

We would love people across the Diocese to be praying continuously for the duration of the Archbishop's visit!

We have set up a calendar listing each hour across the four days, from 6pm Thursday 6 October to 6pm Sunday 9 October and would like churches / parishes could commit to praying for a block of time, enabling people to pray either at home or in church. Individuals can also sign up. [Click here to sign up.](#)

More details of the Archbishop's visit are available on this webpage and you can also download this poster to help advertise the events and encourage others to come!

#### Diocesan Peru trip

There will be a small diocesan trip to Peru in February 2017. If you are interested please contact Phil Bradford (01905 423794)

#### Cycle challenge completed!

The Dean of Worcester, the Very Reverend Peter Atkinson, has completed his sponsored cycle tour of Normandy.

The Friends of Worcester Cathedral raised £6,500 in sponsorship money, which will be given to the restoration of the Edgar Tower, and have recruited more than 150 new members. On his return to the UK, the Dean was presented with his very own 'yellow jersey' by his Chapter colleagues. [Read more...](#)

#### New Bishop's Certificate courses

Bishop's Certificate courses will be starting this autumn in Evesham, Worcester, Droitwich, Old Hill and Oldswinford. This stimulating and encouraging course is spread over three terms and is open to anyone who wants to explore their Christian faith and the bible in more depth. The only qualifications needed are enthusiasm, a commitment to the course and a willingness to join in. [Click here for full details, including a registration form showing how to join and an information leaflet to download.](#)

#### Places of worship: security funding scheme

[Apply for funding for church security measures to prevent hate crime.](#)

The scheme is part of a wider cross-government work to stop all forms of hate crime. It will provide protective security measures to places of worship.

You can bid for funding until 5pm on 20 September 2016. A second round of bids will open in spring 2017. [Find out more.](#)

Dressed for Drama is now open to the public!

The Dressed for Drama exhibition of period costumes from British television and film is running until 29 August. Tickets can be purchased at the Cathedral Chapter house entrance, more information: [www.worcestercathedral.co.uk](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk) Costumes displayed are from programmes such as Downton Abbey, Mr Selfridge and Poldark.

There will also be free family activities that compliment the exhibition, including arts and crafts and dressing up in the Cathedral Cloisters on August 16,17,18, 23, 24 & 25 at 10.30am - 12.30pm & 2-4pm. Download flyer

In brief ...

Find out in this blog eight apps that can help your church be more creative and productive!

Find out what is happening across Worcestershire and Dudley with Heritage Open Days. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore. 8-11 September. Find out more. Let us know if your church is involved!

Read the latest newsletter from the National Churches Trust.

Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust has a webpage listing open churches. They'd be grateful to know any errors/ additions to this list. Email: [gilbert.barlow@btinternet.com](mailto:gilbert.barlow@btinternet.com)

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group has launched its 2016 church competition titled "Reaching out, Inviting in - Churches Helping Communities". Top prize is £10,000 and there are five runners-up prizes of £2,000. No idea is too small – making a difference to the community is what counts! Find out more.

Darmaris Media has produced a church discussion pack and a youth activity pack related to the new Ben-Hur film. Both are available on their website. The film is released on 26 August.

Relate is running a counselling skills for non-counsellors training course on Monday 19 September. More information on their website.

St John in Bedwardine Church, Worcester is holding 'A Summer Serenade' on Sunday 11 September, 3pm in aid of the Church and Guide Dogs for the Blind. More information.

Bromsgrove Baptist Church is holding a parenting course in September for those with teenage children or even soon to be teenage children. Find out more

West Midlands chamber choir 'Colla Voce' is holding a 'Come and Sing Messiah' day on Saturday 10 September from 2pm at St. Michael's Church, Brierley Hill, West Midlands. Local church choirs and congregations are invited to join the occasion, which will be a fundraising event for 3 local charities. Concert 7.30pm. £10 to sing or be in the audience.

The next Tiny Tunes concert takes place at St. Martin's Church, London Road on 22 August, 10am.

St Helen's Church in Worcester will be open on a number of days during September as part of the Heritage Open Days. On Friday 9 September, Heather Rendall, a local historian, will be in church to present: "A History of St Helen's, Worcester". Find out more

St. Thomas, Stourbridge is looking for volunteers to train as tour guides. Download advert.

Ian Spencer, Warden of Holland House and part of Worcestershire Interfaith Forum offers two documents which churches might find useful following the attack in France: How interfaith communities can respond jointly, and a one page summary of the Government's hate-crime action plan.

Claines Church is raising funds to clean and renovate their organ and are offering the opportunity to sponsor a pipe or a stop! They are also holding a Claines Music Festival from Monday 12 September to Friday 16 September, with music everyday at 1.15pm and 7pm.

Worcester Mothers' Union is hosting a garden party as part of 'The Big Summer Appeal' at St Oswald's Hospital Almshouses, Upper Tything, Worcester on 10 August, 2.30pm. Download poster.

Heritage crime – please complete survey. In order to raise the profile of heritage crime and to initiate necessary action from the police and policy-makers, it is important to assemble evidence, experience and perceptions of the problem within our community. This needs to include experience of the church. So that policy is formed based on good knowledge a national survey is being conducted by Historic England and University College London. This should take about 5 minutes to complete. To start the survey now, please click on this link. Thank you for your participation.

Speak up this autumn for Climate Justice: People across the UK will be organising all sorts of events in their local area from 8th-16th October to celebrate and speak up for the people and places we want to protect from climate change. Join us as we continue to call on our Government to make the big shift from fossil fuels towards renewables so each and every individual can live life to the full. For more information about how you and your church can get involved please visit [www.christianaid.org.uk/climateweek](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/climateweek)

The next formal Women in Ministry Network Meeting is 10am Monday 12 September at the diocesan office where Emma Sykes, a Leadership Specialist on the team at CPAS has agreed to be a keynote speaker. She will be talking about Confidence and Leadership which was one of the areas which emerged from our initial meeting back in April. CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and Republic of Ireland. More information from Dean of Women's Ministry, Bev Jameson.

To read more news, including sermon podcasts, blogs and daily prayers, head over to our website.

Events coming up ...

For a full list of upcoming events go to our Events listings. You can also add your own event to the listing.

## The Big Bible Study

Saturday 1 October, 10am- 1.30pm, Worcester Cathedral

The morning is one when, as Christians from across the traditions, we meet to worship together, to study the Bible together, and to eat together. This year's theme will be 'When listening to God's word becomes hearing God speaking'. The Speaker will be The Revd Kenneth G Howcroft. Ken Howcroft is currently minister at Solihull Methodist and Coleshill United churches. He was the President of the Methodist Conference in 2014-15. He is a New testament scholar and theologian who at various times had previously been responsible for the Methodist Church's theological education and formation in ministry; its governance bodies; and its ecumenical relationships. From 2011-2014 he served the English-language Methodist congregation in Rome; and also established an ecumenical office in Rome on behalf of the world-wide family of Methodist churches.

WARM Day

Tuesday 11 October, 10am - 3pm

The Well, Top Barn Farm, Holt Heath.

Speaker: Revd. Tim Grew from Holy Trinity, Cheltenham on the subject of: "The Power Paradox: Leading and Living from Weakness". Cost: £15 inclusive of lunch (pay on the day). Book through: Robert Latham 01905 748711/ Robert@HallowChurch.co.uk or Richard Thorniley 01386 870527 / rector@archbenefice.org.uk by Monday 3 October. Download poster

Festival of Healing 2016

Saturday 15 October, 10am, Worcester Cathedral

With guest speaker Revd. Mike Endicott (Prior of the Order of Jacob's Well) Followed by a Eucharist service at 2pm with Bishop John presiding and Revd. Mike Endicott preaching, during which there will be opportunities for laying on of hands and anointing. More information.

King John (Worcester Rep)

The Quire, Worcester Cathedral, Tuesday 18th – Sunday 22nd October 2016

King John was undoubtedly one the most controversial monarchs of Medieval England. His reign was fraught with espionage, subterfuge and political machination and his legacy still lives on today in the Magna Carta and his role in the legend of Robin Hood. Don't miss this stunning dramatisation of the reign of King John and watch as his story unfolds in front of his own tomb in his chosen place of rest; The Quire of Worcester Cathedral. This truly unique production takes place exactly 800 years on from his death and will be the only celebration attended by the King himself! Tickets £16 (Matinee £12.50). More information.

The Prayer Book in Reader Ministry

Saturday 15 October, 11am, St Marylebone Parish Church, London

The first national conference, organised by the Prayer Book Society for readers in the Church of England, is to affirm the importance of The Book of Common Prayer in the ministry and spiritual life of readers and to help them overcome difficulties they might encounter when using it in their ministry. It coincides with the 150th anniversary of the introduction of a reader ministry in the Church of England. Find out more

Churchyard Trees Conferences

Liverpool on October 6 and London on November 2.

To support this vital resource, The Conservation Foundation is holding two free Churchyard Tree Conferences with the Church of England and Caring for Gods Acre. The conferences will support you to care for churchyard trees, reveal their importance to the community, and identify and record them. Speakers will include historic landscapes consultant Dr Hilary Taylor, arboricultural consultant Russell Ball, Caring for Gods Acre, and many more. Find out more

## On the Edge

29 Nov - 3 December, St. Non's Retreat Centre, St. David's, Pembrokeshire

A four-day retreat organised and led by John Green & Barbara Wheatley by the beautiful West Wales Coast in a place hallowed to the memory of St David. What puts you on edge? Do you feel as if you are on the edge looking in? Is this a good place to be? Would you be happier if you were in the centre looking out towards the edge? Do you ask yourself . . . Where am I? . . . Where can I go? . . . and most important of all . . . Who am I? This retreat provides an opportunity to share moments on our journey with all those, including St David, who have walked the pilgrim path before us. Cost: £215 (single occupancy) More information from the Revd Barbara Wheatley 01527 892969 or Canon John Green 01789 400213. Download flyer.

## Hidden Treasure: Inner life and Solidarity

Friday 28 April - Monday 1 May 2017, Taize Birmingham

An event for 16-35s: Discovering the common spirit of the diverse Christian family ● Celebrating the commitment of those working for the world to be a better place ● Finding space to welcome the treasure of God's presence ● Learning to live as a leaven of peace and friendship for all people. Find out more

Training opportunities ..

## Workplace Chaplaincy Training Course

Thursdays, August 11, 18, 25, September 1, 22. 7.15 – 9.p.m.

Droitwich Methodist Church, Droitwich

A free introductory course for volunteers wishing to explore the exciting ministry of Workplace Chaplaincy. For more details or to book a place contact Dick Johnson 01527 61936 or 07946 655450.

## Germinate: Making it Happen

Saturday 15 October, Coventry 10am - 4pm

The 2016 Germinate! conference "Making it happen" will focus on the challenge of deepening discipleship in order to inspire, encourage and equip flourishing rural mission. Keynote speakers: The Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference 2016/7, on discipleship; and Pete Atkins, Team Co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions Find out more.

## Manresa Link Prayer Guide basic training course

September 2016 - February 2017, Harborne, Birmingham

Eight Saturday mornings, plus two weekends looking at aspects of Ignatian Spirituality. Download flyer.

## Training Leaders for Quiet Days

22 November 2016 & 7 January 2017, 10am - 4pm, Holland House Retreat Centre, Crothorne

Stillness and quiet time can bring about deepened faith, increased confidence and stronger relationships both with God, our fellow Christians and our neighbours. It's a practice that Christ followed (Luke 6:12) and has stood the test of time, yet many churches find it difficult to create such opportunities and so this short one day course is aimed at creating and enabling people to lead Quiet Days within the setting of their own church or locality.

Bishop Graham as Chair of the Diocesan Spirituality Group has warmly encouraged this new initiative, and it's our aspiration that each parish will have at least one person who can attend this training and then offer this ministry to their church. The days are open to anyone who would like to attend, having first discussed the opportunity with their incumbent.

Places are limited to 15 each time, more courses are planned during 2017. Cost is £35 fully inclusive of refreshments, lunch and course material. The Course is led by the Revd Ian Spencer and the Revd Sue Barrett. To book a place on either of the first two dates, please contact [reservations@hollandhouse.org](mailto:reservations@hollandhouse.org) or call 01386 860330. Download [itinerary](#).

And finally ...

50 Things to do in a Church

The National Churches Trust has just launched '50 Things to do in a Church', celebrating the diverse and fantastic uses of church buildings. What are your favourite things to do in a church or chapel?

Find out more ...

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