

TEAMTALK

50P WHEN SOLD

The Magazine of All Saints, Holy Trinity and St Nicholas', Hereford
St Michael's, Breinton and Breinton Parish Council



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Staffed:

Tuesday mornings 9–11am

Thursday 9.30am–4pm

Answer phone at other times.

Baptisms

May their lives be long and happy

Funerals

*Please remember the departed their family and
friends in your prayers*

28th January 2026

Hereford Cemetery

Amanda Jones (67)

Weddings

*May their lives together be long
and happy*

The Rector writes:



March has a way of loosening the ground beneath us. The light stretches, the air softens, and something in us begins to shift too. Lent arrives right in that moment and with it comes an invite to a gentler, more curious way of being human.

I've been struck again this year by how full the Bible is of questions. God's people ask them constantly: How long? Why this? Where now? Even Jesus asks questions—sometimes to comfort, sometimes to challenge, always to draw people deeper into truth. Scripture never treats questions as a lack of faith. They are part of the conversation between God and humanity.

Lent gives us room to bring our own questions into that conversation. Not to tidy them away or rush to answers, but to hold them honestly before God. Some questions come from longing, some from confusion, some from the ache of things we don't yet understand. They are not signs of failure. They are doorways—openings through which grace can reach us.

A conversation with a farmer from a few years ago came back to me recently. I met him as I walked our dog along the footpath that crosses his land. He was leaning on a gate, watching the clouds gather in that way farmers do—half reading the sky, half resigned to whatever it might bring. We chatted for a while about the mud underfoot and the state of the hedges, and then he said, almost to himself, "You never really know what's coming. You just keep tending the field."

He went on to talk about the questions that shape each season: Will the frost hold off? Will the lambs thrive? Will the ground dry in time? None of them had tidy answers, and he didn't expect them to. "If you waited until you were certain," he said with a small smile, "you'd never plant a thing." There was no drama in his voice—just the quiet wisdom of someone who has learned to live with uncertainty without being defeated by it. His questions weren't signs of doubt; they were part of the rhythm of his work, part of what kept him attentive and hopeful.

Perhaps this Lent you might choose one question that keeps returning and give it some space. Carry it with you on a walk. Sit with it in prayer. Let it accompany you in worship. You may not find an answer by Easter, and that's all right. What matters is that you are walking with God, and God is walking with you.

My hope is that this season becomes less about striving and more about listening. Less about proving ourselves and more about discovering, gently, what God is already doing in us. Lent is not a test to pass. It is a path to walk—step by step, question by question—towards the love that holds us.

May your wondering this month be full of honesty and grace.

Jonathan



2026 Lent Course



Ash Wednesday 18/2, 7pm
Wednesday 25/2, 7pm
Wednesday 11/3, 7pm
Wednesday 25/3, 7pm

HOLY TRINITY

HEREFORD



As I write this we are fast approaching the fourth anniversary of the full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 22nd. I have learnt through listening to the Ukrainian community who came here following that invasion that for many this war actually began in 2014 when Russia invaded the Crimea. Our communities have offered hospitality, love and care to those displaced by this act of war.

Wherever we look our news is constantly full of conflict and around the world there are armed conflicts and tensions which cause us all to stop and ask is there not a better way to resolve our differences. Whatever the politics and reasons for the Russian invasion what is clear is that despite peace negotiations this war is continuing to see people killed and injured on both sides. It is important we do not lose sight of the fact that in war there are no winners only losers.

There are many theological arguments on whether warfare can ever be just and how we appropriately remember those lost in war. For us as Christians the Bible has a lot to teach us about the root causes of warfare and bloodshed. We are also reminded in those same pages that we are called to serve one another and to care for those who suffer. The ultimate sacrifice will always be to give our lives away for others.

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13

As Christians we are called to build relationships that create peace and harmony and offer the reconciling power of Jesus' love. We are to offer a better more appropriate way to live and it is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit that we are changed. It is the Holy Spirit that builds the fruit of the Kingdom within each of us, and this enables us to bear one another's burdens and create communities of peace.

As Jesus prepared for his own death, he warns the disciples not to lose heart when they see strife in the world. As they stand outside the temple in Jerusalem, he warns them what is to happen in their lifetime. His words are fulfilled in 72AD when the Romans destroy the temple in Jerusalem, but they are also just as true today for us as for his disciples.

“Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.”

Matthew 24:4-8

Jesus does not mean that we have to accept war with its horror and bloodshed but that we should respond to it appropriately. The New Testament teaches us that human selfishness, greed and intolerance lead to conflict. The church has a message of hope and the solution to these driving passions deep within humanity. If we are in any doubt, it is Jesus and his sacrifice for us that reconciles us to God and helps us offer peace in the world. We are called to fight evil and stand up for the Kingdom and its values; in doing so we help to build a better world. Our job is not to judge but to offer love and support. As a clergy person I have had the privilege of hearing the stories and experiences of grief and pain that war brings from those most impacted by it. I have always tried to bring God's love, forgiveness and compassion to those who are tormented by memories of war. As the church we are called to care for those who suffer and to build a more peaceful world. In this period of Lent perhaps we should all pray for peace and reconciliation wherever there is conflict

The Venerable Derek Chedzey

Archdeacon of Hereford



Dust and Glory: A Lent Journey for the West Hereford Team

This Lent, we are extending a warm invitation to everyone across our parishes and community - from All Saints and Holy Trinity to Breinton and beyond - to join us for a shared journey we're calling Dust and Glory.

While Holy Trinity, Whitecross is the venue, this is very much a whole-team endeavour. We will walk together through the deep themes of the season: our human fragility, our longing for renewal, and the hope for eternity that rises with Easter.

We begin on Ash Wednesday, 18 February 2026, gathering at Holy Trinity at 7pm for a reflective service with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. It's a profound moment as we remember that while we are made of dust, we are beloved dust. Despite our fears and failings, we are known by name and held in a love that won't let go.

The Wednesday Gatherings

Following Ash Wednesday, the journey continues at 7pm at Holy Trinity on three Wednesdays: February 25th, March 11th, and March 25th. There's no need to register, simply turn up to whichever sessions you're able to attend, and feel free to dip in and out as life allows.

What to expect

These evenings are a time to think and explore - a place where we can come as we are and explore what we believe, enjoying a "holy pause" in the middle of a busy week. Each evening will begin with worship and prayer, to help us settle into the gentle presence of God. There will be a talk as we dig deeply into the grit and grace of our faith. We'll have a time of discussion in small groups to share stories and questions and there will also be a creative element: Something simple and tactile - designed to help us notice God in the "small things" of our lives.

Companions for the Road: Booklet & Social Media

Of course, life can't always be paused on a Wednesday night, so, to help us connect with Dust and Glory throughout the week, we are offering:

The Dust and Glory Devotional: A booklet with weekly devotions (available in our churches and online) providing space for personal reflection and prayer at home.

Daily Crumbs: For those on Facebook, we'll be sharing daily, bite-sized quotes and reflections on the West Hereford Team Facebook page.

The Path We'll Tread

1. Dust and Wheat - Facing Mortality, Finding Fruitfulness

Acknowledging our limits, and discovering how God brings life from the "soil" of our endings.

2. Shadow and City - God's Presence in Darkness and Renewal

Looking honestly at the "valleys" we walk through, and the promise of a world being made new.

3. Resurrection and Communion - Death Undone, Love Welcomes

4. Lifting our eyes toward the Easter hope, where every "stranger becomes a sister or brother" at God's eternal table.

A Shared Rhythm

In a world that constantly demands we "do more" or "be better," Lent reminds us instead to "be still". It isn't about performance; it's about making room - for God, for each other, and for the quiet work of renewal.

Whether you are a long-standing member of one of our congregations, a visitor from the edges of our community, or simply curious about the story we inhabit, you are really welcome. Come for one evening, or come for them all.

We look forward to travelling together.



EASTER LILIES – HOLY TRINITY

Once again, in memory of loved ones or a special event, we shall be incorporating Lilies in our Easter Arrangements. This year Easter Sunday is 5th April 2026.

If you wish to sponsor a Lily this year, please fill in a form, enclose it in an envelope with your donation and hand to one of the Church Wardens.

Alternatively, let me know and I will post a form to you.

The forms will be available in Church

from Sunday 15th February 2026.

May we suggest a minimum donation of £5?

With many thanks,

Janet Griffiths

On behalf of Holy Trinity Flower Guild (Easter Lilies)

Tel: 01432 340501



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Bob Chilcott
Holy Trinity Church Choir
with guest soloists

Good Friday
3rd April 2026
7pm-8.15pm
Retiring collection

Holy Trinity Church
Whitecross Road
Hereford
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westherefordteam.org.uk



JUST A REMINDER!!

**ALL ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL EDITION OF TEAMTALK NEED TO BE SENT TO THE TEAM OFFICE OR TO ME BY
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**PLEASE USE THE jeshermag@gmail.com ADDRESS WHEN SENDING ARTICLES DIRECT.
USING ANOTHER EMAIL ADDRESS MAY RISK THE LOSS OF YOUR COMMUNICATION
WITH A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS TEAMTALK SO LOYALLY
Editor**

Saint of the Month: Chad (2 Mar)

St Chad of Mercia (died 672) was a seventh-century Anglo-Saxon monk who became Abbot of Lastingham, then Bishop of the Northumbrians at a time when the previous bishop Wilfrid was away and also a plague had wiped out so many other bishops that there were none left in the Roman tradition to consecrate him. He did well, but when Wilfrid had returned a new archbishop, Theodore, regularised things and had Chad stand down in favour of him. Chad's humility in accepting this and going back to Lastingham so impressed Theodore that he gave him a regular Roman consecration and made him Bishop for the Mercians instead. His base was at Lichfield, and the "Chad Gospels" preserved there are a close cousin of our own "Hereford Gospels", and Chad's ministry was one of the influences on the emergence of a separate diocese for Hereford in due course. A marvellous carved angel was found recently at Lichfield Cathedral under the nave floor that was probably part of his tomb there.

Collect

Almighty God,
from the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ,
you called your servant Chad
to be an evangelist and bishop of his own people:
give us grace so to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life,
that we may truly commend to others
the faith which we ourselves profess;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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Becoming — How to really change.



Most of us want to change. We long to be more patient, more present, less anxious, kinder to the people who drive us mad. We make promises to ourselves – usually around New Year – and mean them sincerely. Then life happens, and by February we're back where we started.

This isn't a series about trying harder. It's about understanding how human beings actually transform, and discovering the resources – some of them surprising – that make change possible.

Over the next six issues, we'll explore the practices, struggles, and relationships that shape us from the inside out. We'll look at the power of small habits, the role our bodies play in growth, why we can't do this alone, and how to keep going when everything feels dry.

The goal isn't perfection. It's becoming a little more fully alive, a little more able to love well, a little more the person you sense you're meant to be.

Not by trying harder. By training differently.

Part 1: how do we actually change?

We all know the feeling. New Year comes round, and we promise ourselves: this year I'll be more patient, less reactive, kinder to difficult people. And we mean it, but by February, we're back where we started, perhaps a bit more discouraged than before.

The problem isn't that we lack willpower. It's that we've misunderstood how human beings actually change.

Most of us approach personal growth like we're sitting an exam we haven't revised for – frantically trying harder at the last minute, hoping sheer effort will see us through. We grit our teeth and attempt to stay calm with our teenagers, present in our chaos, generous when we're exhausted. When we fail, we assume we're simply not trying hard enough.

But what if the whole framework is wrong?

From Trying to Training

Athletes don't step onto the pitch hoping willpower will carry them through ninety minutes. They train. They build strength and stamina over months, practising skills until they become instinctive. When the crucial moment comes, their bodies know what to do.

Personal transformation works the same way. We don't become patient, peaceful, or kind by trying harder in the heat of the moment. We become these things by training our hearts, day by day, in the ordinary hours when nothing much seems at stake. It's about being reshaped, slowly, from the inside out.

Real change involves three elements, and we need all three:

First, **something beyond ourselves** – a power we can't manufacture on our own. This might feel like reaching the end of yourself and finding, surprisingly, that you're held. Or discovering patience you didn't know you had in a moment when you'd normally snap. For Christians, this is the Holy Spirit – God's own presence at work in us, doing what we cannot do for ourselves. Not a religious feeling we have to conjure up, but help that comes when we admit we need it and stay open to receiving it.

Second, **daily trials** – the frustrations, disappointments, and difficulties that come unbidden. That colleague who always interrupts. The chronic pain that won't shift. The loneliness of a Sunday afternoon. These aren't obstacles to growth; they're the very place growth happens, if we'll let them teach us rather than simply endure them.

Third, **intentional practices** – the small, repeated disciplines that shape us over time. Not heroic feats, but modest dailiness: a few minutes of silence before breakfast, a walk round the block to clear your head, setting your phone down during meals. These might seem too small to matter, but a river carves a canyon not by force but by persistence.

A woman I know spent years berating herself for never being fully present – always distracted, always elsewhere. Then she started a tiny ritual: each morning whilst the kettle boiled, she'd stand still for those two minutes, hands on the counter, just noticing her breath. No grand intentions, no pressure. Six months on, she said something had changed in her – not dramatically, but really. She was less frantic. More aware. "I didn't even notice it happening," she said. "But my husband did."

That's training. Small, steady, cumulative. Not spectacular, but real.

A Resource Many Don't Know They Have

For those of us who are Christian, there's something else at work in this transformation – the Holy Spirit reshaping us from within. It's not about becoming more religious or performing spiritual duties. It's about discovering you're not alone in the struggle to change.

Christians talk about the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. These aren't virtues we achieve by trying harder. They're what grows in us when we stay connected to God, the way fruit appears on a branch that stays connected to the vine.

What surprised me, in my own life and in walking alongside others, is how practical this is. People who've spent years failing to control their anger find themselves, gradually, less reactive. Not because they've mastered a technique, but because something in them has shifted. They've been given a patience that wasn't there before.

That help is available. To anyone. You don't have to have it all sorted to ask for it.

Beginning Again

If you've tried and failed at personal growth before, you're in good company. We all have. But perhaps the invitation now isn't to try harder. It's to train differently – and to stay open to help from beyond yourself.

What one small thing might you do, not once in a burst of enthusiasm, but daily for a month? Not to prove anything, but to let yourself be shaped – the way water shapes stone, the way practice shapes a musician's fingers.

Growth isn't what we achieve by trying. It's what happens to us when we show up, stay open, and let something larger than ourselves do the work we cannot do alone.

Next month: The Power of Habits – how small rituals reorient our hearts.

Jonathan



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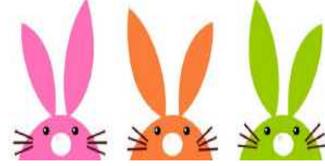
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When We Cannot Say Goodbye: Finding Comfort When a Funeral Cannot Be Attended

You may have noticed the advertisements on television lately for direct cremations. They're presented as a simple, affordable option, and for many families facing financial pressures, they offer a practical solution at a difficult time.



But there's something these adverts don't always prepare us for: the profound sense of loss we can feel when there is no funeral to attend, no moment to gather and say goodbye.

Recently, I experienced this myself when my uncle chose a direct cremation. Like many people, he'd made his wishes clear, perhaps not wanting to be a burden or simply preferring something straightforward. We respected his choice, of course. Yet when the time came, the absence of a funeral service left a space that was harder to bear than I'd anticipated.

There was no church filled with familiar faces, no moment to stand together in our grief, no coffin to focus our prayers upon. The finality felt almost too abrupt. How do we mark such a profound loss when there's nowhere to go, nothing to do?

If you've found yourself in similar circumstances, please know that your feelings are entirely natural. Grief needs somewhere to go. We need rituals and moments that help us acknowledge what has happened and begin to let go.

The Church of England recognises this. Within our liturgy, there are beautiful prayers specifically for those times when we cannot be present at a funeral. These aren't a substitute for the funeral itself, but they offer a framework for our grief, a way to bring what we're feeling before God when circumstances have denied us the goodbye we needed.

When we gathered as a family to use these prayers for my uncle, something shifted. We lit a candle, we spoke his name, we remembered him before God. It didn't erase the sadness, but it gave our grief a place to rest. It reminded us that even when we cannot be physically present at a funeral, God is present with us in our loss.

If you're struggling because a loved one had a direct cremation, or because you couldn't attend a funeral for any reason, please don't carry that burden alone. The prayers are there for you. I'd be more than happy to say them with you, whether in church or in your home. Sometimes just a simple act of remembrance, done with intention and care, can bring more comfort than we might expect.

You're not being silly. You're not making a fuss. Your need to say goodbye matters, and there are ways we can help you do that, even now.

Rev Jonathan Widdess
Priest in Charge of the West Hereford Team



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The All Saints 100 Club

There are now more chances to win some cash and help fund raising at All Saints !
We are pleased to announce that we shall be continuing our 100 Club into 2026, and will be increasing the number of holders from the present 70 up to 100 ticket holders. You can keep your favourite numbers, of course, but may wish to add another to stand more chance of a big win !

Forms for newcomers and for renewals will be available from the Team Office, from Vicki Robertson on telephone number 01432 351134 or from Barbara Glasspoole on 07790 668649. Thanks for your interest and support.

Barbara Glasspoole

100!!!

St John Passion
Bob Chilcott
Holy Trinity Church Choir
with guest soloists

Good Friday
3rd April 2026
7pm-8.15pm
Retiring collection

Holy Trinity Church
Whitecross Road
Hereford
HR4 0DU

westherefordteam.org.uk

Hereford Transport Alliance

We are a small group campaigning for sustainable transport solutions in Herefordshire
And to stop a bypass through Eccinton and Kings Acre

Ceilidh

Saturday 21st March 2026 6-10pm

Tomkins Theatre

145 Whitecross Rd Hereford HR4 0DJ

Free parking behind Holy Trinity church

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Tickets £10 - under 18s free

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Christian Meditation

Lent Term

'Be still and know that I am God'

Psalm 46.10

AT: All Saints' Church,
Hereford

ON: Tuesday evenings,
February 24 - March 31,
2026

AT: 7.00pm - 8.00 pm:

An opportunity to experience the stillness of meditation in community. Each evening begins with a short talk and ends with an opportunity for questions and reflection. This is suitable for newcomers and for those with some experience.

For more information contact Sean
Cathie

Email: sean.cathie@outlook.com

Phone: 078 1330-3 611

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The Great British Spring Clean 13th March – 29th March

This year Holy Trinity Eco Group are going to do a litter pick on Tuesday March 24 in the morning, meeting outside the church at 10am and then dividing into twos to go collecting litter for 1 hour. Anyone is welcome to come and help us as we could fill up 9 purple sacks! As you will be aware litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and has the added fun of bringing us together while we work and the feel of achievement when we return with some rubbish.

I am collecting this year 2 adult litter tool kits and 1 child litter tool kit on loan from Balfour Beatty. Each pack contains 5 grabbers, 5 pairs of gloves, 5 Hi-Vis vests, 2 bag hoops and three bags. On the form I filled in, I booked the kits from Monday 23th to Monday 30th March and I collect and return the kits on the Monday mornings.

This means that anyone can get in touch with me to borrow a kit during that week before I return it on the 30th. If you as a family or with grandchildren would like to do some litter picking at the weekend or after school that will definitely be possible as long as children are always accompanied. You don't have to fill a sack, as I discovered that one sack of rubbish can be combined with another sack. Maybe there is a place where rubbish collects near where you live and this is a perfect opportunity to do something about it. Do contact me if you would like to do this, give me an idea of how many bags you would like (only the purple ones can be used) and we will arrange a time. Leave a message or phone me on 07504 223113.

There are safety guidelines which include wearing gloves which are included in the kit but like me you may prefer to wear your own gloves. There is a suggestion that you might like to protect your eyes as well in which case can you provide your own protection. Use the litter grabbers to pick up the litter and wear a Hi- Vis vest and be aware of the safety hazards of picking litter up near busy roads and always be aware of traffic in the city. We are asked not to pick up syringes or abandoned needles on public land which should be reported to Balfour Beatty and we should not pick up broken glass. Any green waste should be separated from rubbish as they cannot be separated at the depot. The litter pick has to be done on public land – not in your private garden! Each bag collected should not weigh more than 20kg and any items which don't fit in e.g. tyres or signs need to be put by the bags and Balfour Beatty must be contacted before collection to be aware that there is extra to pick up.

At the end of the litter pick bags are left by a litter bin where they can be collected by Balfour Beatty. I have on the form I filled in given the place of collection as the bin outside Holy Trinity Church however I discovered last year that any further collections can be left at other litter bins as long as we ring through to Balfour Beatty telling them where the rubbish has been left.

Finally, I hope all these details don't put you off but inspire you to have a go at litter picking this year. I will fill in a general risk assessment but obviously need your support in making sure the guidelines are carried out. Perhaps when you go round the streets you could pray for the local area and the local community and ask God to give you opportunities to share with others why you are doing it. We certainly had opportunities last year so do take the opportunity.



The Great British Spring Clean 13th March-23rd March

Just a reminder that at Holy Trinity we are picking up litter for one hour on the morning of Tuesday March 24th at 10am. Everyone turning up will be welcome. We will be working in pairs to pick litter on roads and pedestrian ways near Holy Trinity.

As the kit we are borrowing is for the whole week, I would encourage you to also borrow some items to litter pick where you know there is rubbish to pick up, perhaps near where you live during the week March 23rd - March 29th. This offer is available for not just Holy Trinity members. I have one booking for Sunday 22nd in the afternoon but Saturday and the rest of the week is free!

Leave a message or phone me on 07504 223113 - Jean Thomson



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For every new home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical Insurance, they are donating £130 to a church of the policyholder's choice through their Trust130 promotion¹.

Since 2017, Ecclesiastical have donated over £430,000 to churches chosen by our customers through this promotion. To help more churches take advantage of these donations they have extended the offer to run throughout 2023. To take advantage of this offer please call their team for a quote on **0800 7830 130** and quote **Trust130** and be sure to mention St Michael's Breinton!

St Michael's Breinton has already benefited from one policyholder and would be delighted to receive more funds through this route. So when your home insurance is due, please consider calling **Ecclesiastical Insurance**.

Please note that this request does not constitute a recommendation and you should make your own judgement of what is the best policy for you.



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As I walk our dog around the streets of West Hereford, along with the Cathedral Tower and All Saints' Spire, there's a factory chimney I see every day. The smoke rises steady, marking the rhythm of work and production, whilst around its base ordinary life carries on: birds in the gutters, weeds in the cracks, the small persistent green things that refuse to acknowledge they're living somewhere industrial

One day, watching that smoke rise, a sparrow appeared in my mind's eye - not something I actually saw, but vivid and complete: a tiny bird catching the thermal from the factory, rising in a perfect spiral against the grey sky. For a moment of extraordinary grace - this small creature riding the warm air up and up, completely free. Then it fell. Dropped like a stone. And in this vision, nobody noticed.

Later I realized what had happened: that biblical passage about sparrows falling (Matthew 10:29-31) had been placed exactly where I was standing, in this landscape. The scripture had become local, particular, mine. Whether imagination or the Spirit's prompting, I can't entirely say. But it felt like gift rather than invention.

I've been thinking about that contrast: the indifferent machinery of the world and the small lives within it. It's a contrast I find in poets I love: Blake's *"dark Satanic Mills"* against his *Jerusalem*; Ewan MacColl's *"Dirty Old Town"* where the gasworks wall becomes backdrop for kissing and dreaming; Dylan's "hard rain" falling on cities and forests alike; The Pogues finding tender beauty and wreckage side by side in London's streets.

There's something honest about industrial spaces that the purely pastoral misses. They don't pretend the world is only beauty, or that we live outside the realm of smoke and work and falling things. But neither do they surrender to despair. They reveal grace in unexpected places, beauty that persists despite the soot, love that survives the machinery.

The biblical passage is quietly radical. It doesn't say God stops the sparrow falling. It says he sees it fall. The comfort isn't exemption from suffering or death, but being witnessed within them. Nothing is lost to indifference. No death goes unmarked.

Living amongst chimneys and industrial estates, amongst people working hard jobs for modest pay, amongst ordinary struggles that don't make the news - it feels important to say that God's attention isn't reserved for cathedral closes and pretty villages. It's here too, in the unglamorous places, watching the small falls, numbering the hairs, knowing the names.

The poem that came from this vision holds these things together: chimney smoke and thermal, fall and witness, industrial grime and the grace that persists in its shadow. Ballad metre because that's the form of folk songs and hymns, the poetry of ordinary people speaking about what matters. Direct because industrial places teach you not to waste words

Chimneys and sparrows

Amidst the cloud of chimney
smoke,
Ascending up on high,
A tiny little sparrow climbed
A thermal in the sky.

I watch him climb in spiralled arc,
Then swoop and glide so free
From the pull of earthly toil
And wretched gravity.

I saw that little sparrow fall
And plummet to the ground;
It seemed that no one noticed
him—
He fell without a sound.

No pity was there found for him,
No song of pipe or drum;
No carriage carried him away,
No drowsy organ thrum.

But there was One who saw it all,
Watching from up on high;
For never does a sparrow fall
Without the Maker's eye.

And if He loves the sparrow then,
So much more He cares for me;
Nothing I do is hid from Him,
However small I seem

Jonathan

The sparrow was imaginary, but the truth it carried feels real: things fall in this world, often unnoticed, and yet they matter. The God who attends to factory chimneys and the creatures around them, the God who sees what doesn't happen as clearly as what does, is the God of Jesus.

Blake saw angels in London. MacColl found poetry in Salford. Dylan heard highways singing. The Pogues discovered you can be homesick for a place that never quite existed and still speak truth.

They all taught me that grace doesn't only dwell in beautiful places - it breaks through wherever there are eyes to see it and words to name it.

Even here amongst the chimneys. Even for sparrows that exist only in vision - because sometimes the imagination tells the truth more clearly than our eyes.

Jonathan

MARCH 2026



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IMPORTANT! Phone numbers for the Hereford Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team.

PC Stefan Hawes 07773054234

PCSO Christina Howard 07773052529

PCSO Adam Westlake 07773052580

These contact numbers are not for crime recording or for urgent calls.

These should be directed to the emergency number 101 or online recording of crimes at the website

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk>

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St Nicholas Mothers' Union



Theme 2025 -2028 **Join us and Join in...**We are changing lives!

Unfortunately, due to illness, I missed our February meeting hosted by Andy Lewis, when Bill Jackson gave an interesting talk about his life and association with Hereford

Due to bank holidays, we are having 2 meetings in March and no meetings in April or May. This gives us the opportunity to concentrate on Lent and Easter in March. Revd Jonathan has agreed to lead reflections for us, and we would love you to join us on our Lenten journey, we will be meeting in the Price's Chapel.

On Sunday 9 August 2026, when we celebrate Mary Sumner day, and our 150 year anniversary, we are having a celebration service and tea at Colwall, watch this space for more details – if you would like to join us for this celebration please contact me.

On Sunday 23 August we are celebrating in Hereford Cathedral during the Evensong service which will have a Mothers' Union theme.

March

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Mon 2 | 2.30 pm MU meeting, Lent Reflection led by Revd J Widdess, Price's Chapel Bricknell Close Hereford |
| Fri 6 | 2.30 pm World Day of Prayer, Marden Church, Revd Bob Bates. I have no details of a service in Hereford this year. |
| Tues 10 | 2.30 pm Lady Day Service Cusop |
| Thurs 12 | Midday Prayers, Cathedral |
| Sun 15 | Mothering Sunday |
| Thurs 26 | 2.30 pm Lady Day Service Much Wenlock |
| Sun 29 | Holy Week |
| Mon 30 | 2.30 pm MU meeting, Easter Reflection led by Revd J Widdess, Price's Chapel Bricknell Close |



April

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Fri 3 | Good Friday |
| Sun 5 | Easter Sunday |
| Thurs 9 | Midday Prayers, Cathedral |
| Mon 13 | Trustee Meeting, Hereford |
| Thurs 23 | Quiet Day Blessings |

16 Days of Activism 25 Nov to 10 Dec

Please see church notice sheets for updates about meetings and just our theme says

Join Us and Join In.

If you want more details please contact me: 07988 750673, annenewman57@hotmail.com, or just turn up at one of our meetings!

Anne Newman, Branch Leader





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Down Memory Lane 2

In 'The History of the Parish Church of St Nicholas' written by an unknown writer in 1910, is a description of Samuel Holmes, the recently retired Rector, '*For many years to come the name and character of Mr. Holmes, for 36 years Rector of S. Nicholas' Church, will be remembered with loving gratitude, because he thought the best, felt the best, willed the best, and did the best for his poor parishioners. Morning, noon, and night, he was at their beck and call, and if sickness was their misfortune, or poverty their portion, it was his mission to be a ministering angel. With loyal heart and with purest hands he faithfully discharged all his public obligations and trusts.*' Perhaps written in terms which we today find florid and over emotional, it does however praise Samuel's gift of ministry to the poor of the parish.

My! Samuel was Rector for 36 years! Samuel Holmes was still alive in the 1911 census aged 75, having retired in 1908 to Clifford House, 2, Holmer Street, Whitecross Road. He was born a grocer's son in Keighley, Yorkshire and after his marriage to Fanny, had 8 children, of which 4 had died by 1911. One, Florence (13 in 1891) is described as 'imbecile' and so life as a parent could not have been easy. No wonder he had the gift in having, '*thought the best, felt the best, willed the best, and did the best for his poor parishioners*'. He died aged 76 in May, the 1911 census year, at Clifford House, which still stands today on the corner of Whitecross Road and Holmer Street.

Samuel was the son of John and Mary Holmes who ran a grocery business in Keighley, Yorkshire. In the 1851 census, Samuel is a 15-year-old boarder at a boy's school on Brunswick Terrace in Leeds, from where he attended St John's College Cambridge in June 1854. He was ordained Deacon in 1859 and Priest in 1860 followed by three curacies and then being Rector of St Nicholas from 1871 to 1908. He married Fanny Nowell at All Saints Dewsbury in 1862 where he was a curate and by 1871 when they moved to Hereford, they had three children Arthur 6, Mary Adelaide 4 and James 8 months. By 1881 2 more children had been born, Fanny Sophia 9 and Florence 4 which means there are three children unaccounted for, out of the 8 children that he stated he and Fanny had in the 1911 census. Perhaps these three children had died soon after birth.

In the 1891 census Florence is labelled as 'Imbecile' which would probably mean that her mental health was not as severe as an 'idiot' which could be used to describe those suffering from a severe congenital mental deficiency or a 'lunatic' for those suffering aggressive mental health problems. However, these terms were not exact definitions and so it is difficult to describe or know what Florence had and although alive in 1901, she seems to have died by 1911. One reason why Florence became an 'imbecile' might have been from having a childhood illness which affected her mental health. One of my own Great Aunts had scarlet fever as a young child and this illness, according to the family, affected her mentally with bouts of unusual behaviour which gradually became worse as she grew older. We are so fortunate today and often forget what it is like to be protected against so many childhood illnesses that our forebears suffered.

Samuel's wife Fanny seems to have died before he moved to Clifford House as she died 30 July 1904 and the Cambridge University Alumni list gives 1908 as the date Samuel retired from being Rector of St Nicholas. Living on his own with two servants in 1911, Samuel had three children happily married. The eldest, the Revd Arthur Beresford was married to Jessie and he was a Vicar at Holy Trinity Abbots Leigh in Somerset; the second son was James Noel Holmes who was a farmer married to Eliza living at Leigh Court, Worcestershire; and finally Fanny Sophia, a daughter, married the Revd William Fergusson Aston who lived at Chesterton, Cambridge. The eldest daughter, Mary Adelaide, I think, also married a man named Arthur Hampson Delamere-Bouth who seems to have died about five years after their marriage.

So, Samuel was a man who is not remembered for any great changes to the building of St Nicholas, or fund raising events or starting any great missions but was a great pastor whose ministry to the poor was well attested in the 1910 guide book.

Jean Thomson





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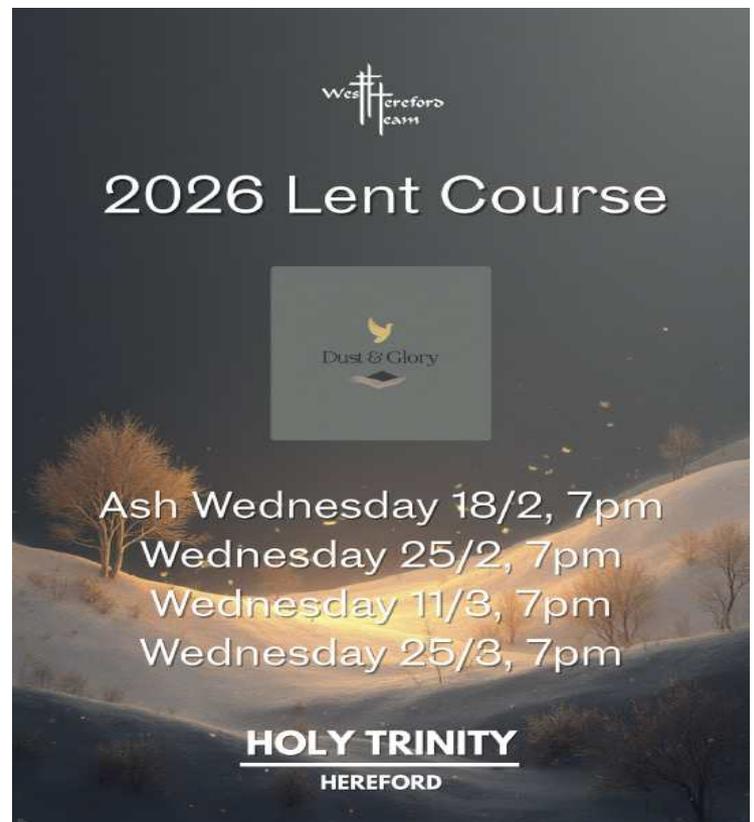

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West Hereford CA11

2026 Lent Course

Dust & Glory

Ash Wednesday 18/2, 7pm
Wednesday 25/2, 7pm
Wednesday 11/3, 7pm
Wednesday 25/3, 7pm

HOLY TRINITY
HEREFORD

Breinton History Group

Presents a talk by

Clare O'Grady

Called

Victorian Hiring Fairs

Monday 23rd March 7.30pm

Breinton Village Hall



Free to BHD members, £3 for non-members. Refreshments included.

Prize Raffle. Everyone Welcome!

Breinton History Group

Will be holding their AGM

On

Monday 13th April

At

7.30pm

Breinton Village Hall

This is your chance to have your say and to make suggestions of anything you would like to see, and to let us know what you enjoyed the most.

It is also the time of year to renew your membership and to get your new program of events for the upcoming year.

A year of membership is only £10 per person, that includes free entry to any talk we have at the village hall, and this also includes refreshments and biscuits.

So come along and join our friendly group and have some fun.

Everyone Welcome.



Did you know that St Michael's is registered on **easyfundraising**?

This means you can raise free donations for us in 2026 when you shop online! **Over 8,000 retailers** will make a donation to St Michael's Church Breinton on your behalf when you shop with them. All the big names like Sainsbury's, M&S, Argos and Just Eat are ready to donate **at no extra cost to you**.

Sign up here: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmichaelschurchbreinton>

If you are shortly to purchase gifts or change your car or home insurance policy or even book your summer holiday, please consider routing your online purchase through **easyfundraising**. Donations from all those smaller purchases soon mount up too. We have just received the payment for the last quarter of 2025 - **£97.29**.

This puts us in the top 20% of the amounts raised by causes nationally!

Many thanks to those who already support the church in this way! Please consider joining if not!

Grahame Sherfield, Treasurer, St Michael's, Breinton

Breinton Village Hall



Breinton Village Hall is a community asset and run by volunteers. A number of regular weekly/monthly activities are run at the Hall (see below) and the Hall is also available to hire for family events such as birthday parties, weddings, etc and other activities i.e. local organisation meetings, AGMs etc.

Information can be found on the Breinton Village Hall website at breintonvillagehall.co.uk

Regular Activities		
Breinton History Group	Monday evenings, monthly, as advertised	
Herefordshire Photographic Society	Every third Monday of the month	Contact Phil Chapman 01432 263769
Handbell Ringers	Tuesday mornings 11 - 1	Contact Kay Jones 01432 268 100
Parish Council	Every 2 nd or 3 rd Wednesday evening of the month	Contact: clerk@breintonparish.co.uk
Dog Training	Every Wednesday evenings except for Parish Council evenings	
Morris Dancing	Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9pm	Contact Jamie Beaman 07593 256 221
Nordic Walking	Friday mornings as arranged	Contact Louise Evans 07815 315 503 Contact Philip Chapman 01432 263 769
Community Coffee Morning	First Saturday of the month, every 2 months: (February, April, June, October, December)	Contact Anne Chapman 01432 263 769
Tango Tea Dance	Every 2 nd Sunday of the month	Contact Catherine Lusher 01547 560 375

Community Coffee Mornings

The next Coffee Morning is on

**Saturday April 11th and is in aid of
HEREFORD FIRST RESPONDERS.**

Sara Beck
Breinton Village Hall
Bookings Officer
07758 162 268

QUIZ



The February quiz was enjoyed by all and was crowned by an exciting double tie break!!

As always many thanks to Sheila who helped with the teas and Jackie and Gary who washed up and cleared away.

After all the excitement we had raised a healthy £205 for St. Michael's and enjoyed a lovely evening.

Many thanks to all those who took part.

The next quiz is planned for June.

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Breinton news

Teamtalk Distribution.

As always a **huge thank you** to all our wonderful distributors who turn out all through the year to deliver Teamtalk to every household in our parish .It is so appreciated by parishioners.

One of our distributors has unfortunately had to retire from our list after many years of loyally supporting the scheme . **Thank you for all your support Mrs Woodward .**

This means we are appealing for her replacement, so if anyone is able to deliver 20 copies in Kings Acre Nos 185 to 223 we would be extremely grateful . The bundle would be delivered to you each month. If you are able to help please ring the Team office on tel no 273086 . Your help would be much appreciated.

LENT LUNCHES.

We are holding more charity lunches
in March. All from 12-00pm —2.00pm.

This year in aid of the Food Bank

Wednesday March 18th. 4. Cranston Mews Mr & Mrs D Stephens

[Please park opposite at garden centre] Tel .no 274232.

Wednesday March 25th. Breinton House Mr & Mrs M Churchward Tel .no 272588 .

Please come along and support these and let the hosts know.

Thank you.



MANY THANKS.

Anne and Phil Chapman have recently stepped down from their roles on the Breinton Village Hall Committee due to personal circumstances.

We would like to offer them both our heartfelt thanks for everything they have done for the Hall and the village.

Their help, commitment and willingness to get involved have been greatly valued and they have made a positive contribution to village life.

The Committee and Parishioners thank them both for all they have done and wish them the very best for the future.



Further to the report by John Hull we publish a full list of Parish Council Meetings for Breinton
<https://breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk/> clerk@breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk

BREINTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025 – 2026

Breinton Parish Council meetings are to be held in the Village Hall all at 7.00pm unless otherwise advertised. All meetings are subject to change and cancellation at short notice.

Wednesday 18th March 2026 Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 13th May 2026 Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Council Meeting <https://breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk/> clerk@breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Breinton Parish Council meetings are to be held in the Village Hall all at 7.00pm unless otherwise advertised. All meetings are subject to change and cancellation at short notice.

Planning meetings will be arranged separately when required and advertised accordingly.

Community Wheels.

This is a Voluntary Service for people who no longer drive or who have never driven a car.

Potential drivers volunteer for as much time as they can give to drive people to hospital doctor dentist and other appointments within the city and surrounds.

The Service is desperately short of drivers so as a customer I am appealing to people within St. Michael's Parish and their friends to please consider doing some of these trips.

It is a great help to people especially when taxis are not always available.. You are reimbursed for your petrol.

If you are interested please contact Community Wheels on 01568 615785

Both the business and the customers will be very grateful for your help and support.

Ann Powell(01432 266432)

If you wish to help St Michael's and have a Smartphone, you might like to use this QR code which will take you to our

**Give a Little Page.
Thank you for your support.**



SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

Do you live in Breinton? Are you at university and needing books for your course? Or are you a teenager who needs equipment for a Duke of Edinburgh Award? Maybe you need help in buying school uniform for your children?

Breinton has access to limited funds which come partly from the rental of land left many years ago to support the education of young people in the Parish. This money is carefully managed for your use and you are invited to apply for it. If you are interested, either for yourself or for your child, please telephone Helen on 353850

LENT LUNCHES

The parishioners in Breinton will be carrying on their tradition of offering a simple lunch during Lent at individual houses.

For further details and to book a place at the March lunches ring the appropriate number given on page 27

Donations— cash only- in aid of the Food Bank

Any donations in aid of charity

Spring Plant Fair

In Aid of Charity

29 April 2026 10.30am- 4.00pm
Garnons Estate, Byford, Hereford, HR4 7JX

A special day for gardeners!

Discover beautiful, interesting and unusual plants, meet producers of garden-related products, while exploring the rarely opened, beautiful Garnons Estate woodland and kitchen gardens (Sorry, no dogs except assistance dogs)

Lunch and refreshments on sale all day. (Reg Charity no 1167802)
All proceeds to The Cart Shed

Tel: 01544 318 231

Entrance £8.00 per person,

www.thecartshed.co.uk



If you fancy getting a bit more involved with the Village Hall, we would love to hear from you. We are always grateful for an extra pair of hands to keep things running smoothly for the community. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours now and then, it really does help and is hugely appreciated. It's also a great way to meet people and be part of village life.

Contact us at:

breintonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

Coffee and Chats

At

Breinton Village Hall

On

Saturday 11th April

At

10.30am -12.30

Raising funds for

Hereford Community First Responders



Come along and support this great cause.



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**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
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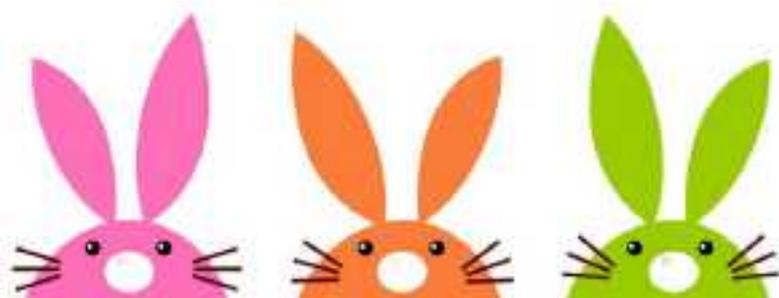
Breinton Parish Council is looking for a dedicated individual to join us in our mission to make a positive impact in your community.

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or visit our website:
<https://breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk/casual-vacancy-to-be-filled-by-co-option/>



**Spring Fayre in aid of
St Michael's Church, Breinton
Saturday, 21 March 2026
Venue: Breinton Village Hall
11.00 am to 2.00 pm
Free Entry**



**Refreshments: Bacon Baps, Veggie Sausage Baps,
Cakes, Tea/Coffee, Soft Drinks**

Stalls to include:

Cakes and Preserves

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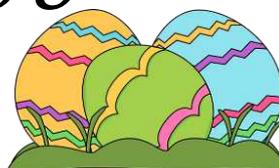
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plus

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the children!*



Services during March 2026 - Details are correct at time of publication, for up to date information please visit westherefordteam.org.uk

Sunday 1st March 2026

Time	Church	Service Type
9:30am	All Saints'	Parish Mass
9:30am	St Michael's Breinton	Holy Communion
11:00am	Holy Trinity	Eucharist

Sunday 8th March 2026

Time	Church	Service Type
9:30am	All Saints'	Parish Mass
9:30am	St Michael's Breinton	BCP Communion
11:00am	Holy Trinity	Morning Worship
6:30pm	Online (see over for details)	Evening Prayer

Sunday 15th March 2026 - Mothering Sunday

Time	Church	Service Type
9:30am	All Saints'	Parish Mass
9:30am	St Michael's Breinton	Morning Worship
11:00am	Holy Trinity	Eucharist
6:30pm	Online (see over for details)	Evening Prayer

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Time	Church	Service Type
9:30am	All Saints'	Parish Mass
9:30am	St Michael's Breinton	Holy Communion
11:00am	Holy Trinity	All-Age Eucharist

Sunday 29th March 2026 - Palm Sunday

Time	Church	Service Type
9:30am	All Saints'	Parish Mass
9:30am	St Michael's Breinton	Holy Communion
11:00am	Holy Trinity	Eucharist

Online Services

Evening Prayer, 6.30pm every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month. Follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82460018059?pwd=eWUxRW1KM1FXRVNtYlkvK3o4WlpyUT09>
Meeting ID: 824 6001 8059 Passcode: 072124

Morning Prayer, 8.30am Monday – Friday. Follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84352782015?pwd=OU1PNGNZV09OZzExUUo0OGJGajVsdz09>
Meeting ID: 843 5278 2015 Passcode: 985657

Midweek Services 8.:30am Tuesday - Friday – Morning Prayer Online (see above for details)

12:10pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – Low Mass at All Saints'

10:00am Thursday – Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

<p style="text-align: center;">Teamtalk Editor Jenny Sherfield</p> <p style="text-align: center;">jeshermag@gmail.com</p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Who's Who</h1>	<p style="text-align: center;">St Michael's Churchwardens Martin Churchward 07788452179 Caroline Offley 07912031910</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PSO Lyn Gage 07443 598263</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Advertising co-ordinator Jacqui Tonge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 07828055727 jaquitonge@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BENEFICE <i>For all Parish administration including Baptism and Marriage enquiries and some of the people listed as contact please call the Team Office 273086</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Benefice Safeguarding Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Nicholas' Churchwardens Paul Tompkins Chris Wright 268481</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC and Electoral Roll Secretary Julia Wright</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC Treasurer Vacant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mothers' Union Secretary, Bellringers' Secretary & PSO Andy Lewis 357281</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PCC Secretary Lyn Gage 07443 598263</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid Grahame Sherfield 07895758157</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Flowers Vivienne Luscombe 07933960012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Breinton Village</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Village Hall Lettings Sara Beck 07758 162268</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Footpaths Officer John Wade 355344</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Churchwardens Jane Jones 342714 June Rynn 07944 676034 Verger June Rynn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Jane Jones</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC Secretary Og Owen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC Treasurer Nick Rynn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brass Cleaning Team Kristine Way</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Flower Guild Janet Griffiths 340501</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director of Music Ewan Murray ewanmurray451@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastoral Coordinators Sian and Richard Bayliss</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Written copy for the APRIL 2026 issue of Teamtalk should be sent to the Team Of- fice by 10th MARCH 2026 at the latest!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">office@westherefordteam.org.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(WORD DOCUMENTS, PLEASE, preferably in Arial size 11) or to Editor direct: jeshermag@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Saints Churchwardens Jackie Mumford Vacant Position</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC Secretary Maggie Fletcher 273149</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCC Treasurer Jackie Mumford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Jackie Mumford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bellringers' Secretary Anne Newman 07988 750673</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PSO Mel Carter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk to the Charities Helen Powers 353850</p> <p style="text-align: center;">County Councillor Charlotte Taylor 07742 880054</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Chairman John Hull 07818 465182</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Councillors Liz Morawiecka 264091 Jackie Morris 264410 Lorraine Lewis 0777 367 5774 Tracey Prosser 07919 556 449 Emil Morfett 07919350247</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Clerk Lisa Law Breinton Parish Council Office 9 The Old Vicarage 1 Rowberry Street Bromyard HR7 4DU- clerk@breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hereford Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Stefan Hawes 07773054234 PCSO Christina Howard 07773052529 PCSO Adam Westlake 07773052580</p> <p style="text-align: center;">These contact numbers are not for crime recording or for urgent calls. These should be directed to the emergency number 101 or online recording of crimes at the web- site https:// www.westmercia.police.uk USE 999 IN AN EMERGENCY</p>