

Hello all, if you have any news or events that you would like mentioned in the next issue of the newsletter, please let me know by **midday on 31st July**. Thank you!

Bishop's Teaching Event - Growing Confidence in our Christian faith in Ledbury, 13th July, 9:30am-1pm

Join us for an exciting in-person teaching event at **St Michael and All Angels Church, Ledbury**. This event is all about strengthening our Christian faith and building confidence. Whether you're new to the faith or have been a believer for years, this event is for you! Bishop Richard will lead the teaching sessions, sharing valuable insights and practical tips to help us grow in our Christian faith. You'll be able to engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions, and connect with fellow Christians. At this event, we'll explore various aspects of our Christian faith, including understanding the Bible, deepening our prayer life, and overcoming doubts. Together, we'll learn how to live out our faith and share it with others confidently.

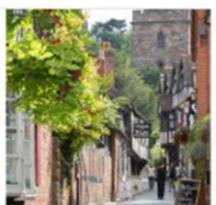
Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to strengthen your Christian journey. Mark your calendars and join us at St Michael's and All Angels Church in Ledbury for an uplifting and enriching experience. See you there!

South Herefordshire Hustings Event



Churches in Hereford worked together to coordinate South Herefordshire Hustings event. Bishop Richard chaired the event, hosted by St John's Methodist Church and was supported by Churches Together in Hereford. There was a great turnout and a great opportunity for the community to ask candidates questions.

News from around our Diocese



Prayer works! Faith and prayer help Ledbury Christian charity expand its youth service

LEAF (Locally Encouraging All to Flourish) in Ledbury, an ecumenical Christian charity working for the well-being of everyone in the community, has won a major funding bid to expand its work with young people, and it all began with weekly ecumenical prayer meetings to see what God was calling church leaders to do.

The £78,718 grant from the Herefordshire Safer Communities fund will pay for a full-time youth worker to run a new youth facility based at St Katherine's Hall, a new part-time alternative school coordinator to work with local primary schools, and a part-time families worker and school counsellor to provide therapeutic support to children.

LEAF emerged from an ecumenical prayer movement and period of discernment by all the churches in the town, supported by Rev'd Preb Tony Hodder, the CofE Pioneer Associate Minister at St Michael and All Angels parish church. The charity is committed to supporting people holistically, allowing all to flourish in terms of physical health, emotional and mental health, and spiritual health. Tony says, "It's amazing that we began this with prayer, meeting in person at 7am, noon and 7pm every Thursday. We're still praying together the "7/12/7" but it has grown out of prayer into mission. The need couldn't be greater. We consulted with local youth, schools, a local councillor and Talk Community, facilitated by Rural Media, and we got over 60 responses and spoke in-depth with over 30 young people. This is what they said they needed, so this is what we're doing. Now with this extra funding we will be able to do much more. The youth hub at St Katherine's Hall will kick it up a notch but we still depend on donations from all our churches and the community and in addition to the new paid positions we have over 50 volunteers to deliver the programmes. It takes a village - or a town in this case - to support its youth."

The grant scheme is funded by Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Police and is intended to help tackle the root causes of crime, vulnerability, exploitation and anti-social behaviour, particularly among children and young people.

You can learn more about LEAF [here](#).

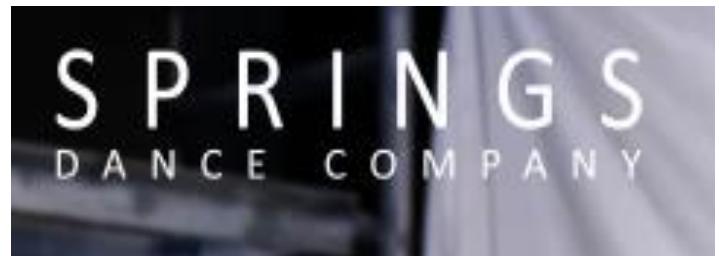
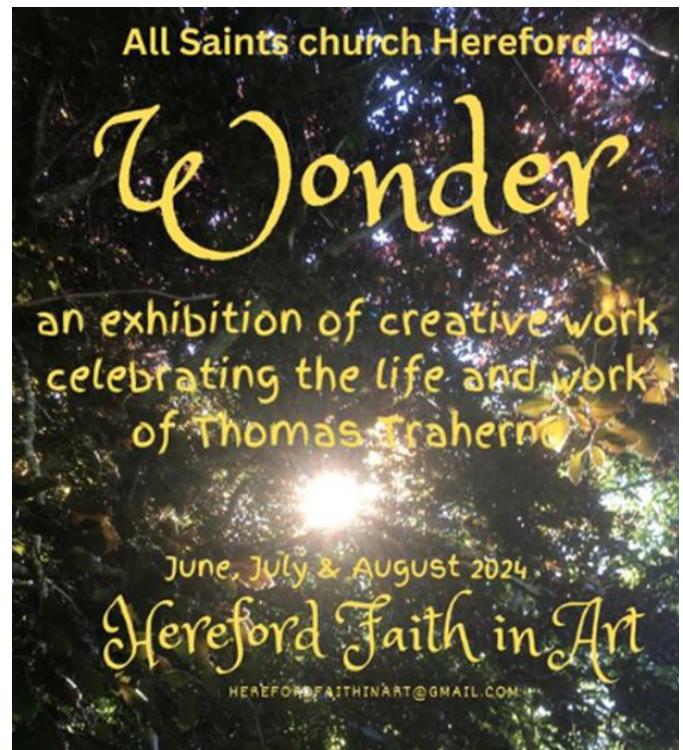
The Church of England holds a weekly prayer meeting to pray for the number of children and young people in our churches to double, every Tuesday at 1pm. Find out more [here](#).



The Evening Hour

A service of prayer for wholeness and healing. This is a quiet, reflective service with readings, prayers and music and the opportunity for people to receive the laying on of hands if they wish. **5.30pm on the second Sunday of every month in the**

North or South Transept of the Cathedral. We will be meeting on 14th July.



An uplifting dance production for your church to host.

Now booking for 2024.

Bring your community together to watch an intimate portrayal of grief and joy performed by five outstanding dancers. Created after the pandemic and based on Ecclesiastes 3: There is a Time for Everything, the performance is ultimately a celebration of life, enabling viewers to reflect whilst the dancers sensitively explore the tension between grief and joy. Springs Dance Company is inviting churches to host a performance of *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance* from September - October 2024. *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance* is an hour-long professional production presented in-the-round with audiences on three sides.

"I found myself looking for resonance and finding it."

Audience feedback

... the best experience, the best performance, the best night.

Stunning. Blown away. So grateful.

Audience feedback

There is a time for everything and a season for everything under the sun ... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance ... a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing Ecclesiastes 3 verses 4&5

For more information, please click on the link:
<https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/>



Rt Rev Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman, the head of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain has been nominated by the group's members.

CTE General Secretary, Bishop Mike Royal, said: "Churches Together in England is delighted at the appointment of Bishop Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman as a CTE President by the Fourth Presidency Group. Bishop Paulina has a proven track record of ecumenical engagement and an unwavering commitment to CTE's Racial Justice Working Group. As the first female Polish Bishop in the UK, she is a trailblazer. We are excited about the ongoing journey with our Lutheran sisters and brothers"

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

This show's got everything like, EVERYTHING! Amazing!

Brilliant! Like a surprise chocolate with an amazing filling... first it was one thing then another!

Talent, innovation, joy, celebration and brilliance ... a fantastic evening.

Audience responses

NOW BOOKING FOR 2024

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your local community through this fast-paced, brilliantly-witty yet poignant performance. Springs is taking bookings from churches for performances between November 22nd and December 22nd 2024.

Watch now:
youtube.com/watch?v=qQmZj6hDoE

"Absolutely fabulous show. Wonderful mix of fun, wit, and meaning. It made me laugh and it made me cry all in a couple of minutes." Richard, Poynton Methodist Church

"The show was wonderful and it was such a thrill to have the hall buzzing – everyone was captivated." Sue, Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall

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

Webpage:
springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi

Journey of the Magi is a much-loved, family-friendly, festive frolic with a profound message for your church to host.

The show offers a contemporary comparison between the journey the wise men took 2000 years ago and our own preparations in the run up to Christmas today. With sparkle, a soundtrack to keep toes tapping and awe-inspiring dance, *Journey of the Magi* delights audiences of all ages.

Relatable characters help viewers to be inspired in their own "journey" to Christmas Day and can help them think about who Christ is for them.

"Forget The Nutcracker, Springs Dance Company's Journey of the Magi is the best Christmas show I have ever seen! I went along to see it one dark, wet and dismal night in Birmingham and I came out having been touched, amused and moved to tears. Journey of the Magi looks beyond the tinsel and trappings and reveals the real meaning of Christmas."

David Bintley CBE, Former Artistic Director, Birmingham Royal Ballet

The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, plus there is a 20 minute interval, which provides the perfect time for festive mince pies! It is performed to the highest standard by a company of four world class professional dancers.



Bishop Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman said: "I'm honoured to have been appointed as the CTE President representing the Fourth Presidency Group, to serve God and His church across the ecumenical family. I look forward to this challenge and the opportunities it promises, particularly at a critical time in our history in Britain and beyond. Thank you for your confidence expressed in this call to mission and ministry. It is with humility and joy that I come to the task together with you!"

Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman comes from the Beskid Mountains in Southern Poland. She graduated from the Faculty of Theology and Ethics at the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw with a thesis on the hope for universal salvation. At the same time, she graduated in opera singing and acting.

She was ordained in London by Rt Rev Dr Martin Lind to serve in the Lutheran Church in Great Britain. She took over as pastor of the parishes

Trinity Leicester-Nottingham in 2014, St Paul's Corby in 2015, and Christ the King London in 2021. She has been a chaplain at the University of Nottingham since 2016. She is a Trustee of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the Council of Lutheran Churches. She was consecrated Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain in January 2024. See the full text of CTE's announcement on our website.

RESEARCHING MISSION & MINISTRY IN RURAL CONTEXTS

Wednesday 10th July 2024 | 7:30-9:00pm

We are delighted to have Steve Aisthorpe share some of his latest research as well as Heather Major (Cliff) and Ben Aldous considering which areas are in need of research in rural contexts in the future.



Steve Aisthorpe is the Director of Kilmalieu, a Christian retreat centre on the Ardgour peninsula on the west coast of Scotland.

He was previously a mission development worker for the Church of Scotland and undertook numerous research projects to better understand the changing shape and dynamics of the Church in Scotland. Some of that research led to the publication of 'The Invisible Church: Learning from the Experiences of Churchless Christians' (SAP, 2016) and 'Rewilding the Church' (SAP, 2020).

This is a free webinar is aimed at people considering, starting or involved in researching mission and ministry in rural contexts.

Book using our Eventbrite page:
bit.ly/4bmbwhS



Join the Journey with Jesus for Disability Awareness Week

Disability charity Through the Roof is inviting churches to celebrate Disability Awareness Week by including local disabled people and holding a service on Sunday 22 September 2024, or a day of their choice. A church resource pack is available free on the theme 'Journey with Jesus', featuring Rev Andrew Miles' story of his life-changing accident.

Find out more and get the resource at:

<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>

I had a lovely time celebrating St Peter's 950th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Service that delved into the rich history of the Church and celebrated their years of community outreach. Happy 950th anniversary St Peter's Church!



