

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!

Reflection for CTiH

I recently attended an ecumenical service that took place at Hereford Cathedral to celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicæan Creed. The service was organised by the C of E and Roman Catholics collectively working together to celebrate the significance of this anniversary with the Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia speaking on unity that arose out of the decisions that were made.

Archbishop Mark O'Toole spoke about how "affective ecumenism leads to effective ecumenism." Essentially desiring unity leads to the affective outcome of unity. We constantly need to fuel the fire and remind ourselves of our motivations. Why are we here? What is the reason we work together to help spread the gospel? It's a plea from Jesus himself.

This was exactly what the Bishops did in 325 AD at Constantinople. They banded together to become more affective so they could help others understand the Gospel and also explain it in a structure that explained the crux of Christian belief.

The theme of sacrificial love is interwoven in the Nicæan Creed. It displays and honours God's might and the cost that it took so salvation was open to all.

Taking part in the joint worship and singing hymns such as *Kingsfold* by Timothy Dudley-Smith was incredibly moving. The line "renew, restore, unite, inspire. The Church that bears your name..." is incredibly profound; because however long you have walked with God it brings it back to the core that the Church bears his name. We are ambassadors for Christ and it is through his strength that the Church can be renewed, continuing to unite because we bear his name. He wants our heart. As long as we give Jesus our heart, there is nothing to be afraid of.

As we adopt this attitude, we can continue to turn affective ecumenism into effective ecumenism. This was the very significant action that the Bishops decided to take in 325 AD and may we continue to collectively carry out those actions in our community; remembering the crucial impact of affective ecumenism that took place 1700 years ago.

Emma Wright, County Ecumenical Officer

Churches Together/Christians Together Groups

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District

CTRD had a lovely time celebrating Pentecost with food, art and crafts, games and a birthday cake to celebrate the birth of the Church on Pentecost. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to

come together in fellowship to worship and celebrate!



Photo credit: Phil Price

Street Pastors

Are you passionate about the wellbeing of others? Are you looking for a way to get more

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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

Barnfest



“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

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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."

Vennture



Vennture has a temporary accommodation facility at the former Merton Hotel in Hereford where we are currently providing housing and a safe space for those experiencing the effects of temporary homelessness – many with children. This means we need to provide warden cover and support 24/7.

We are needing more wardens to join the team to ensure our guests are safeguarded and the building is respected and looked after. There may be some responsibility for managing bookings and room allocations whilst on duty, along with general upkeep and health and safety duties as they arise.

We are particularly looking for someone who can work 16 hours a week over 2 shifts which are 5pm to 1am or 1am to 9am. There is an extra unsocial hours' payment for hours worked between 9pm and 9am.

The advert and full description are available to see on Vennture's website, and any enquiries can be directed to Esther.Downs-Cooke@vennture.org.uk

<https://www.vennture.org.uk/jobs/wardens-temporary-accommodation-facility/>

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:](#)

https://dsi34kj98os.typeform.com/to/wAiFUEXs?mc_cid=ce4c8e2f8f&mc_eid=c3ecd2444b

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:](#)

https://dsi34kj98os.typeform.com/to/kQZvJSuJ?mc_cid=ce4c8e2f8f&mc_eid=c3ecd2444b



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](https://www.throughtheroof.org) 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 Technicolor 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:

Future dates:

- 7th September 2025

Journey of the Magi



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.



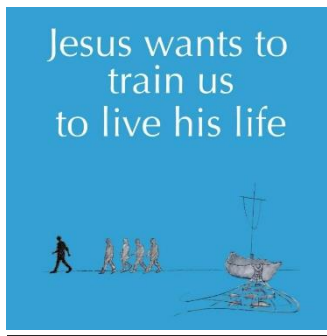
Bishop's Teaching Day

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

Resources

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One thing to read ...

Is it possible that we may have missed a key purpose of the gospels? This book, **Jesus Wants to Train Us to Live His Life**, may dramatically affect how you read and respond to the story of Jesus. Using 57 questions and answers, this study book explores how the gospels and Acts are more than biographies. As well as calling readers to trust in Jesus Christ, the gospels include instruction and practices for us to imitate - to a level you may not have realised before. In the book, Rev'd Andrew Attwood from Coventry Diocese argues that Jesus and the early church modelled a life and mission to be adopted as the radical norm, and recorded it in the gospels.

The author introduces the gospels from an historical perspective, then focuses on how Jesus related to God. This model relationship was then demonstrated by his Spirit-led, disciple-making mission - a way of life to imitate. The author proposes that these reliable eye-witness stories were carefully structured by the authors as manuals for future followers.

You can see [a video Q&A with Rev'd Andrew on Youtube](#). Amazon [has the book here](#) in paperback and Kindle editions.



College Community and Spirituality Coordinator (Chaplain)

Term time, 12 hours per week

Salary: £9,865 (£36,283 Full Time Equivalent)

(SFCA support staff point 20)

The College is seeking to appoint a College Community and Spirituality Coordinator (Chaplain) from September 2025.

This role extends the well-established role of College Chaplain, who is an integral member of the Well-Being Team but can act as a confidential support 'outside' the system when appropriate.

The ideal candidate will have a passion for building the student and staff community by becoming involved in general College life (e.g. in involvement in extra-curricular activities or in arranging events for staff). An understanding of post-16 education and an appreciation of the interests and concerns of 16-19 year old students is essential.

Notwithstanding the list of key roles, the College is keen to attract applications from people who feel a vocation to this aspect of ministry.

Any lack of particular expertise or experience in one particular aspect of the role will not preclude you from consideration.

If you wish to have an informal discussion regarding this role, please contact John Pratt

(Director of Safeguarding and Inclusion) on
01432 355166.

Closing date: 9am, Monday 14th July 2025