

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 31<sup>st</sup> January**. Thank you!

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January**

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity draws closer, it is important to continue to pray for Churches across Herefordshire, as well as individuals. Christian unity is essential to our Christian walk. This particular week, through the use of helpful resources created by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland help us all to reflect on the significance of the Nicene Creed which was written 1700 years ago.

Emperor Constantine asked the question "what do Christians believe?" The Nicene Creed was the resulting answer. Reflecting on these events and praying for further unity helps builds on the foundations of our ecumenical work and also provides encouragement in standing together as one body for Christ.

"For 2025, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy. As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. Resources are available to download and order. Click this link to find out more:

[https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/?ct=t%28CTBINewsletter+-Dec2024%29&mc\\_cid=5ef68cc73f&mc\\_eid=2e5a681bd6](https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/?ct=t%28CTBINewsletter+-Dec2024%29&mc_cid=5ef68cc73f&mc_eid=2e5a681bd6) "

### **Churches/Christians Together Groups and Events**

#### **Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District**

CTRD's WPCU week will be from 20<sup>th</sup>-26 January this year.

- Mon 20<sup>th</sup>, 12pm, St Mary's Church
- Tues 21<sup>st</sup>, 12pm at Ross Baptist Church
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12pm at St Frances of Rome Catholic Church
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup>, 12pm at Christian Life Church Ross
- Sat 25<sup>th</sup>, 12pm at Ross Baptist Church
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm, shared meal and service at The Venue, with Rev Ian Olliver speaking

CTRD's AGM will be taking place at St Frances of Rome Catholic Church on 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7pm.

#### **Churches Together in Weobley**

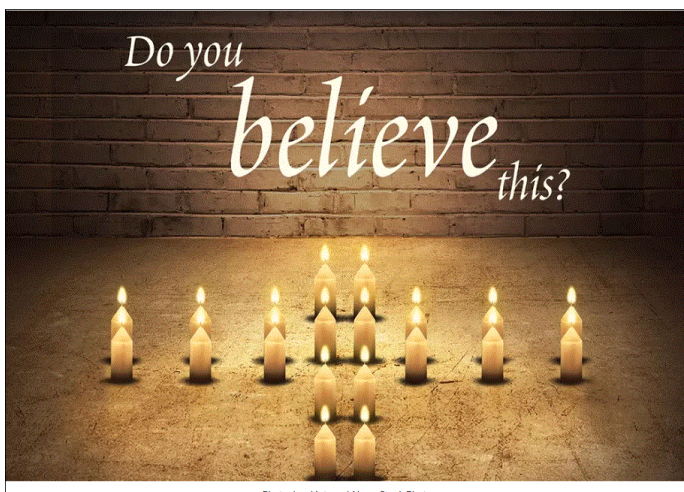


Photo: Leo Lintang / Alamy Stock Photo

CTiW raised an impressive £400 for the Disasters and Emergency Committee Middle East Appeal with their Carol Singing and Christmas Lunch!

CTiW will be hosting a Epiphany Service on Sunday 5th January, Weobley Methodist Chapel at 9:30 am.

There will also be bible studies taking place on 20th & 27th January 2025 at Castle Gate. Please email me if you would like more information.

### **Churches Together in Leominster WPCU Events**

CTL are hosting a series of short prayer events at the following locations and times to mark the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We hope that people of all the congregations or of none who want to engage in this can come to some, or several, of the events to support us.

- Saturday 18th January: 11am, Prayer Walk
- Sunday 19th January: 4pm, Moravian Church, South Street
- Monday 20th January: 7.30pm, CLC Forbury Chapel, Church Street
- Tuesday 21st January: 7.00pm, Leominster Baptist Church, Etnam Street.
- Wednesday 22nd January: 12.30pm, CTiL Meeting Moravian Church, South St

- Thursday 23rd January: 9.30am, Leominster Priory, Church Street
- Friday 24th January: 12 midday Leominster Methodist Church, Green Lane
- Saturday 25th January: 11.00am St Ethelbert's Church, Bargates

### **Christians Together in Ewyas Harold**

There will be a Christians Together in Ewyas Harold & District meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 7.30pm at St Michael's Church Hall on Monday.

Continuing their policy of themed meetings based on one of our regular activities, the team which takes "Come Gather Round" into Dulas Court Care Home is going to come and share what they do. They have promised us a taster session - which should be fun! We shall also learn about the work of the Anna Chaplaincy who support older people. Do come along to learn about these important contributions. You don't have to be part of the Christians Together network. There will only be a very short business meeting.

### **Churches Together in Hereford**

***A Taizé Service, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 12pm, All Saints Church Hereford***



A time of quiet reflection, gentle music, soft lights and thoughtful words. This is also an event to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Quakers Meeting House also invites members of Churches Together in Hereford to join them for their Meeting for Worship at the Quaker Meeting House, 21 King Street, at 12.30pm on Thursday 23rd January, followed by a soup lunch at 1.00pm.

### **City Praise**

Churches Together in Hereford supports City Praise. The next event will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm at Hereford Cathedral.

### **Vennture**



Vennture's Street Presence Team have just welcomed our latest student volunteers who are contributing to bringing a practical meaning to Jesus's love through ensuring "People have a good time and come home safe" across the county.

*"We have some wonderful conversation with people in the community, bringing connections to those that need it, including ourselves!" – Street Volunteer*

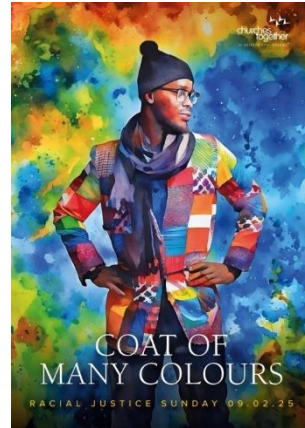
Vennture is working hard to increase our presence on the streets this Christmas, could you help provide a calm reassuring presence to the streets? Could you help to guide our students to fulfil their potential?

*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.*

*January 2025*

If you would like to find out more, please email us at [volunteering@vennture.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vennture.org.uk) or call us on **0330 2020 730**.

### **Racial Justice Sunday 2025**



Our theme this year has the title 'Coat of Many Colours', reflecting the increasing diversity that exists in the churches in Britain and Ireland. Both the Old Testament, or the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament are replete with references to diversity, in this world and the Kingdom to come.

Racial Justice Sunday will take place on 9 February 2025.

### **Hereford Cathedral**



Two special shorter format services will take place on Sunday 5 January 2025. They will be held to mark Epiphany. The two short services will be held outdoors starting at 1pm and the second service at 2pm and will take place on the green in front of Hereford Cathedral. Led by Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah the services will include a procession with three real-life camels.

This is a family-friendly event to mark the season of Epiphany when the Three Wise Men travelled to meet the baby Jesus in

Bethlehem. Everyone is welcome and each service will last approximately 20 mins.

Do join us for this exciting service where you can learn more about why Epiphany is significant in the Christmas story.



### Why bother with the Old Testament?

**22<sup>nd</sup> January at College Hall, Hereford Cathedral, 7:30-9:00pm**

At the very start of our Old Testament year, join the Dean of Hereford as she asks the question, "Why bother with the Old Testament?" It is sometimes suggested that Christians only need to look at the New Testament: in this warm and engaging talk, Dean Sarah will explore why we can't understand the Bible without the Old Testament and what God's relationship with his chosen people say to us about his plan of salvation and relationship with the world."

**Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased below.** This is talk is part of our Life & Learning programme. If you are unable to purchase your ticket via the website, please email [library@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:library@herefordcathedral.org) or call 01432 374 225/

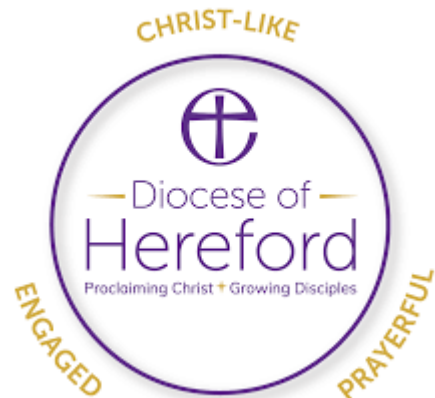


### Rural Mission & Ministry Course 2025 Online

Bookings are now open with dates & new venues for 2025. For any lay or ordained leaders in need of a rural refresh considering a move to rural.

To find out more, please click on this link:

[https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralministrycourse/?mc\\_cid=cb5061c724&mc\\_eid=d922883a44](https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralministrycourse/?mc_cid=cb5061c724&mc_eid=d922883a44)



### Launch Service for the Year of Engagement 2025

Tomorrow at 15:30

Hereford Cathedral

Free

If you would like to find out more, please click on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-service-for-the-year-of-engagement-2025-tickets-1089981296399?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

## Herefordshire Homelessness Forum

As of Saturday 4th January, the Herefordshire Homelessness Forum will be opening the old Hawkins Bazaar unit in Maylords Orchards (green shop next to Poundland) for hot food provision for rough sleepers.

The unit will be open every day for rough sleepers from 6-8pm.

Monday - warm space & hot food

Tuesday - warm space, snacks & drinks

Wednesday - warm space, snacks & drinks

Thursday - warm space & hot food

Friday - warm space & hot food

Saturday - warm space & hot food

Sunday - warm space, snacks & drink

We have a core group of volunteers who have provided hot food with The Living Hope last winter, but it would be helpful to have some more volunteers who could assist, in whatever capacity you can give. Two people minimum are required each day, but people willing to come and spend time with the guests and provide company would also be beneficial. If you could give some time, on any day of the week to suit you, please can you email Sarah and let her have your details. Thankyou. It could be regular or from time to time.

A few of us will be at the unit in Maylords for a couple of hours at 10am Saturday 4th Jan to clean the place and get set up ready to open at 6pm this Saturday, if anyone would like to help with this we would be grateful.

If anyone has biscuits, snacks, pot noodles, tea, coffee or toiletries that they can donate, can you please drop them off at the Kindle Centre or at the Salvation Army. The Forum will collect and distribute to the shelter, the Maylords unit and The Living Room.

**GAMES - FOOD - CHAT - MUSIC**

**CITY YOUTH**

**2024 - 2025**

**Ages 11-16**

**Sunday 1st December**  
Challenge Community Church

**Sunday 2nd February**  
Hereford Baptist Church

**Sunday 6th April**  
St James' Church

**Sunday 1st June**  
Kindle Centre

**Sunday 13th July**  
Bishops Meadows  
Picnic from 12.30pm followed by Rounders

All events will run from 6-7.30pm unless stated.

For more information or any questions contact:  
[herefordcityyouth@outlook.com](mailto:herefordcityyouth@outlook.com)







