



**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN
HEREFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2026**

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 **28 February**.

Here is the online link for the newsletter:
<https://ctih.org/newsletter/>

**Devotional from Steve Sully, Free
Churches representative**

I hope you were able to attend one of the many Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) gatherings held recently. It was so good to see Christians coming together, throwing off our denomination labels, and praying together as One Church.

It was also good to hear about the rich history of the Armenian Church and share in some of the liturgy and prayers they passed to us.

To paraphrase an oft seen bumper sticker praying for unity is for life, not just for 7 days! Psalm 133 says “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.” **We join as One Church again on 15th February at a City Praise gathering in the Cathedral at 7pm.**

The day will come when we worship in perfect unity, standing before the throne of God crying “Worthy are you, our Lord

and God, to receive glory and honour and power”. Now there’s something to look forward too!

**Churches/Christian Together groups’
news and events**

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold

Monday 2 February, 7:30 at 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 Weobley

In preparation for Easter, Fr. Simon will run a Lent Course from Monday 23rd February to Monday 23rd March at 2:30 pm in St Thomas’ Parish Room.

Churches Together in Hereford

Over the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ecumenical events were held in 5 Hereford churches, reaching around 80 individuals from around 17 different home churches! The CTH AGM will be held on Zoom (date and time tbc.)

Churches Together in Leominster



Lent lunches

- 20 February at the Forbury (run by Priory)
- 27 February at the St Ethelbert's Room

Lent study group

- 25 February, led by Mike Scarlett to be held at the St Ethelbert Parish room

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District



St Mary's Parish Church Ross-on-Wye



Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday

**February 18th at 7.00pm
All welcome**

Spiritual Questions



Monday 16th February 2026, 7pm-8:30pm at the Crown and Anchor Pub, Lugwardine.

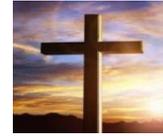
As part of our Year of Celebration 2026, celebrating 1350 years of Hereford Diocese, join us for an enlightening evening of deep conversations and soul-searching at our next Spiritual Question Time. We'll explore life's big mysteries and discuss various spiritual topics. Register here on [Eventbrite](#)

Church conversations restart



The Church of England/United Reformed Church link group, which will collaborate on themes and issues of mutual priority, is being restarted following a six-year pause. The core group met in Birmingham to plan the next stages. Pictured: (middle) co-Chairs Bishop Anne Hollinghurst (CofE) and Steve Faber (URC); with co-Secretaries Tim Norwood and Lindsey Brown.

Ross Baptist Church



“Ian and Karen Purcell are currently visiting Maddy, who is working for Tamar in Pattaya, Thailand.

Tamar's vision is to help women who are trapped in the sex industry in Pattaya, Thailand. They are reaching out to the women, building relationships with them, offering vocational training, counselling and providing biblical teaching and help. As part of the vocational training, the women are getting trained in producing different handicrafts, making cards and jewellery, and some of them also learn sewing.

Ian and Karen have offered to bring back items made by the girls and sold in the Tamar shop. This would support Tamar's work and encourage the girls.

Click [HERE](#) to view a rudimentary brochure which I have created; copies are available on the landing table.

Please email admin@rossbaptist.org if you would like to place an order or complete an order form, which is on the landing table, and give it to a member of the welcome team, Steph, or the Church Office.

Maddy has asked that orders be placed as soon as possible so that the ladies have time to make the items.

Payment is required when you receive your item(s).”

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.

WPCU in Hereford



It was great to worship with churches from Hereford and was great to see many churches participate! A fuller reflection on both WPCU events will be shared in our next newsletter.

WPCU in Ledbury

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at St Michael's Church with Rev Joan Wakeling speaking on the importance of unity. It was wonderful to see everyone light a candle and come together to worship the Lord! A fuller reflection on both WPCU events will be shared in our next newsletter.





* On the day, we will be filming the presentations and vox pops from delegates, to add more material to the course content. There's an opportunity for you to share your experiences and perspectives - equally there is no pressure to do so. It's your choice, and we won't film you without your permission. The course will then become fully available online from Spring 2026.

To Book: complete the accompanying booking form and return to:
Lynne Hayes-James (bursar@saltleytrust.org.uk) by 6th March.

Organised by:



If you would like to view the PDF in full please go to: <https://ctih.org/latest-events-and-news/>

Venture



Giving young people a start in life

Too many young people, particularly care-experienced young people, grow up in family courts before graduating from the Magistrates' Court to the Crown Court. Too often, the coroner ends up recording their needlessly short lives: alone, homeless, left to be exploited, with no purpose or place and no one "to love them better". Together, we can and must change this.

The plan is simple: use £7 million of social investment to develop affordable homes embedded in caring family communities, linked with employment. That means young people leaving care can enjoy safe homes in resilient communities, helping them find fulfilment and plan a stable future with families of their own.

FE and HE Chaplaincy



FE and HE Chaplaincy

Advance Preview of new Training Course and Networking Day

Tuesday 24 March 2026, 10am-2pm
Birmingham Metropolitan College, Matthew Boulton Campus
Jennens Road, Birmingham B4 7PS

A brand-new introductory FE and HE chaplaincy training course launches in Spring 2026. Join us on 24 March for an advance preview!

- Sample the course material and find out how to join the course
- Presentations by course authors Nigel Roberts and Dr Sarah Holmes, and by FE chaplain Maggie Everett
- Option to share your chaplaincy experience to enhance course content*
- FE Chaplaincy networking event included
- Nigel Roberts' course text *The Good Chaplain* available to buy for £5 on the day (50% discount) for those attending in person
- Cost: £10 per head, inc. lunch (but please get in touch if cost is a barrier)



Venture is shovel-ready. Can you join us? Please pray for care leavers in Herefordshire and talk to us about how we are working across churches, businesses, the community, and the public sector to make this vision a reality.

Lifewords

LIFEWORDS

Lifewords are a charity that provide biblical resources, in print, online and in-person. Their new resource Lifebringers is a way of collaborating, resourcing, and sharing the Bible through real lives, real contexts, and a shared hope. If you would like to find out more about stocking these resources for your church, please contact herefordshireceo@gmail.com. You can take a look at the resources at <https://www.lifewords.global/>.

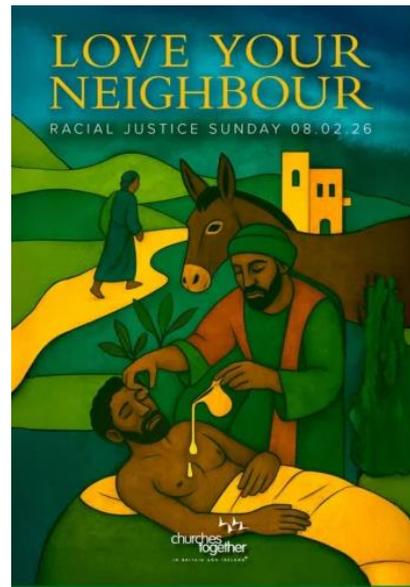
Grandparenting for Faith course

**Grandparenting
for Faith**

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

First-time Christian grandparents can join us for an online six-week course on Friday lunchtimes from 13th February. Bookings [here](#).

Racial Justice Sunday



“Love Your Neighbour

In these resources we explore what it really means to love our neighbour, especially given the current narratives of hostility, fear, suspicion and hatred of the ‘other’, particularly asylum seekers, refugees and anyone who is not British or Irish ‘enough’.

We discuss how the Bible provides a blueprint for a world where everyone belongs; where everyone is loved, valued and affirmed for who they are, and not what they look like or have to offer. And one in which our identity is ultimately to be found in Christ, as brothers and sisters of one ‘race’: the human race.



I believe that this message is ‘for such a time as this’ (Esther 4:14). It is one that speaks through the ‘flags’, banners, protests and invective, relaying a message of unity and hope. Just as the greatest commandment speaks about loving God and one another, Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross offers us all the hope of being united with God and with one another.

Let us use Racial Justice Sunday (and other Sundays) to stand together in love, rejecting those words, actions and behaviours that go against Christ’s teachings, and embracing those biblical principles that foment unity, cohesion and engagement.”

Richard Reddie, Director of Justice and Inclusion, CTBI



FIRST FRIDAY

JOIN US IN HEREFORD

Food | Live Music | Community

What is First Friday?
It is a relaxed monthly gathering built for anyone who wants to be around people, eat together, enjoy live music, and feel part of something warm and welcoming

What Happens on the Night?
Food served from 19:00
Time to sit, chat, or just be
Live acoustic music by music missionary
ROB WESTALL from 20:00
A relaxed, informal atmosphere

Where is it? Is there Parking?
Venue: Tomkins Theatre
148 Whitecross Road
Hereford, HR4 0DH
Parking: Available at Holy Trinity Church, Whitecross Road

Where can I find out more?
Visit us at:
<https://www.firstfridaygathering.com/>
Or WhatsApp: 07799 650453

Watch this space for further dates. 19:00 to 21:30

Friday 6th Feb 2026
Friday 13th March 2026
Friday 3rd April 2026
Friday 1st May 2026
Friday 5th June 2026

First Fridays