



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 January 2026**. [Here is the online link for the newsletter](#): Thank you!

Reflection from Rev Phil Warrey, Methodist Representative

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an annual, worldwide Christian observance held 18–25 January, inviting churches of many traditions to pray together for the unity of the Church.

Its roots go back to the early 20th century, a time when Christians were becoming increasingly aware of the divisions between churches and the need for reconciliation. In 1908, the Octave for Christian Unity was launched by Paul Wattson, an Anglican priest who later became Roman Catholic. The eight days symbolised a sustained period of prayer for unity.

The movement gained wider ecumenical support after World War I, as churches recognised that division weakened their witness in a fractured world. In 1935, French pastor Paul Couturier helped reshape the focus, encouraging prayer “for the unity Christ wills, by the means Christ wills,” allowing Christians from different traditions to pray together without compromising conscience.

A significant milestone came in 1966, when the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church began preparing the annual prayer materials together. Since then, these resources have often been written by an ecumenical group from a particular country or region, offering a global and contextual voice.

Today, the Week of Prayer is marked in over 100 countries, bringing together Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, and Pentecostal Christians. It reminds the Church that unity is not uniformity, but a shared commitment to prayer, reconciliation, and common witness to Christ.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place in 2026 from 18 to 25 January — the traditional eight-day period between the feast of St Peter and the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Christians around the world — Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox and others — are invited to pray together for visible unity in the Body of Christ.

This year’s theme

The theme for 2026 is taken from Ephesians 4:4:

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.”

[Churches Together in England](#)

This passage from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reminds us that, despite the many traditions, cultures and expressions of Christian faith, all believers are part of the one Body of Christ and share a common hope through the Holy Spirit. The theme calls the Church to reflect on what it means to live out that unity in humility, patience, love and shared mission.

Who prepared the materials

The prayers and reflections for WPCU 2026 were prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, together with sisters and brothers from the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. These draw on centuries-old traditions of prayer and worship in Armenia — the first nation to adopt Christianity as its state religion — and invite Christians

worldwide to engage deeply with the theme of unity rooted in shared heritage and hope.

See the pamphlet here - [WPCU-2026-English-Pamphlet.pdf](#)

Churches Together/ Christian Together groups

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold and District

Monday 2 February 7:30 Baptist Church Hall

Following a short business meeting, we shall be continuing our practice of learning more at each meeting about a specific church / community group. This time representatives of the local environmental group, For People and Planet, will be telling us about their activities. Learn about recycling, litter picking and campaigning. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Events

Noon: 12pm, Monday 19th Larruperz CLCR, Wednesday 21st St Frances, Friday 23rd RBC. Saturday 24th TCC

Evening: Tuesday 20th 6pm St Mary's; Thursday 22nd 7.30pm TCC.

There will be an afternoon tea and short service on Sunday 18th at The Venue, starting at 3pm

Churches Together in Hereford

On Wednesday 21 January, CTH will host a lunchtime service at Challenge Church. On Thursday 22nd January, the Friends meeting House will host a lunchtime event. Friday 23rd January, All Saints will host a lunchtime service at All Saints. St John's Methodist will host an early evening service on Sunday 25 January.

CTiH Open Meeting Video

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 2026

If you would like to watch the CTiH Open meeting, click the link [here](#) or you can find it on the CTiH website under 'AGMs and Open Meetings.'

Spiritual Question Times

A series of evening events held locally with Bishop Richard, providing an opportunity to ask questions about faith and explore a Christian perspective on contemporary issues. (some venues tbc)

[Tuesday, 13th January, 2026](#), Marton Village Hall, Shropshire

As part of our Year of Celebration 2026, celebrating 1350 years of Hereford Diocese, join us for an enlightening evening of deep conversations and soul-searching at our next **Spiritual Question Time**. We'll explore life's big mysteries and discuss various spiritual topics. [Register here on Eventbrite](#).

[Monday, 16th February, 2026](#)

[Monday, 20th April, 2026](#)

[Tuesday, 12th May, 2026](#), Hereford Cathedral

[Wednesday, 15th July, 2026](#)

[Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026](#)

[Tuesday, 10th November, 2026](#)

Rural Mission and Ministry with the Arthur Rank Centre



"Our new Rural & Wild Course explores what it means to be church beyond the walls — discovering God together in churchyards, hills, fields, forests, and the wider countryside."

Over one immersive weekend, participants will experience a blend of outdoor worship, reflective pilgrimage, and creative sessions on developing pioneering, community engagement, and nature-based spirituality. The course offers time to breathe, reflect, and be renewed in both calling and creativity.

Sessions will include:

Pioneering in rural places — with input from local practitioners

Outdoor and 'muddy' Church

Pilgrimage and prayer in the landscape

Worship with a local Outdoor Church on Sunday morning"

Click on the link below to register:

<https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/ruralandwild>

Turn the Battle, three days of prayer and fasting taking place from 21–23 January 2026.



Scan the QR code to find out more!