

Inspire!

Inspiring people, churches and schools across our diocese.



A People of Hope

If the last two months have taught us anything, it is that the people of our Diocese remain resilient in the face of crisis. We are and will always be God's people of hope.

When we originally planned this issue, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and large parts of Monmouthshire had witnessed the terrible flooding, the worst in living memory. As people began to put their lives and businesses back together, we heard rumours of a deadly disease spreading through Asia, then hitting our near neighbours in Europe.

Before March was over, life in the UK changed beyond all recognition, our places of worship closed and we are forced to worship as a Church apart but still together online.

This issue is dedicated to sharing a message of hope, highlighting that whilst life has changed the Gospel message of a risen Lord is as relevant today as it was in biblical times.

Cont. Page 2

Featuring:

Growing stories:

A 10 year celebration
The Young Leader's
Award

Looking ahead to:

Thy Kingdom Come

Plus...

Street Pastors

Rations Challenge

Funerals during
lockdown





Church Apart

During this time of lockdown, when we are not able to be at Church worshipping together or living out our faith in our community, we have found many ways to be Church, still showing Jesus' love for our friends and neighbours.

Bishop Richard Hope not Fear...

Welcome to this issue of Inspire magazine.

It has been a strange start! Ironically, I may end up meeting a lot more people via the ubiquitous zoom earlier than I would if I had been free to travel around the Diocese. Despite the restrictions, Deborah and I feel incredibly welcomed. We are both very grateful for your messages of encouragement and prayers, thank you.

It is very easy in the barrage of bad news and anxiety about the future to succumb to panic. We are a people of hope. The world will emerge from this crisis, chastened, almost certainly poorer and with an appetite to re-examine the way we live and what we value. We have a message that speaks powerfully into this search for meaning and significance. My prayer is that our time of lockdown will prepare us spiritually to find our voice to speak such words in season.

This is the sixth issue of Inspire magazine and a good time to take stock. We are asking our readers what you think. You will find a brief survey to complete online at:

surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JRH5LQV

We look forward to hearing from you.

This edition of Inspire explores the message of hope and encourages each of us to think about how we can live our lives out as an example to others through the stories of volunteering on page 4 or by continuing to pray (see page 6).

With every blessing

+Richard Jackson

In Ross Benefice, a team of helpers have assisted people to get connected using technology.

Here is Barbara, aged 90, with the help of a borrowed laptop and some technical assistance from Joanna, a member of the Ross congregation, was able to see the service and join in with Zoom Coffee.

Here is Barbara described being able to communicate in this way as 'magic' – Miracles after all come in all shapes and sizes.



Colwall Churches set up a Coronavirus dedicated care line which they've called Colwall coronavirus care. The team of 70 plus volunteers are helping local people with prescription collection, food shopping, telephone calls and supporting other requests if practical. The group is a partnership of St James Colwall, Colwall Community Church, Colwall Parish Council, Colwall Surgery and Colwall WINGS W1.

As in many villages, towns and cities across the UK, children have drawn and coloured pictures of rainbows, which have been placed in windows as a sign of hope and support for keyworkers. Churches in Condober captured the trail of rainbows across the village.



Home Safe from Hospital



Home Safe from Hospital, a service helping older people to return home safely from Hospital.

Rev Linda MacDermott, Curate of the Kington Parishes and a volunteer from Kington, Herefordshire, said:

"I think for many older people in this situation, the most precious part is a conversation with a real person. It helps them to feel they are loved and not alone.

"It is a real tonic for these times of social isolation and an opportunity for us to show our faith in action by living out the commandment, love thy neighbour."



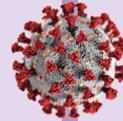
Many of our Clergy have gone out and about in their parish to deliver ministry on foot. Rana Davies-James blessed Henry and Gwyn Davies on their doorstep as they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in early April.

Timeline of events

February



Storms Ciara and Dennis hit Hereford Diocese, causing flooding.



First confirmed COVID-19 case in the UK.

March



Archbishops suspends all acts of worship and gatherings across the UK.



Bishop Richard gets installed into the Hereford Cathedral.



Lockdown Announced. All church buildings closed.

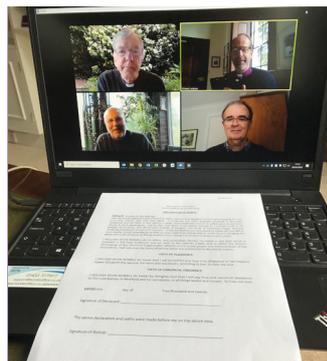
April



Hereford Diocese provides online worship.



Bishop Alistair retires.



Bishop Richard has conducted business as (un)usual licensing clergy via zoom. Congratulations to Rev Bill Rowell appointed as Rural Dean of Conover and Rev Ruth Hulse Hereford



Rations Challenge

An inspiring story about food waste and the environmental impact

Back in February St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye hosted a book launch. 'The Rations Challenge' explores the story of Claud Fullwood's Lent challenge. In 2014 she ate her way through 40 days of Lent on a diet inspired by WW2 rations.

The idea came about at a time when Claud was raising money and awareness around global hunger. She explains:

"The last time our country faced real, sustained food shortages was during the Second World War."

Looking for a way to make the experience relatable, Claud undertook the challenge and wrote a blog. The book is her journey and explores issues including imported vs local food, global food systems, and how and where food is grown - all themes linked to this year's Church of England Lent theme, Caring for God's Creation.

In the book, Claud interviews people who lived through WW2, hearing their story and learning from their wisdom and how it shaped their philosophy of 'waste not want not.' She explains:

A strong message for those of us seeking to live out our faith by caring for God's creation in practical ways. Claud adds:

"The massive climate crisis we're facing alongside the levels of hunger and foodbank use at home, points to how broken the system is globally. It is astounding how much we still waste. The number of plastic bottles we chuck out; the single use everything; the perfectly good food that goes into landfill are just some examples. We need a simpler system, something more wholesome, less consumer-based.

"I hope that by sharing my experience in this book, I will help others to think about these things and make changes they can live with."

"The one thing all these people have in common was this amazing philosophy: You work hard and you don't expect anything to be handed to you. You use what you have, don't waste and tread lightly on the earth."

If you or your Church are exploring how to make a positive impact on the environment, this book might help you develop a better understanding about how to separate out what we want from what we need.

Hereford Diocese is supporting the A.Rocha UK programme which encourages churches to look at how you look after your buildings and land

To find out more visit:

www.arochoa.org.uk

**UK
A ROCHA**
Caring for God's Earth

Need help or want to donate?



Hereford Diocese's Food Banks provide bags of food to those in urgent need and there is a network of Food Banks and Community Larders across the Diocese at Hereford. To find your nearest food bank, go to:

www.hereford.anglican.org/foodbanks/



Street Pastors

Still a lifeline

Secularism is not a threat because people no longer believe; it is a threat because people are made to think all beliefs are the same. The Covid-19 challenge is to show the difference that belief in Jesus makes in crisis.

The work of Vennture continues even though the nightclubs, pubs and restaurants are closed. Street Pastors and Cathedral sponsored Ambassadors continue to offer a practical example of the Power of Jesus Love with their daily patrols. Teams will soon be out in Hereford and the market towns 7 days a week in support of the neighbourhood policing teams.

The socially distanced, uniformed pairs are a calm reassuring presence.

'So many vulnerable and lonely people are coming out as the lock down goes on,' says Faye Roberts who is leading Vennture's Covid-19 initiative, 'It's a big issue for so many and we can be there for people in their anxiety – just like Jesus was.'

"The one thing all these people have in common was this amazing philosophy: You work hard and you don't expect anything to be handed to you. You use what you have, don't waste and tread lightly on the earth."

Patrols remind people to 'Stay home, Stay safe' then listen, care and help them safely. They take details of the vulnerable and insure they get the support that they need. 'It's an amazing opening,' continues Faye, 'I am praying for an extra 120 volunteers to help us show the difference that belief in Jesus makes.'

Discovering Ministry



DISCOVER is the Ministry Experience Scheme for the Diocese of Hereford, offering an opportunity for young people to explore their vocation in England's most rural diocese.

If you are interested, contact Revd Neil Patterson at ddvo@hereford.anglican.org or visit: www.hereford.anglican.org/discover



To learn more about Vennture and the street pastors, visit their website: www.vennture.org.uk or call 0330 2020 730

Coronavirus Updates

If you would like to keep up to date with latest changes regarding the coronavirus and our churches, please subscribe to our weekly bulletin:

bit.ly/2Wo7p0G



THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come unites Christian churches and organisations across the Diocese

In February, Hereford Diocese hosted a meeting about the Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement which saw leaders and representatives from more than twenty churches and organisations across the Diocese dream together about Pentecost 2020 with the visionary new Bishop of Hereford, Richard Jackson.

Since this meeting, the national and local team have had to radically re-think and adapt plans to take account of the restrictions imposed by lockdown in the UK and the closure of all places of worship including Churches and Cathedrals.

The objective of TKC is to invite Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. The hope is that people will commit to pray with God's worldwide family either as a church, individually or as a family. Also part of the quest is that churches will hold prayer events such as 24/7 prayer, virtual prayer stations and virtual prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world.



Herefordshire Houses of Prayer

Hereford Houses of Prayer is a movement seeking to enable and encourage prayer in this county – to join in with what God is already doing!

To learn more about them, visit their website:

www.hhop.org.uk





#PRAYERANDCARE

THY KINGDOM COME 2020

Ways to get involved with TKC 2020

'Pray For 5' - praying for 5 people to come and know the love and hope of Christ at this time? Here are some simple ideas to get started:

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/pray-five-friends

Loving Father,

in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth. Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends [here, name your friends] the life of your Son and your love for all. Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.



'Prayer and Care' – As you pray for people to come to know the love hope and peace of Christ, how could you demonstrate this practically in a responsible way during #ThyKingdomCome? Here are a few simple ideas to get started:

www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/prayer-and-care

'Resources for individuals and churches'. – A wonderful range of prayer resources is available to order/download, visit:

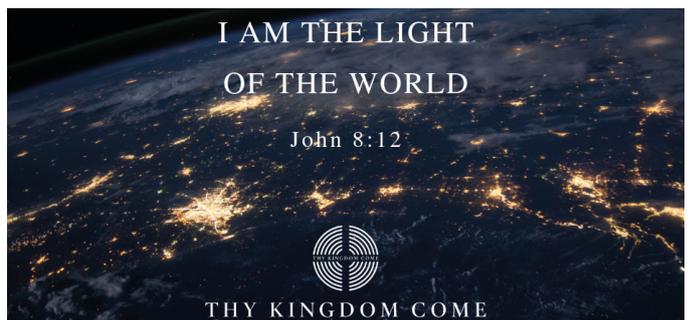
www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources

'Resources for families' – a new interactive prayer journey using augmented reality to help bring this to life is available from:

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/digital-family-prayer-adventure-map

'Light up the world in prayer' – Unite with thousands of other churches across the globe as we pray for more people to know the peace and love of Jesus this Ascension to Pentecost

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/social-media-guide-images-gifs-and-web-banners



Village church celebrates 10 years since major renovation

St. Leonard's Church in Yarpole is a flagship for our Diocese, demonstrating how Church buildings can be re-imagined and revitalised for community life in the 21st Century.

The ancient church building in Yarpole is at the very heart of the village and hides inside its walls a thriving village shop, post office and café. The interior is bright with airy colours which makes it a popular venue for art exhibitions and concerts.

Wendy Coombey, Community and Partnership Funding Officer at Hereford Diocese talked about the project:

"Yarpole has stood the test of time. It was a brave, bold and very innovative project when we began and it continues to be a beacon of hope and an example of the very best in church re-ordering and community engagement projects."

Rose Stimson, Secretary to St. Leonard's Parochial Church Council explains the background to the project:

"We faced a number of challenges – a cold and dismal church building, no focal point in our community and very little opportunity to meet our neighbours."

"We had recently lost our village shop. The Church wanted to find a solution and we reached out to the Community, who responded."

Barbara Nurse, Churchwarden at St Leonard's said:

Since the celebrations, Yarpole's village shop and

"St Leonard's is exactly how church used to be and still can be, the hub of the community. A place where people come and go for worship as well as a place to meet and trade."

post office have been nominated as regional finalists at the Countryside Alliance Awards alongside another award winning development project in our diocese, the Hub café at St Peter's near Peterchurch.



Mission and Mortar

If your parish is looking to develop your church building, the Mission and Mortar Toolkit will help guide you to the suitable resources, grants and case studies.

missionandmortar.hereford.anglican.org

Young people have the power to change the world

Across the diocese over 600 primary school pupils are learning how they can make a difference in their communities and 'be the change you want to see'.

The Young Leaders Award (YLA) is a leadership and character education programme that is run in schools using online resources from the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust (ABYYT).

Pupils explore leadership through stories of great leaders, learn about serving others and how they can bring transformation to their community. Then they go out into the community to identify the local needs and work out a way they can work towards meeting them.

'It's been a pleasure to go into schools and support the launch of the awards in the Hereford Diocese. The children have been really engaged and enthusiastic as we explored how 'small steps' can make 'big changes' and how as Young Leaders they can 'be the change' in their schools and in their local communities. I'm really looking forward to hearing more as they progress on their Young Leaders Awards.'

Sarah Guy, Regional Schools Worker, ABYYT.

About the Archbishop of York Youth Trust

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust is passionate about developing opportunities for young people to grow in leadership, faith and character, in partnership with schools, churches and communities.

Through the Young Leaders Award, the Youth Trust has empowered young people to learn and practise key leadership skills and character virtues and to transform their communities through social action.

For more information visit: www.abyyt.com



Worship for Everyone



Worship For Everyone is a Christian faith based movement resourcing churches, schools and families with excellent songs that are engaging for both children and adults.

Their new song Looking to the Rainbow is a brand-new song for schools to perform during the Covid-19 lockdown. For more info, visit their website: www.worshipforeveryone.com

Volunteers at Calais Community Kitchen for refugees

At the start of January, some of our Mission Team and Interns went to northern France for a three-day trip. Regular trips like this are organised with the aim to offer support to refugee camps across Europe. In this trip the volunteers went to the Refugee Community Kitchen in Calais where they helped prepare and cook meals to support refugees living in the area.

The trip only took place due to the work achieved by the local Herefordshire charity, People in Motion, which run several donation sessions across the Diocese where anyone can provide food, clothing or sleeping bags that then has to be sorted. A large van then takes the sorted stock to shipping containers which can be used to take the stock abroad.

Since the charity's formation in September 2015, they have delivered more than a hundred van-loads of donated aid and vital supplies valued at a couple of hundred thousand pounds.



UPDATE: Life in Calais since Lockdown

Since the Hereford team visited Calais, countries all over the world have imposed restrictions on travel, work and social interaction designed to protect our communities from the spread of Covid-19. This has had a huge impact on the work of volunteers and charities in refugee centres, including the one in Calais.

Whilst we've seen and read in the media about the miraculous levels of help for the most vulnerable in our society at home there has been little news from elsewhere.

It has become virtually impossible to volunteer further afield, which includes providing support to refugees in northern Europe, leaving vulnerable refugees stuck in limbo and completely isolated from any support including basic health, food and water supplies. The travel restrictions mean that the stories of life in the camps are going untold and have virtually disappeared from the media, often resulting in oppressive treatment of this group to go



unchallenged.

In Calais a small group of local volunteers have started providing culturally appropriate food to street refugees after the food provided by the French state didn't meet the need of this vulnerable isolated group.

We encourage you to add migrants, refugees and volunteers across the world to your prayers during this time of lockdown and isolation. If you would like to offer financial support to the Calais Food Collective please visit the Go Fund Me page.



Funerals during COVID-19



We can't push away the subject of death any longer, this pandemic brings a daily reminder with each Government briefing on those we have lost. This brings into focus our own mortality and that of those loved ones close to us.

We recently caught up with Rev Sean Semple, Rector at St Mary's, Ross on Wye. Sean was previously a clinical psychologist before becoming an ordained minister. He has also sadly conducted a large number of funerals since lockdown measures were introduced in March. Here he shares his reflections on preparing and leading funerals during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Of all the services and occasional offices conducted by licensed ministers I think it is the funeral that is most intimate. The funeral might have been preceded by the privileged intimacy of preparing the person for death, and accompanying them – of being a spiritual doula – on the journey into eternal life. There will certainly be the meetings and discussions prior to the funeral with the bereaved family. A picture emerges of the family dynamics, with family dysfunction sometimes coming into sharp focus. Then there is the day of the funeral with its shocking reality and raw grief. We who officiate cannot be unmoved by the pain around us; we emotionally absorb some of it, and feel our own griefs and losses reawakened. Funerals are intimate occasions.

"During the coronavirus pandemic we have needed to change how we minister to the dying and bereaved in order to protect them, ourselves, and others. Funeral arrangements are now largely made by phone. When I don't know the family, it is particularly difficult to develop any rapport with them, and then planning a service that must be restricted to five or ten people in a churchyard or crematorium chapel feels quite heartless. However hard we work to fill these services with the love and respect due to the deceased, they are disappointing, pale imitations of what the family and we would want them to be. And at the service, social distancing prevents close family members doing what is most needed and most natural, and that is comforting one another. Today at a funeral I saw a broken-hearted man weeping, and no-one could do anything but offer him words of comfort – from two metres away.

Funerals are intimate occasions, but funerals conducted during the pandemic will be remembered for how they compounded grief with disappointment and isolation.



We have included some of the many resources available to priests, aimed at helping ministry to the bereaved during the pandemic. Here are Rev Sean's top tips:

1. **Empathy:** putting ourselves imaginatively in their place, and imagining how we would feel if this was the funeral of one of the people, we loved most.
2. **Emotional presence:** We might also note and explore what emotions and thoughts are evoked in us during funerals at this time, so that our pastoral care after the funeral could be grounded in honest and vulnerable discussion – an attempt to re-establish safe intimacy in bereavement.
3. **Celebration:** Where it reflects the family's wishes, a warm and celebratory service of Thanksgiving for the life of a loved one when social distancing permits could soothe and heal some of the unfortunate wounds of this difficult time.
4. **Bereavement Cafes:** Often run by those who are bereaved, they offer a deep understanding of what a bereaved person is experiencing and can be a safe, independent place to find comfort. We run one in my own church, St Mary's Ross on Wye and we hope this will resume once social distancing measures permit.



Generous Giving

The Parish Giving Scheme is an easy way to provide regular donations to your local church. You can now set up your donation by phone. Please contact your local PGS representative for details.



On the 'A Church Near You' website, you can now add a donate button to your church page.



Safeguarding Update

The latest information on Safeguarding can be found online at:

www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-and-coronavirus-covid-19

Our Safeguarding Officer is Mandy McPhee
m.mcphee@hereford.anglican.org

and can be contacted on: **07875 757396**

Communications Support

If you have any questions about licences, music, online services or just want to chat through an idea please get in touch with us directly.

If you would like to be a part of our online church services, please contact us at:
comms@hereford.anglican.org



Oak National Academy

More information including lots of useful resources for home learning can be found at the Oak National Academy online:

www.thenational.academy

Faith at Home

Faith at Home provides resources that equip children and young people to explore faith together and feel supported pastorally as part of school and church communities



www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home

This issue of Inspire! was edited by Sarah Whitelock, Communications Director, in partnership with Adam Parker-Randall, Film & Creative Content Producer
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