

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 2nd June**. Thank you!

Reflection by Steve Sully, Free Churches Representative for CTiH



I hope that you experienced the Passion Play that recently took place in Hereford. It was a fantastic event where an estimate of a thousand people saw the key events of Jesus' trial, death and resurrection.

The acting was exceptional and by setting the events into 21st century culture it made me think of things slightly differently. Yes, the crucifixion scene was hard to watch and yes, the resurrection scene was joyful but it was another scene that really impacted me. Jesus is restoring Peter following his denial of even knowing his saviour. It's a familiar passage as Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me" but it was the power with which the third question was asked and answered that hit me. "Yes, you know I love you" then with real enthusiasm and joy Jesus says, "then I will build my church on you." Jesus did not ask Peter any searching

theological questions. He did not ask him if he would establish a denominational structure. He simply asked him "Do you love me?" The fact that Peter did was enough for Jesus.

Should that not be true for us also? Never mind historical issues, leadership structures, styles of worship and all the other barriers we put up. If we are going to work and witness together as One Church then surely the only question we need to ask of each other is "Do you love Jesus?". And if someone says "Yes" then let's join together and allow Jesus to do great things as he builds his church in this city and county.

Steve Sully,

Challenge Community Church and Representative of the Free Churches

Churches Together/Christian Together Groups

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District



All the Christian Churches across the Ross area are joining together for a big picnic to celebrate the day that the Church first came into being. Some readers will recognise this festival as Whitsuntide, others as Pentecost, but we see it a Birthday Party to which the whole town is invited. Sunday 8th June 12-2pm in and around St Mary's church. Bring your picnic and join in the fun and activities. There will of course be plenty of cake!

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

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

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.

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 6th 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 are 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 5-6thJuly for what promises to be a special weekend to encounter Jesus.

Vennture



Vennture are looking to expand their volunteer community. Volunteers go out in teams during the day or nighttime to support and help the vulnerable while providing a calm reassuring presence to the streets of Herefordshire. Here are the opportunities on offer:

1. **Street Pastors**, this is where Christians go out into the nighttime economy to help and support the vulnerable. Whether this be via first aid, a simple conversation or anything in-between. They run from 21:30-3:00.
2. **Twilight** - these shifts are similar to the street pastor shifts, just earlier (they go from 18:30-23:00) we often take students from our student program out on these shifts just

Is anyone able to offer a room / temporary
 T: 0330 202 0730
 M: 07741 569 470

The Living Hope

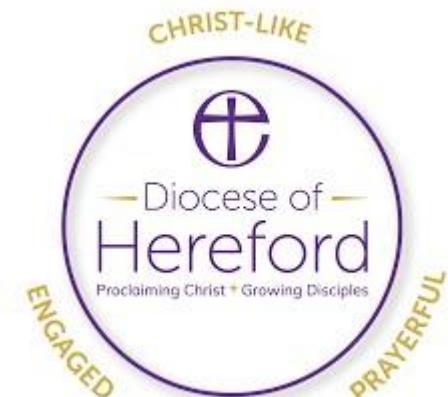
accommodation to a fellow Christian for a few weeks at the end of the month?

to build up their experience and have an introduction to the Nighttime economy. Our students are trained in first aid triage and manual handling all based on battle medicine so that they can assess and support the individuals they may encounter during the night time economy accurately and quickly so they can decide what is the best course of action for that individual. Whether that be supervised recovery which our students also run or hospital if the individual is in major need.

3. **Mobile Lean On Me:** This is where we take our more experienced students out into later in the nighttime economy, (from 21:30-3:00).
4. **Daytime Ambassadors** - these volunteers go out during the daytime and help tourist, shoppers and the like whether they need directions, or advice about which is the best food place to eat at. But also helping the vulnerable during these hours, as well as interacting with shop staff making sure they are okay etc.

All projects run in Hereford, around the city centre. However, Vennture are also aiming to expand their Nighttime economy

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presence to Leominster and run day and nighttime patrols in Ross-on-Wye.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these opportunities contact Jacob Newman.

E: Jacob.Newman@vennture.org.uk

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.

Single Friendly Church



- **Webinar: Becoming a Single Friendly Church**

May 2025

An online workshop focussed on practical steps for churches to become Single Friendly - based on our Guided Audit. This is aimed at anyone looking to champion Single Friendliness in their church.

Tuesday 3rd June, 11am - click here to [Sign Up](#)

Hereford Diocese

Bishop's Teaching Event 1

Saturday 31 May 9:30am - 1pm

A teaching session led by Bishop Richard followed by three workshops which are repeated twice. Teas and Coffees are provided upon welcome.

Tuesday, 17th June, 7.30pm – Wentnor with Giles Tulk, at The Crown Inn, SY9 5EE

Bishop's Study Days

Tuesday, 24th June 2025, 10am-3pm

Halo Craven Arms Community Centre

Churches Working Together in Ledbury

2. Joint Pentecost Service and BBQ to follow: Sunday 8th June, 11:00 AM

- Held at St Michaels.
- A 'lay'-member volunteer from each church family to be involved in the planning and presenting of this

- BBQ to follow in the church grounds from 12:30 onwards, with vegetarian and gluten-free options to supplement a bring and share lunch. Any volunteers for this please email Geoff, Malcolm or Tony as above.

Through the Roof



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."

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.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

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

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 31st October 2025, 7.30pm at
The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

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

Cornerstone Entertainment

"I'm Tom Elliott, a full-time Comedy Magician and performer described by Miranda Hart as "Such Fun." Over the years, I've travelled across the UK, partnering with churches to create inviting events that engage communities and share the hope we have in Christ.

In addition to performing in theatres, corporate events, and holiday parks, I'm proud to be an ambassador for Compassion UK and host a weekly show on Konnect Radio. This year, I'm offering three exciting event options, all of which are primarily aimed at adults, but suitable for all.

Each of them acts as a brilliant, light hearted opportunity for guests to attend your church

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gathering and be inspired to explore faith further.

1. "Oh My Days" – 45 minutes of stand-up comedy and tricks, with testimony.
2. Comedy & Quiz Night – A Quiz Night, interspersed with comedy, tricks and testimony.
3. An Evening with Tom Elliott & Charlie Green – Myself alongside Britain's Got Talent finalist Charlie Green, bringing big band music and testimony.



Find out more [here](#).

'Tom is an excellent communicator. His clear and joyful presentations are highly inspirational. I've witnessed this first hand and highly recommend him to you'

Stuart Bell - Alive Church Lincoln / GroundLevel Network

'Tom is wonderful to work with. He's fun, engaging and has a great way of connecting with both large crowds and individuals. I thoroughly and highly recommend him'

Mark Pugh - Rediscover Church, Exeter

I'd love to bring one of these events to one of your local churches. If this sounds like a fit, simply [complete this form](#), and I'll be in touch with all the details."

City Praise

City Praise will take place at Hereford Cathedral at 7pm on the following dates:

May 2025

- 25th May
- 29th June
- 7th September
