw

Beryl is an Oblate with an Anglican Contemplative Community. As a spiritual director she draws on a breadth of traditions, and notably the Ignatian tradition. She has a background in teaching, art and spiritual formation including offering retreat days and spiritual direction training. She enjoys walking, pilgrimage, painting and nature and often draws on these interests in her direction practice.

COURSE FEES

Course fees will be between £620 and £770 depending on numbers and can be paid in full at the beginning of the course, or in three termly instalments. A non-returnable deposit of £100 will be required on acceptance on the course, which will form part of the full fees.

Available grants

Some bursaries may be available by application to the SpiDir Network by emailing: info@spidirnetwork.org.uk. There are also a number of other sources of funding to explore, for example:

- Anglican clergy and LLMs may be eligible for CME grants or their equivalent from their own diocese, to cover some of the costs
- Grants from the Society of Retreat Conductors are available to assist those undergoing training in Ignatian spirituality (which is a fundamental aspect of the course). Apply at least 1 month prior to beginning the course.

For further details and an application form visit: www.thesrc.org.uk, or email: redingtonkathy@hotmail.com

- The Women's Continuing Ministerial Education Trust (WCMET) exists to support the ministerial development of women in the Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church. They administer the provision of grants to female clergy, female accredited lay workers and religious sisters for their continuing training. Attention is focussed on courses or projects that clearly relate to professional development.

Applications are considered quarterly in February, May, July and October. An online application form can be found on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org/resources, or email: wcmet@churchofengland.org

- The Retreat Association can be contacted to enquire about bursaries for spiritual direction training at: www.retreats.org.uk/contact

COURSE APPLICATION

Please download an application and reference form from the SpiDir Network training page: www.spidirnetwork.org.uk/training, and return your completed forms by email to: info@spidirnetwork.org.uk

All applications, supported by a reference, will be considered by the tutors as they are received and responded to as soon as conveniently possible. Applicants will then be invited for an informal interview either online or in-person.

The closing date for applications is 31 July 2023.

For further course enquiries email: info@spidirnetwork.org.uk



As part of Refugee Week 2023, The Diocese of Hereford has partnered with Mothers' Union Hereford to launch a clothing appeal, asking people to donate towards buying new clothes for those seeking asylum who are currently being hosted in the county.

Recognising the deep sense of dismay many people have felt after government plans to send Asylum Seekers to Rwanda, The Bishop of Hereford, The Rt Revd Richard Jackson, is asking people to consider blessing those seeking asylum who are currently housed in the Three Counties Hotel by donating to Mothers' Union and Hereford Diocese Clothing Appeal.

Funds from the appeal will be used to provide vouchers for the Asylum Seekers, enabling them to purchase essential items of clothing. Most of the individuals housed in the Three Counties Hotel arrived with no more than the clothes they were wearing.

The Bishop of Hereford, the Right Revd Richard Jackson, said. “I have always felt it is important to welcome our friends and neighbours and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our local community in supporting those fleeing their homes due to persecution and war, including countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine.

“That is why I am asking people to extend this welcome to all seeking refuge in our area, and to show compassion by supporting this campaign. I encourage people to give whatever they can afford. It will make a huge difference to these people who have travelled from conflict areas with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and fear in their hearts.”

Sunday 19 June marked the start of Refugee Week which ran until Sunday 25 June. It is an annual event, the world’s largest arts & culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Founded in 1998 in the UK and held every year around the World. This year, Refugee Week celebrates its 25th anniversary and people are invited to celebrate what compassion looks like in action. Please click this link if you would like to donate online:

<https://hereford.anglican.org/clothing-appeal-refugee-week-2023.php>

A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance

A live dance event for your church to host.

Bring your community together to watch two exceptional new dance works performed by a company of five outstanding dancers.

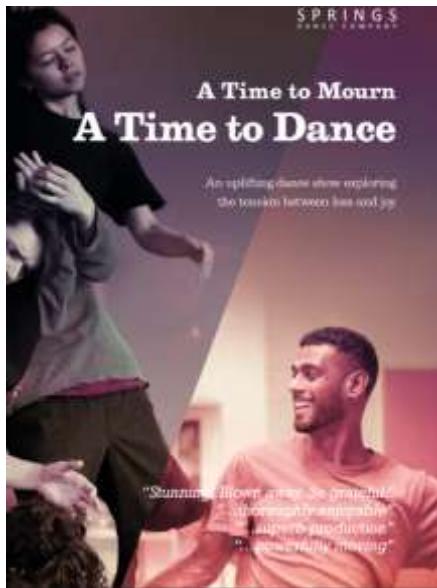
Based on *Ecclesiastes 3: There is a Time for Everything*, the performance is an uplifting dance show that explores the tension between loss and joy. The double-bill sensitively embodies a kaleidoscope of grief and joy through open-hearted professional dance.

“...it is one of the strengths of the performance that it does not offer easy answers or a simplistic message, but relates to universal emotional experiences. That makes it incredibly powerful and accessible to people from any background. Thank you and well done - it was beautiful!” - Andrea Weigert, audience member 2022

Springs Dance Company is inviting churches and cathedrals to book now to host a performance of ***A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance*** in October 2023.

For more information about this project please get in touch by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or by calling 07775 628442.

Further information and videos can also be found on the Springs Dance Company website page <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/a-time-to-mourn-a-time-to-dance/>



Journey of the Magi – a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message.

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your church and local community through this exhilarating, critically acclaimed performance. The show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus's birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took. With sparkle and songs to keep the children entertained and bags of good humour for the grown-ups, **Journey of the Magi** delights audiences of all ages and offers a chance to reflect and refocus.

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of **Journey of the Magi**, which will be available nationally during Advent 2023.

Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website. Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website page <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi/>, by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or by calling 07775 628442.

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

*Touring to churches and schools this Advent
Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your local community*

... a magnificent production. Our church members and their guests were powerfully moved.

Rev David Sower

A wonderful production, so accessible to every kind of audience, especially non-church goers. Opening up the meaning of Christmas.

Rev Lynette Headley

... the best of both worlds: a vibrant piece of entertainment and an opportunity to step back, to reflect, and to refocus.

John Shambourne, Mertonwells Baptist Church

[Watch now: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qfQ9v8M5G8>](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qfQ9v8M5G8)

www.springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi

The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) UK is looking to recruit! They are looking for those who are interested in applying for the roles of Junior Digital Marketing Assistant and Prayer and Partner Support Administrators. If you would like to find out more, please click on the link:

<https://www.cbneurope.com/job-opportunities/>



The Struggle for Racial Justice – Recalling the past and discerning the future.

A CARJ series of webinars.

The aim of these webinars from the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) is to reflect on the history of the past 75 years and attempt to discern the best ways forward for society and for the Church in the effort to bring about a more just, more equal and more cooperative society.

- The Church's role in the struggle for Racial Justice in the future - Thu 3 August 2023, 7-8.30pm.
- These webinars are a preparation for CARJ's 40th anniversary in 2024.
- Each webinar will feature two speakers, with ample time for discussion, and be chaired by Yogi Sutton.
- Registration
 - The webinars are free. To register or for more information, please [contact the CARJ Administrator](#).



SOCIETY FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES



UCB Prayerline Needs More Volunteers!

There is an exciting opportunity for anyone called to prayer to have the enablement to serve a **Nation** from the comfort of his or her own home; offering just **2hrs** per week fully trained and supported by UCB!

Prayerline is a ministry/service hosted by volunteers either ...

- Over the Phone
- By Email
- By Post (snail mail)
 - **We are not a counselling or advice service we are primarily a prayer Ministry!**

The official website is www.ucb.co.uk/pray

The website explains in more detail, the role of a prayerline operator and how to get in touch.

To contact the prayerline service by phone the number is 01782 363000.

The telephone lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 10pm and Saturday's 10am to 6pm.

Outside of these hours or whilst staffed by an operator, a caller can leave a **voicemail prayer request** or via the UCB website using the email functionality **24/7**.

The Prayerline Ministry/Service as mentioned earlier, is not a 'Counselling or Advice' service but is wholeheartedly a Prayerline ministry where our motto states, we are here to be '**Praying with you, Praying for you**' comes into play.

Calls continue to rise in the Prayerline ministry with an average of 400+ calls per day (often many more) overseen by just 126 faithful volunteers who provide us with 2 regular hours per week. The sheer nature of the calls have dramatically changed over the past couple of years meaning more time is being spent on individual calls. So, to support the expansion and the demand of the calls we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in this role. Do you have anyone you know who may be interested? Someone who may be looking for a new and fresh way to serve the Lord?

If you are interested in this role, please contact me on herefordshireceo@gmail.com, so can email you more information. Thanks!