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 Friday 19 June**. Thank you! Here is the online version here: https://ctih.org/newsletter/

Reflection from Steve Sully, Free Churches Representative for CTiH on 'Prince of Peace

In the beginning of time, through the creation of this world, God tamed the darkness and chaos and brought peace and order. All of creation lived in peace and unity with one another and with God. But peace in the garden was disrupted when creation was corrupted by sin. The peace between God and His creation was replaced with conflict and fear. God saw our sin-filled world and longed to restore it with his peace and love. To have peace within ourselves. So, God sent Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) to restore our relationship with Him.

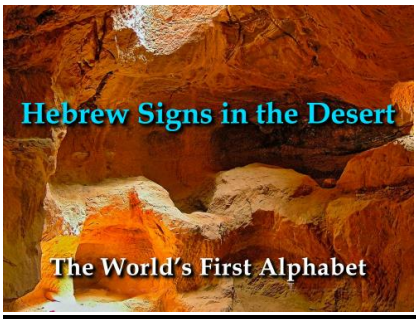
When we think of the word "peace", we think of the lack of conflict or hostility, or we picture someone being free from any anxiety. However, the Biblical concept of peace is much fuller than that. The Hebrew word for peace, šhālôm, means a sense of totality or completeness, wholeness and harmony. In John 14:27 we read of this promise from the Prince of Peace himself "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The peace Jesus brings is one that is beyond comprehension. It is a peace that comes from knowing that God has everything well in hand, even when it doesn't look like it. It is knowing that in the middle of the storm you have something beyond what is visible to anchor you. It is knowing that you are part of an unshakable Kingdom.

Churches Together/Christians Together groups

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold
Taizé Prayer at Dore Abbey
A time for prayer, silence and chants in the special atmosphere of Dore Abbey on Sunday 14 June at 18:30. All are welcome, come and experience the presence of God in in this contemplative setting!

Biblical History Group



"The next lecture will be held in the Chapterhouse Conference Room at 2pm on Saturday 13 June (tea/coffee & biscuits from 1:30.) The subject is Hebrew Signs in the Desert presenting new evidence for the Israelite presence in Sinai. It takes the form of inscriptions carved into the rocks that relate directly to the biblical narrative of the Exodus journey … including some which might actually have been in the hand of Moses himself. These inscriptions are claimed to be the earliest alphabet in human history … and they turn out to be written in the most ancient form of Biblical Hebrew. Time to learn how to read Proto-Sinaitic!" Whether you want to find out more or it's your first time coming along, all are welcome!

"**St Martin's Foodshare relaunches as South Wye Foodshare with diocese, cathedral and ecumenical support**

St Martin's Foodshare, which was established in 2020, began as a small operation distributing surplus food to those who needed it. Over the last six years it has grown to become a thriving project run by around thirty volunteers, serving 5-600 people in south Hereford every week. The project obtains surplus food from local supermarkets, the national charity FairShare and other sources which is then shared with the local community.

The project had originally operated from St Martin's Church but a change in circumstances during October 2025 meant that Foodshare had to find a new home. Supported by the Diocese of Hereford and Hereford Cathedral, plans were established to ensure the long-term sustainability of this vital community project. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church and Belmont Community Centre are now both distribution points and Hereford Cathedral will be overseeing the operations of the project, to enable the volunteers to focus on what they do best. The cathedral's Kirsty Price and Tom Milton from the diocese, pictured above, are both supporting the project.

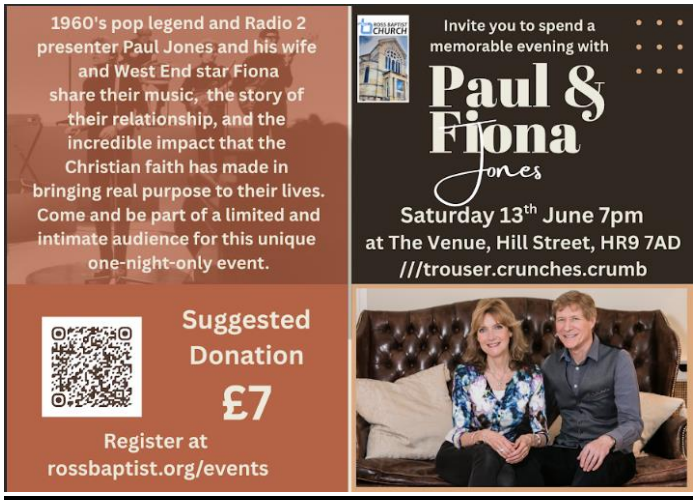
Distribution timings:

- Mondays 11:30am @ Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church
- Fridays 12pm @ Belmont Community Centre
- Everyday from 10pm @ Pomona Place

Hereford Cathedral is the umbrella charity (Registered Charity Number 1205397) under which South Wye Foodshare is taking place.

Read the full story on the cathedral website and on the BBC."

An Evening with Paul and Fiona Jones



- "Paul Jones, lead singer and harmonica with Manfred Mann, actor (from fringe to West End and Broadway), and broadcaster (BBC Radio 2, Jazz FM, TV). Currently touring again with The Manfreds.
- Fiona Hendley Jones, former actress and singer (West End theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal National Theatre, TV series "Widows", etc.), is now a Christian speaker at church meetings and conferences.

Hear how faith in God has changed their lives – An inspiring, humorous, and powerful story of their journey to finding God. From atheism in the Sixties, from fear and deception to the joy of unconditional love.

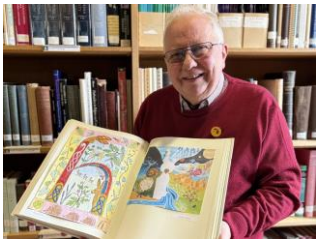
Paul and Fiona will share their story in word and song.

Tickets will be available soon from our website https://www.rossbaptist.org/ or the church office."

First Fridays

Are you looking for an event that combines live music and fellowship? The next First Fridays will take place on 5 June at Tomkins Theatre from 7pm to 9:30pm! All are welcome!

"**The 'Hereford Gospels for Today' to tour diocese**



An inspiring collection of community responses to The Hereford Gospels, one of Hereford Cathedral's greatest treasures, will go on tour around the diocese this summer.

The initiative of Bishop David Thomson, pictured, the project features over 60 artist submissions in response to The Hereford Gospels, a fascinating manuscript which was created around 800AD.

Bishop David, who has led the project, said, "I am absolutely thrilled at the way in which the oldest treasure of our diocese has inspired so many of our people today, over 1200 years later."

The Hereford Gospels for Today [were] dedicated on Pentecost Sunday….The book will travel to Leominster Priory 27 May - 22 June, where Bishop David will lead a service on Trinity Sunday, 31 May. It will then be displayed in St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye (27 June - 6 July), Much Wenlock Parish Church (11-19 July), Hereford Cathedral (25 July - 6 Sept) and St Laurence's Ludlow (10 - 23 September).

As part of the diocese's 1350 Year of Celebration, the Cathedral is currently displaying The Hereford Gospels in its exhibition Shaping Early Medieval Faith: The Hereford Gospels.

Read the full press release: The Hereford Gospels for Today | Hereford Cathedral

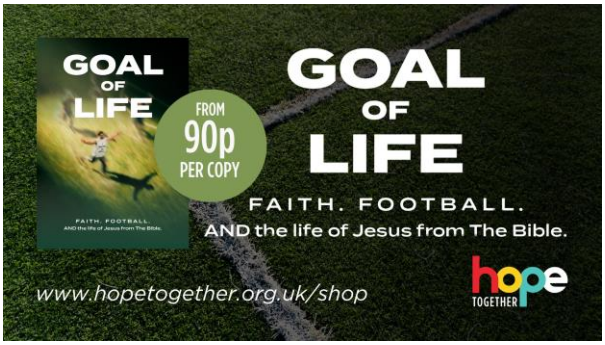
Thank you!

IT'S VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2026!
THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT SUPPORT AND ENRICH CHURCHES TOGETHER AND CHRISTIANS TOGETHER GROUPS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE OF YOU!

Kingdom Over Nation

CTE have compiled a series of resources as an ecumenical response to Christian nationalism. Have a read of these resources and tell us how you think they might impact your CT group and your church: go to Churches Together in England's website and search Kingdom Over Nation or click the link. CTiH and CTE are keen to know your thoughts. Email me at herefordshireceo@gmail.com to let me know!

Hope Together – Goal for Life



This summer, Goal of Life — a football-themed Gospel from our friends at Hope Together, helps you share the message of Jesus during one of the world's most-watched events. Go to http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/shop to find out more!

UCB Prayerline Volunteers

UCB
UNITED CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS

Do you have a heart for helping others? Do you feel God is calling you deeper into your prayer life? Are you interested in becoming a UCB Prayerline volunteer? Then click here to find out more: UCB Prayerline Volunteering

Message from Hereford Homeless Forum

HHF are seeking locations to host two remaining emergency accommodation pods, preferably in church car parks. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Bob Barnett at Robert.Barnett@herefordshire.gov.uk

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Barnfest

This is a Christian conference that takes place on a farm in a barn in Newent! There are speakers, children and youth work and you can also camp overnight! For more information go to Barnfest.uk.

St Mary's Church, Kington

"Our new monthly Wild Church takes places on the second Sunday in the Vicarage Garden, which is led by Tim Gluyas, a Forest School teacher. This month we fed some lambs, explored the idea of shepherding and pathfinding, built dens and, of course, toasted marshmallows."

Through the Roof

'One Body, Many Parts': Independence or Interdependence?
Disability Awareness Sunday 2026

'One Body, Many Parts' (1 Corinthians 12) is the theme of this year's Disability Awareness Sunday on 27 September 2026. Young autistic Christian author, Triona Brading, is encouraging all churches to 'save the date'!

Triona is one of the authors of a new book: 'Belonging without Barriers', a much-needed resource on disability inclusion as a gospel issue, due out on 20 March 2026. Also, by Triona Brading is 'In His Image', a colourful children's book on what it means to be neurodivergent.

For Disability Awareness Sunday, Triona is teaming up with charity Through the Roof on a new free resource for churches, due out in April, exploring how all types of people are needed in

God's Church – including those who are disabled or neurodivergent.

To read on go to: CTiH latest news and events

Care for the Family

Connect your church with local schools

Wednesday 3 June 2026

7.30pm–9.15pm

Zoom

This session will offer insight and practical and helpful resources to support your church in engaging effectively with local primary and/or secondary schools.

Register for your free place here

"Messy Momentum helping older children to stay in Leominster's Messy Church

Messy Church, beloved by many of our churches, has always been intergenerational – meaning from babies and toddlers all the way up to some of our oldest parishioners. But after Year 6 of primary school, there is a perception that children may 'age out'. Ed Ceney, Youth Pioneer at our nationally funded Youth Hub project in Leominster, is one of several youth leaders in the diocese piloting a new scheme called Messy Momentum, which finds ways to re-engage some of these older children in Messy Church.

He explains, "Messy Momentum says to these children and young teens, "you're still welcome here". It encourages young people who have been attached to a Messy Church to continue in their faith life, in their faith development, their growth as young disciples, and remain part of their Messy Church."

Ed continues, "Messy Momentum offers a few different schemes. The one we're trying in the diocese is 'Gather'. Gather is a tried and tested youth work technique of bringing a number of youth groups together in one place. In Leominster we have young people from Leominster Messy Church as well as young people from other churches including a Methodist chapel."

Read the full story on our website here. For more information about Messy Momentum/Gather, please contact Ed Ceney or Kathy Bland, our Intergenerational Church Enabler.

New resource from WMRJI

WMRJI have just released a new resource, "Creativity for Belonging: 10 Parish Actions for Racial Justice".

The ideas are designed as practical, encouraging starting points that any parish can use at any time of year, in any context, across all six dioceses. Some parishes will feel confident

about what to try next, and others will appreciate a simple “launch pad” that helps them translate commitment into action. Several ideas work well with a WMRJI microgrant, and many can be done with little or no cost. To find out more, please go to WM Racial Justice initiative.”

Single Friendly Church event

Do you want to welcome more single people into your church? Join Single Friendly Church's free online event on 2 June at 11am to get practical tips for including single people in five areas of church life. Sign up here.