



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 25<sup>th</sup> April**. Thank you!

### **Churches Together/Christian Together Groups**

#### **Christians Together in Ewyas Harold and District**

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold & District will be holding a Walk of Witness through the village on Good Friday, 18th April. Hot Cross Buns will be served in St Michael's Hall, Ewyas Harold at 11.00, followed by the silent Walk of Witness to the Baptist church and round the village at 11.30. At 12 noon there will be an ecumenical service in St Michael's church.

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

##### **Lent in the Ross Parishes**

###### **Ash Wednesday - 5th March**

A special service in St Mary's - 7.00pm

###### **Lent Lunches**

Eat simply every Wednesday from 12th March

###### **The Creed Deed - our Lent course**

Join Professor David Thomas and members of the ministry team to explore the Nicene Creed.

Sundays from 9th March, 3.00pm in Church



There will be a Sunrise Service, 5.45am at The Prospect. A short celebratory ecumenical service, outside as the sun rises to greet Easter Day. The service will be followed by pastries, coffee and tea in St Mary's Church. There will also be a Messy Church Drop in at St Mary's at 3pm on Maundy Thursday.

#### **Churches Together in Hereford**

The Good Friday Walk of Witness in Hereford will go ahead this year, though in a slightly different format.

It will start from the Cathedral Close at 11am, then work its way up Broad Street, stopping at All Saints Church and then along High Town to St. Peters Church where, once again, refreshments will be served.

Everyone is welcome to attend a Maundy Thursday service and Communion at St John's Methodist Church at 7pm. This will be led by

Revd Phil Warrey. There will also be a Good Friday service reflective service at St John's Methodist Church at 9:30am also led by Revd Phil Warrey.

### **Churches Together in Leominster**

The last two Lent lunches will take place at St Ethelbert's Parish room on Wednesday evenings starting at 7.30pm on 9th April, Andrew Mayes will be leading the last Lent lunch at St Ethelbert's.

### **Christians Together in Bromyard**

St. Joseph's will host an ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April. St. Peter's and Stoke Lacy plan to hold services of Compline on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday at Stoke Lacy and Wednesday at St. Peter's – both services at 7 pm. St. Peter's will hold a Maundy Thursday service with foot washing at 7 pm on 17th April. On Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, St. Peter's will have an Hour at the Cross at 10 am to be followed at 11 am by an ecumenical walk of witness, starting at St. Peter's and going round the town to end at St. Joseph's. Stoke Lacy will have an Hour at the Cross at 3 pm. St. Joseph's will also hold a Good Friday service at 3 pm. In Great Whitbourne, there will be a walk of witness on Good Friday starting at 12 pm with stops for readings and alternative narratives of the story. CTiB's Passion play will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm. This will include the Visitation to Mary, John the Baptist baptising Jesus and then tell the story of Palm Sunday through to the Resurrection.

### **Churches Together in Weobley**

Everyone is welcome at an Easter Day service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am. There will be morning worship with Holy Communion, and this will be led by Rev Paul Arnold.

CTiW are organising a Walk of Witness on Good Friday, starting at 11am in the car park of St Thomas Catholic Church, Kington Rd Weobley.

### **Christians Together in Orleton**

There will be an enactment of the Last Supper, 7pm at St George's on Maundy Thursday.

On Good Friday, there will be a service in the chapel at 2pm, hosted by Paul Arnold.

On Saturday and Sunday, there will be an Easter village walkabout with 6 "stations", open all day.

On the Sunday, there will be a service at St George's at 11am and Easter egg hunts at The Maidenhead and The Boot between 2 - 4pm.

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### **Street Pastors**

Are you passionate about the wellbeing of others? Are you looking for a way to get more involved in your community? Street Pastors is a great way to get involved! Street Pastors, particularly in Ross-on-Wye, are looking for volunteers to help support them in their work. On patrol, you will be able to gauge whether an individual needs more support and be a friendly face in helping them get home safely from a night out. Street Pastors ask that you complete a minimum of one shift a month as part of the team. If you think this might be a position of

interest, please contact  
[dmskirrow@hotmail.com](mailto:dmskirrow@hotmail.com)

counties CONNECT presents

**BARNFEST**

Previously Celebration in the Barn

*Encountering Jesus*

**5TH - 6TH JULY 2025**

A weekend on the farm full of Inspiration, Encouragement & Challenge with mix of worship, conversations, BBQs, camping & much much more

**WITH INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, J JOHN**

Venue: Lands End Farm  
Newent, Gloucestershire

Save the dates & watch this space for full details!  
Bookings open 1st March Contact: [tim@fcchurch.co.uk](mailto:tim@fcchurch.co.uk)

In June 2023 we held our first Counties Connect Celebration in a Barn on our family farm. We had the space in our barn following the sale of the milking cows a year earlier and we wanted to use the farm for the gospel. The aim was to celebrate all the good things that God was doing through local churches in contrast to the trials that came with Covid-19. It was so well attended and received, that we moved to a bigger barn the following year with more food, camping options and additional venues added for children under 11.

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This year we have changed the name to BarnFest and added more venues for children and young people to make it a complete family event. I would like to encourage you to come along and join us for all or part of the weekend. You may even like to bring your whole church along! Last year 43 different churches were represented and this year already 9 churches are planning to relocate their Sunday Service to the barn on the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Our theme for the weekend will be Encounter Jesus with special guest speaker J John bringing two keynote messages. The Saturday evening will have a strong evangelistic focus and Sunday morning will have more of a celebratory focus. We are adding 4 marquees in the field alongside the barn for children and young people to have age relevant programmes running during the two main sessions so that they can encounter Jesus too.

A new feature this year will be to start with lunch (you will need to book for food) on the Saturday followed by an afternoon of games on the field for families and seminars and live music by our refreshment marquee. The games will include; Inflatable Assault Course, Bungee Run, Bouncy Castles, the Faith Space Van (games, consols and activities), Volley ball, Garden games, Table Tennis challenge and more!

Entry will be free to all but you will need to register for the event and book in advance for food which will have a modest cost. Hot and cold drinks will be provided throughout the weekend free of charge and camping this year will also be free. Donations towards costs will be welcomed. Full details and for bookings click this link

<https://www.fcchurch.co.uk/barnfest2025>

Volunteers needed: We will need an army of volunteers to set up marquees, stewarding, serving drinks, carparking, assisting on team in children's tents, etc. If you know anyone who may be willing to help with this either in the days prior to the event or during please let us know.

I am very excited about what the Lord seems to be doing through Barnfest. It is proving to be a great opportunity for local churches to come together, combine resources, and allow the Holy Spirit to work and move amongst us beyond what we could imagine. The feedback from previous years has been so encouraging that it has become clear that the Lord has his hand upon this event in a remarkable way as we seek to make Jesus known.

I really do hope that you will be able to join us this year and look forward to welcoming you to our family farm on 5-6<sup>th</sup> July for what promises to be a special weekend to encounter Jesus.



AGM: worship, talk and refreshments  
7th May, 7pm at Putson Baptist Church,  
41 Web Tree Avenue, Hereford HR2 6HQ

**Wh** Speakers: Rev Lois Beynon (Anglican Denominational Ecumenical Officer) and Emma Wright (County Ecumenical Officer) on their experience at CTE Forum 2025

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**whole  
hearted  
monthly**

The Wholehearted Conference sold out its 250 places in just a few days. We don't want anyone to miss out on the energy, so we're running a holy experiment in the seasons after the Wholehearted Conference.

Wholehearted monthly aims to digitally connect up diverse leaders doing mission across the Connexion in different ways and contexts for inspiration, equipping and networking for the sake of transformation in the world God loves.

Together we'll open to the Holy Spirit, learn from a different renowned guest speaker each month, and break into groups for wisdomsharing and equipping for mission with others who share our particular focus.

We're praying, learning, and acting in commitment to being, by God's grace, a growing, inclusive, evangelistic, and justiceseeking Church!

You are invited to join a new online gathering hosted by the Methodist Church, for people who are passionate about joining God in mission.

Each month, we'll hear testimonies from local leaders, learn from a well-known guest speaker, and break into groups to share with others who are committed to gospel justice, evangelism, inclusion and growth.

JPIT will be working with Rachel Lampard, Director of Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church, to host a 'Justice-Seekers Lounge' as part of this monthly gathering.

It takes place on the second Tuesday of the month, starting on 11 March, 7-9pm. The first three guest speakers will be:

**Nadia Bolz-Weber** is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints. (Tuesday 11 March)

**Rowan Williams** is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian. (Tuesday 8 April)

**Chine McDonald** is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank. (Tuesday 13 May)

## Vennture



We're thrilled to welcome 10 new student graduates to our street presence teams, providing vital support to those most vulnerable. Our volunteers went through 7 Saturdays of rigorous training including 3 accredited courses, equipping them to relieve the pressure on the emergency services during the busy hours of a Friday and Saturday evenings. Our volunteers were recently awarded their certificates by the Lord Lieutenant, Mayor, and High Sheriff in a ceremony that made the evening unforgettable!

We are always looking for more adult volunteers to join our students on shift. If you're

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passionate about making a real difference and bringing a calming, reassuring presence to the streets, we'd love to have you on board. Help us bring a practical meaning to the power of Jesus' love.

Contact [volunteering@vennture.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vennture.org.uk) to get involved!

To add to this exciting chapter, Vennture are now hosting monthly prayer evenings with our volunteers every first Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us in an evening of prayer and find out more about what we do, reach out to Jacob at [Jacob.newman@vennture.org.uk](mailto:Jacob.newman@vennture.org.uk) for details.



## The Living Hope



The Living Hope Charity has a new support worker moving to the area to join the team, and he is awaiting permanent housing. He's happy to lend a hand around the house and garden, and he comes with excellent references from his previous pastor and employers.

If you can help or would like more details. Please contact Vikki Thomas direct 07799 650453.



### Anxiety levels soar among disabled people!

Proposed cuts to disability benefits are causing rising levels of anxiety among disabled people, according to Through the Roof, the Christian charity that works together with churches and people across all disabilities to advance God's kingdom.

Lynda, a disabled volunteer with Through the Roof, currently receives Personal Independence Payments (PIP), which are designed to help people with long-term conditions manage daily living tasks. However, under the government's proposed new criteria, Lynda would no longer qualify for the Daily Living component – despite being a full-time wheelchair user and incomplete paraplegic – which leaves her uncertain about the future.

She says "I haven't met anyone who has said that they don't want to work. The problem is that many of us have conditions which make the logistics of travelling to work and finding work in suitably adapted premises very difficult. For others, working from home isn't possible because of fluctuating medical needs e.g. ongoing therapy or continence care. Conditions which cause chronic pain make concentration and focusing on work tasks impossible. Others struggle within the workplace due to mental health needs."

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For Lynda, the benefits she receives help cover essential costs, including repairs to her stairlift, which has broken down twice this month, and payments for her adapted wheelchair. These funds also help with heating costs, as her condition makes her more vulnerable to the cold.

"Life is hard," admits Lynda, "but I'm fortunate because I have a working husband. Many disabled people live alone, and I don't know what will happen to them! While many disabled people do work and find fulfilment in their jobs, we must remember that support and understanding needs to be given to those who have conditions which, through no fault of their own, mean they are unable to work."

Lynda calls on churches and the wider Christian community to be more attuned to the needs of disabled people and make adjustments that enable everyone to flourish and use their gifts to build others up:

"Let's listen to one another," Lynda encourages. "Let's hear the worries and concerns of those who are struggling. We must be aware of the resources available through organisations that can offer assistance. As a Christian community, we can provide comfort, encouragement, and hope. In Jesus's name, we are called to offer support and rest, especially in times of distress. As He said in **Matthew 11:28**, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'"

Through the Roof invites churches to nominate their own Roofbreaker (Disability Champion) to reflect on the needs of individuals and ensure disabled people can fully **Access** the Christian life, **Belong** together as God's family, and use their gifts to make disciples, for God's glory, as part of the Great **Commission**.

Find out how we can **resource your church** for the ABC journey of disability inclusion at: <https://www.throughtheroof.org/roofbreakers/> or @TTRChangesLives on social media.

## Ecumenical Ledbury Easter Service

### 1. Good Friday March and Service of Witness : Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

- Meet at Ledbury Baptist Church for **10:00** a.m. and process down to the Market House where music already playing and joint service for ½ hour.
- Service sheets provided
- we will be serving hot cross buns to passersby as our service is taking place (volunteers to take round trays needed).
- We will need readers from every church family if possible

## Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

A church production by arrangement with  
The Really Useful Group Limited  
**Come and Sing! Come and Play!**  
Everyone is invited to perform in a concert performance of

# ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***

Lyrics by Tim Rice      Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

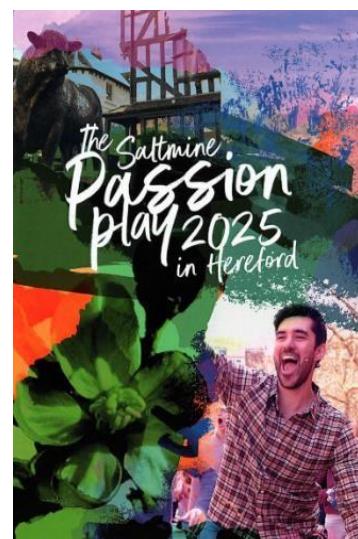
Open to all ages, children and adults, to all abilities – the focus is on enjoyment

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025, 7.30pm at The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Please email greaterwhitbourneoffice@gmail.com or call 07484 191465 for more information

The performance is open to all people, all denominations and faiths and none - indeed, in taking part, we are ministering.

## Saltmine Passion Play 2025

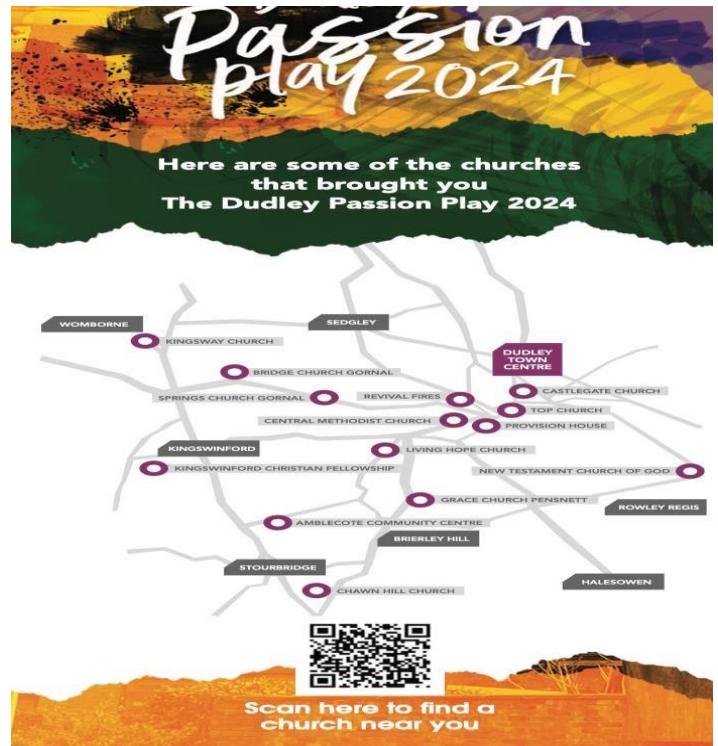


**Passion Play on the streets of Hereford**  
**Saturday 12th April, 2025, 1pm**  
**Starting at the Bull on High Town** Saltmine Theatre Company would like to present a walkabout Passion Play the Saturday before Holy Week, a contemporary re-telling of Jesus's last days, death and resurrection, live on the streets of Hereford. They are currently looking for more stewards. If you are interested, [email Anthony Beckett](mailto:email Anthony Beckett) or call him on 07906 344743.

There is a web page also now available for this event too [Passion Play, Hereford - Saltmine](#) This includes a short video from Saltmine about being part of the play.

- They would like Information from any church about their follow up to this event so we can add to the leaflets the Engage team will be distributing.
- Here is an example of a leaflet that has been produced for previous Engage teams, please let Anthony know what

you think about an Engage leaflet format for Hereford.



### Association for Church Editors 2025 Awards



Association for Church Editors

How good is your church magazine?

The search is on for Britain's best church magazine. Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE), which is an independent, not for profit organisation.

"Judging from the number of brochures and leaflets that land on our doormats and the array of magazines in newsagents, other organisations still value printed material" says Sally Churchus, Chair of the national

organisation, "so we are keen to encourage church editors everywhere". For the coming 2025 competition, which closes on Tuesday 8th April, awards will be made for any size of magazine using just black and white printing. (Coloured paper is allowed). The Gold Award winner will receive the John King Trophy, a silver baptismal shell to be held for one year, while Silver and Bronze Award winners will receive an inscribed trophy to keep, together with a Certificate of Excellence for display.

A panel of judges assesses each magazine, giving points for various aspects including clarity of the Christian message, cover design, headlines, overall layout and structure, use of graphics and appeal to intended readership. The prize-giving will take place at our annual meeting in September, which is open to everyone and includes talks about how to improve your magazine.

<https://churchmag.uk>

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A panel of judges assesses each magazine, giving points for various aspects including clarity of the Christian message, cover design, headlines, overall layout and How good is your church magazine?

The search is on for Britain's best church magazine. Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE), which is an independent, not for profit organisation.

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Photo of ACE Awards Winner 2024 – from left  
Duncan Matheson (husband) of Editor of HotPott  
magazine from Cheshire Kath Matheson, Sally  
Churchus Chair of ACE.