CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HEREFORDSHIRE

September 2026 newsletter

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 **Monday 20 September**. Thank you! Here is the online version here: https://ctih.org/newsletter/

Reflection on Voyage of Our Lady of the Waters and Wye – Call For Action

In August, Herefordshire churches supported a river pilgrimage to raise awareness and call for action to stop the pollution of the River Wye. A 4ft wooden sculpture of Our Lady of the Waters and the Wye was mounted on two canoes made into a canoe-catamaran and floated downstream from Hay to Hoarwithy (with help from two canoeists!).

The pilgrimage was the brainchild of Fr Richard Williams of the Anglican church of St Mary's in Hay on Wye and sculptor Philip Chatfield who has carved beautiful stone sculptures for Tintern Abbey and locally St Mary's, Monmouth. You may have seen coverage of the first pilgrimage in the national press and on television!

This year the pilgrimage started with a service at St Mary's Hay, followed by a procession through town to a launch point near Hay on Wye on 15 August. Over the next five days the pilgrimage included stops for Evensong at St Peter & Paul, Whitney-on-Wye and Evensong at St Michael & All Angels, Moccas with Gregorian Chant from the monks of Belmont Abbey as well as Evensong at Hereford Cathedral.

On 16 August the pilgrims made a diversion by car and brought the sculpture to the Catholic Church of St Thomas's, Weobley, for a service of Vespers followed by tea and cake. All denominations were invited to join in this service through Churches Together in Weobley.

The pilgrimage finished with Evensong at St Catherine's Hoarwithy before continuing to Scotland to take Our Lady down the River Spey.

Jane Keating, Churches Together in Weobley

Churches/Christians Together groups

Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye and District

"We are excited that The Filling Station is launching in Ross on Wye! There's an open invitation to our launch event on 24 September- come along and enjoy worship, community some great teaching along with tea & cake. See you there!"

Christians Together in Bromyard

All youth are welcome to Bedrock Youth Night below!

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Swingin' Samson

Swingin' Samson - Last year we had a 'come and sing, come and play' event at The Conquest Theatre – anyone could come and sing, or play in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The event was spearheaded by Greater Whitbourne Churches, using a grant that they had applied for. This expanded to include all churches in the Bromyard Deanery - those in Bromyard, Frome Valley, Bredenbury and Greater Whitbourne.

This year the format is slightly different - the first half is a Showcase of Variety – music, dance, drama items from different people and different groups – the second half is a performance of 'Swingin' Samson' which anyone and everyone can join in for. To find out more, go to https://ctih.org/latest-events-and-news/

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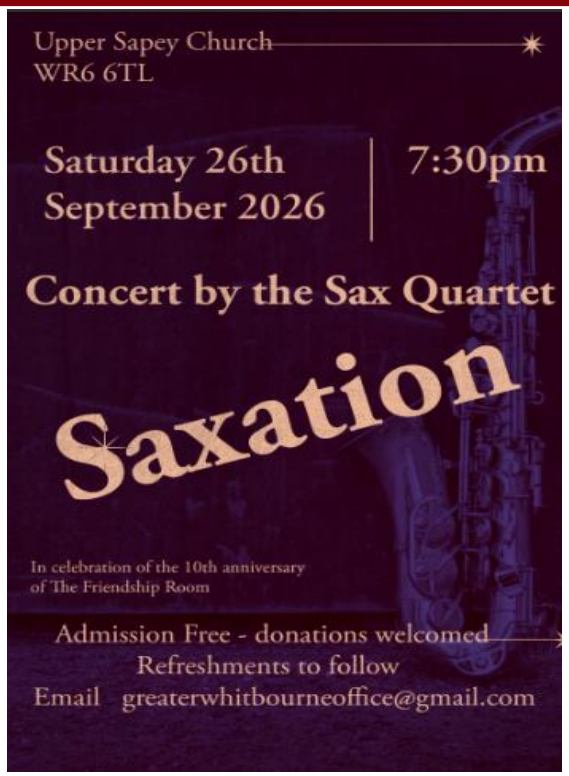

Christians Together in Ewyas Harold and District

Taizé prayers

Do you want space and time for quiet reflection? Then a short ecumenical service of Taizé chants, prayers, reading & silence may be for you! All in the beautiful atmosphere of Dore Abbey on Sunday 13 September at 6:30pm. Don't miss out!

Vennture's 24 hour run against homelessness

This year, Vennture is organising a 24 hour run for homelessness from 19-20 September! This is in support of Vennture and its work with the homeless community to raise awareness and funds for local homelessness support. This will be taking place at Vennture to raise £7,500. Please consider how your church could support this fundraising initiative! Please find out more at https://www.the24hourrun.co.uk/events/hereford

Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon!

LoveRural - National Rural Mission Conference

Monday 19 – Tuesday 20 October, 2026
Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire

"LoveRural offers space to listen well, share stories, and be encouraged alongside others who understand the joys and pressures of rural life.

Full details, including the programme and booking information, can be found on the ARC LoveRural Conference website page.

We warmly encourage you to take a look and consider whether this gathering might be right for you or others in your context."

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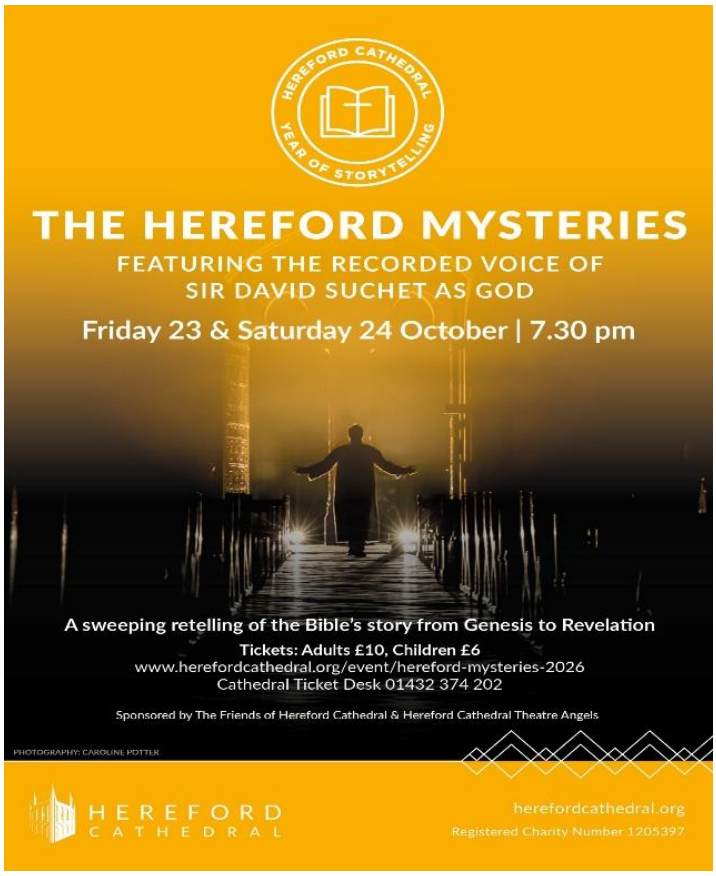
The Hereford Mysteries



This is the final production as part of Hereford Cathedral's Year of Storytelling and features the recorded voice of Sir David Suchet CBE as God!

The production is a sweeping retelling of the Bible's story from Genesis to Revelation, from creation to new creation.

To find out more go to: The Hereford Mysteries at Hereford Cathedral

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

Statement from Churches Together England on the tragic accident at the Big Church Festival

Churches Together in England is deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pastor Robert Guanco from Jesus Living Water Church Eastbourne and others who were injured when a sign fell on them at the Big Church Festival.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to the family of the pastor, his congregation and all who knew and loved him, to the other people injured and to many others traumatised by this accident.

So many CTE Member Churches and charities are represented at Big Church Festival. May the Lord comfort all who attended Big Church Festival which has fostered church unity over many years. May the Lord give strength and grace to those involved with organising BCF, who are now responding to this tragedy.

We stand with the whole church in our nation in collective grief.

And to those who are naturally asking why? There are no easy answers, but we pray that the Lord grant the peace of God that passes all understanding to keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus at this difficult time.

Churches Together in England

URC calls for reflection following public scrutiny and death of Jason Arday

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On behalf of the URC, Karen Campbell, Head of Global & Intercultural Church, and Neil Thorogood, General Assembly Moderator, called for reflection following the death of Professor Jason Arday who was found unresponsive at an address in London on 14 August. The academic had faced intense public scrutiny amid allegations of plagiarism concerning his academic work. Karen and Neil spoke on *Premier Christian Radio* about **the URC's response to Jason's tragic death** and drew upon John 8:7. A recap of the interview on *Premier Christian News* included a powerful prayer written by the Revd Andy Braunston, Minister for Digital Worship. **Read highlights of the interview**.

The WCCM (World Community for Christian Meditation) in Herefordshire and Shropshire.

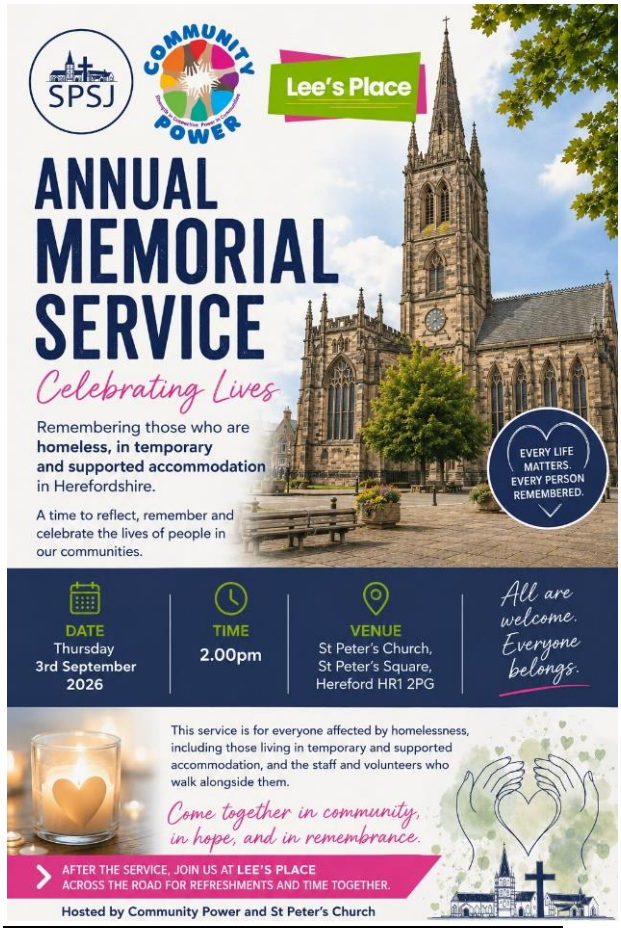
WCCM
IN THE UK

WCCM are planning an Autumn Retreat for Young Adults (18-45 years approx..) at Belmont Abbey in October (Wednesday 28 – Friday 30.) Join us for a contemplative retreat at the beautiful Belmont Abbey, a place of prayer, hospitality and quiet reflection.

"This retreat offers an opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life, explore Christian meditation, and deepen your contemplative practice alongside other young adults."

Don't miss out! Pass this along to anyone who may find this of interest: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/wccmintheuk/2328259

Annual Memorial Service



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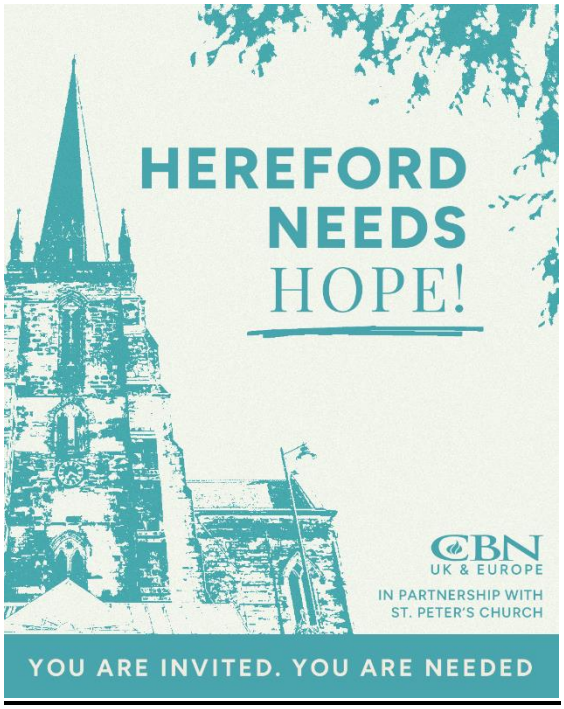
CBN Outreach in partnership with St Peters Church



EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY!

If you would like to be a part of an upcoming outreach opportunity, then we would love to hear from you!

CBN UK are partnering with St Peters Church to establish a weekly drop-in space in the centre of our city to represent Jesus and connect with lost and lonely people in our community.

If you would like to know more please reach out directly to CBN's Community Outreach Lead – Sarah Fletcher for further info at:

Sarah.fletcher@cbn.uk

Application form below:

https://f.mtr.cool/0ureviq7z5

DAVID

One of the Bible's most famous stories is coming to the big screen!

DAVID arrived in UK & Ireland cinemas on 21 August, bringing the remarkable journey of the young shepherd who becomes king to life in a breathtaking new animated feature.

If you're looking to encourage your church or community to see the film, KOVA has also created a range of free resources, including the official trailer, PowerPoint slides, colouring sheets, discussion guides and free church bookmarks.

Find out more and access the free resources here.

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'!

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To read on and find how Triona is involved go to: CTiH latest news and events

Email us to let us know how you will mark Disability Awareness Sunday at herefordshireceo@gmail.com

Single Friendly Church

Join a Single Friendly Church Week Q&A

If you're interested in taking part, have questions or would like to talk through ideas for your church, our Church Engagement Officer Liz, would love to meet you at one of her online SFC Week Q&A sessions:

Wed 16 Sept at 12pm - Register

Local Discipleship Action Learning Cohort - recruiting now for early 2027 start

Are you a local church seeking to deepen the culture of on-going discipleship and spiritual growth in your congregation(s)? Are you wondering how you can go about practically doing this in a way that works for your congregation and context? Do you want to try some ideas out/reflect upon it with a group of like-minded other church leaders and with input and support to learn from your experiences?

For more information see: https://www.saltleytrust.org.uk/local-discipleship-action-learning-cohort-recruiting-now-for-early-2027-start/

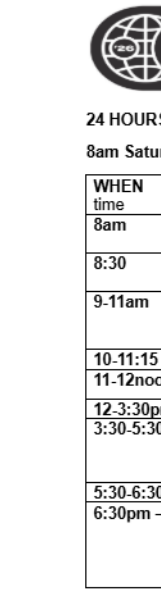
Life Link Chaplain – The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and St Paul's Hereford

This post would suit someone with an infectious Christian faith, enthusiasm and energy.

The chaplain will enjoy working with young people in school, church and home/community settings and have a pioneering mindset – able to build relationships and collaborations, see and take creative opportunities, and encourage and enable others to work and grow alongside them. To see the job description and the application form, please go to Hereford Diocese website.

24/7 Prayer: 12-13 September 2026

Sign up for the Global Week of 24/7 prayer from 12-13 September! We need as many people praying as possible across all denominations. Sign up here!



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Join in with 24/7 prayer, come together in fellowship as the body of Christ: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzHPXJ9vJhU&t=4s

Single Friendly Church Week

27 September – 4 October 2026

We are inviting everyone – from church leadership to people in the pews – to join our 8-day campaign **Single Friendly Church Week!**

For one week, churches, leaders, and individuals across the UK are coming together to say clearly: single people at every stage of life are welcomed, valued, and included here. Whether you're never married, divorced, widowed, or a single parent, you belong at the heart of this community, and not on its edges.

This is your invitation to be part of the movement. Hosting an event during Single Friendly Church Week doesn't have to be complicated, it just has to be intentional. Together, we can inspire a culture shift that helps every person in your congregation truly flourish.

Start the journey here

Belonging Conference - 26 September 2026

"We're kicking off Single Friendly Church Week with your invitation to our conference ***'Belonging: Every single person: loved, welcomed and valued'.***

When: Saturday 26 September, 10am - 4pm

Where: St Ethelburga's Centre, 78 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AG

We've designed the day to be a single friendly experience, with a variety of ways to engage and participate. Full programme details to follow soon.

Register here