



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 30th June**. Thank you!

Reflection on Commemorating 1700 Years of the Nicene Creed

I do like a nice creed in a liturgy, however us Methodists tend to only use them on high days and holidays. So we roll them out in our Easter Day, and Covenant Services. It's good at times to remind ourselves what we believe in, even if the language is sometimes seen as a bit archaic.

It's easy to forget at times how much division there has been in the church over its history, and the Nicene Creed was an attempt in the early years of the church to have an agreed statement on belief. Today it is one of the few theological texts shared across most Christian traditions; making it a powerful symbol for unity and dialogue.

The word Creed comes from the Latin word *credo* which means "I believe" and is the first word of the creed in Latin - *Credo in unum Deum* – "I believe in one God".

Back in 325 AD there was trouble brewing. Arius (c. 256–336 CE) was a Christian presbyter (elder) and theologian from Alexandria, Egypt, and he had been teaching that was a time when Jesus the Son did not exist. Or in his words "There was a time when

the Son was not." In other words, he was saying:-

- Jesus Christ (the Son of God) is not eternal.
- He was created by God the Father before time, and although exalted, is not equal to God.
- The Son is subordinate to the Father — a kind of divine intermediary.

Arius believed this preserved monotheism and upheld the absolute uniqueness of God the Father.

As you can imagine to many early Christians, especially Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria, Arius's teaching threatened the core of Christian salvation:

- If Christ is not truly God, then how can he reveal God or truly save humanity?
- If Jesus is a created being, even the highest one, he is not divine in the same way as the Father.

This led to sharp divisions in the Church.

Constantine the Great (c. 272–337 CE) was a Roman emperor who reigned: 306–337 CE (sole ruler from 324), he had recently converted to Christianity, and he convened the first Ecumenical Council in Nicea (modern-day İznik, Turkey), as the divisions were threatening the unity of the Church and the stability of his

Empire. Constantinople in Turkey is named for Constantine.

The outcome of the Council of Nicea, was that the council rejected Arianism, and it produced the original Nicene Creed, declaring Christ as “of one substance” (Greek: *homoousios*) with the Father.

Later in 381 CE, the Council of Constantinople revised and expanded the Creed into the version most churches use today—technically the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed.

Was this the end to disagreements? – No, just the beginning, the Nicene Creed set a theological benchmark, but the meaning of *homoousios* was fiercely contested for decades; even centuries. These disputes led to ongoing theological civil wars in the 4th century, contributed to imperial power struggles and echoed in later schisms and theological identities.

Bishop Mike Royal from Churches Together in England in answering the question “Why is Nicaea relevant to our Member Churches today?” Offers this statement:- “The unity that Member Churches enjoy as part of Churches Together in England is firstly and primarily based on what we believe about the nature of God and the centrality of Christ in the Christian faith. That meeting in AD 325 in Nicaea, in what is now part of modern Türkiye, established a clear understanding of the nature of Christ and the centrality of his life, death and resurrection for our salvation. The great thing about 1700 years of Nicaea is we have a chance to really celebrate what unites us together.”

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You can read his encouragement to celebrate the 1700 years here -

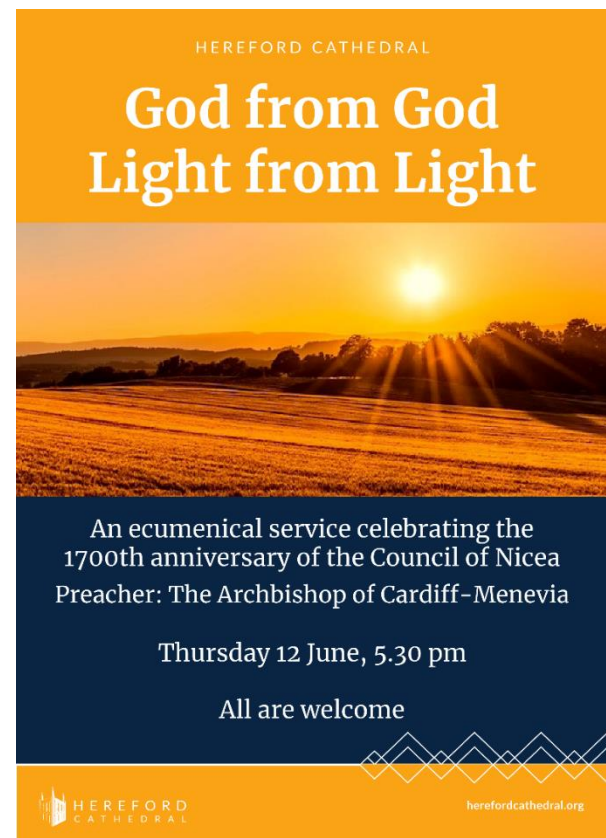
<https://cte.org.uk/nicaea1700anniversary-celebration-royal/>

Further articles and copies of the creed can be found here –

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicene_Creed

Phil Warrey (Revd)

Superintendent Minister – Hereford S&E Methodist Circuit.



Churches Together/Christian Together Groups

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold and District

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold & District are meeting on 16 June at 7.30pm in Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall. Simon Lockett is coming to

talk about the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way. A wonderful opportunity to learn all about this brilliant initiative which is drawing many people into our churches and providing much needed peace and reflection time for the pilgrims.

Taizé Prayer - 29 June at 6.30pm at Dore Abbey.

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District



All the Christian Churches across the Ross area are joining together for a 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



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/barnfest-2025>

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

Ross Baptist Church



Vennture



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Dear Church Leaders,

We are looking for someone who is passionate about listening to, and supporting families?

After securing funding from The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, we have an exciting opportunity for an additional Link Worker to join our Family Mentoring Team.

A Vennture Link Worker works alongside families who are finding things tough and need support to overcome the barriers they are facing to reach their full potential. This specific project will support families of serving personnel and Veterans who are wounded, injured and sick. It is available to view in full on our website where an application form is available to download.

<https://www.vennture.org.uk/jobs/family-link-worker/>

Please share this opportunity through your church notices, newsletters, and social media, and if someone comes to mind, prayerfully consider encouraging them to apply.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Thy Kingdom Come



The global prayer event that spans eleven days ending on the day of Pentecost is focusing on the Lord's Prayer. The resources go through each line of the Lord's Prayer in detail, meditating on its significance. To find more resources, please go to

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0>

Single Friendly Church



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

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](#)

Grandparenting for Faith

Grandparenting for Faith

*Equipping grandparents and grandparent-figures,
to share God with the children they love most.*

We need 100 grandparents to test the *Grandparenting for Faith* Course during the next two weeks... The course will usually cost £30 but anyone who is able to start the course (individual or group) by the w/c 3rd June will be given free of charge access. Plus, the first 100 grandparents to complete the course will receive a £10 Amazon gift voucher, upon completion. [Sign up here](#).

Additionally, we also need a 'control group' For this, we need 50 Christian grandparents who do not wish to do the course in the next three months but would be willing to complete a short online survey now and in three months' time to tell us about their experience of being a Christian grandparent. Anyone participating in this survey will be entered into a prize draw as a thank you. [Register here](#).

Churches Working Together in Ledbury

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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



Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

Join churches across the UK in marking Disability Awareness Sunday – a time to celebrate God's image in every person! – and [download the new resource pack](#) from disability charity Through the Roof (www.throughtheroof.org).

"My hearing had gone... my legs wouldn't move: God's image was still in me."

This year's free resource, *Made in God's Image* (the link to the resource is below) features Emily Owen, an award-winning author who became deaf at 21 and now lives with multiple disabilities. In her video and resource, she shares how God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16), not outward ability.



All matter as ALL are in God's image.

No matter our challenges, we're all 'wonderfully made' in God's image – and when churches fully welcome disabled people, everyone is blessed. Sadly, 72% of disabled people in the UK report facing negative attitudes. Joining church can be a challenge. That's why this matters.

Use the official date, 28th September – or any Sunday – to spark conversations and take a step towards disability inclusion. There is a FREE resource available for churches!

The free downloadable pack includes Emily's video, songs, prayers, sermon ideas, and handouts reminding us 'All are made in God's image'. Download your copy now:



Get the free pack

at: throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday



Show the video. Pray together. Celebrate every member of Christ's Body.

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 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 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 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:

29th June - **with Open Doors CEO, Henrietta Blyth**
Hereford Cathedral

Future dates:

- 7th September 2025



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

“The show was wonderful and it was such a thrill to have the hall buzzing – everyone was captivated. Inspired visual storytelling” Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall.

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your local community through this fast-paced, brilliantly-witty yet poignant performance.

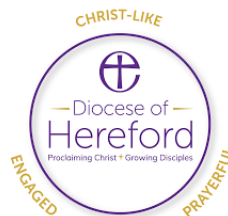
Journey of the Magi is a professional production of dance, theatre, song and poetry. It is a family show: accessible for all, fun and thought-provoking, full of warmth, hilarity and delight. It offers a wonderful opportunity to laugh, reflect and refocus during advent.

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of **Journey of the Magi**, which will be available nationally from 21st November – 22nd December 2025.

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.

Bishop's Study Days



Tuesday, 24th June 2025, 10am-3pm
 Halo Craven Arms Community Centre

Bishop's Teaching Day

Saturday, 19th July 2025, 9.30am-1pm
 St Michael's Madeley

Training Session on Prayer Spaces in Schools

Date: June 12th **Time:** 12:30PM - 3:30PM **Location:** St. James Church

Join us for an enriching training session focused on Prayer Spaces in Schools! This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the concept of prayer spaces, engage in hands-on examples, and understand their impact on the spiritual development of our pupils. Our own Mark Harington has been invited to share valuable insights from the 'Let Us Pray Anywhere' project.

Refreshments will be provided. **Cost: £5**
 To secure your spot, please use the [Eventbrite](#) online [booking form](#).