

**eBulletin: December 2017** - Also available on our website - [CDNs / eBulletins](#)  
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### [#GodwithUs this Advent](#)

The Church of England is inviting you to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with tens of thousands of Christmas services and events taking place in churches all over the country this December. Look out for the GodwithUs logo (right) or your local church noticeboard for details of special events.



### ['A Church Near You' relaunches](#)

'A Church Near You' has had a major overhaul and now offers a much improved experience. If you already have an existing account with 'A Church Near You' then please login, explore the new functionality and update your Church's details to include Christmas services and other events. If your church doesn't have an existing account please see the FAQ page for details on creating one.



### [Salvage and disaster recovery](#)

Historic England runs a practical 3 day course in disaster recovery. The course, which has a contribution from West Midlands Fire Service teaches how an effective response during an emergency incident can mitigate loss and damage to heritage assets. This course provides hands-on experience of removing objects from an incident location and following appropriate first-aid treatment. The course is particularly relevant for major churches and cathedrals and those with significant heritage assets.



### [Crossing the Threshold toolkit](#)

The new, updated version of 'Crossing the Threshold' (a guide to developing your place of worship for wider community use) has been launched. The toolkit was created by the Diocese of Hereford and is available for download. This is a joint collaboration between the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance and the Diocese of Hereford.

**Featured events below - For all events, see the [Diocese of Chester 'Events' page](#)**



### [Imagine Church Training Day - 20 January 2018](#)

The Diocesan Mission Team are working in partnership with the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LIICC) and we would love you to join us as we enhance our learning and share ideas about how to create a whole-life disciple making church. Imagine Church Training Days are held across the country for clergy and lay church leaders and leadership teams.



### [Safeguarding Training - 13 February 2018](#)

A repeat of our half day face to face training course aimed at equipping parish safeguarding coordinators and volunteers to follow healthy safeguarding practice in your role.



### [The Long Haul: developing resilience in ministry and life - 7 March 2018](#)

Most of us will serve in public ministry for decades, not just years. How do we flourish and grow on this long journey, rather than merely survive? Michael Sadgrove, Dean of Durham Cathedral from 2012 to 2015 will lead this event which is designed to help us understand our needs as travellers through the landscape of licensed ministry, and suggest how we might sustain ourselves.



### [A chance to sharpen your leadership - 7 March 2018](#)

St Mary's Sale is pleased to host a CPAS mini 'leadership school' in which we will explore issues that will help you 'step up' in the leadership you bring and nurture in others. There will be a dual focus of both the internal and external landscapes of leadership (ie how to sustain oneself in leadership and enhance/develop leadership skills).



### [Weddings: Engaging with the Engaged - 13 March 2018](#)

In 2008 the Marriage Measure opened up the possibility of a church wedding to thousands more couples. Culture continues to change – and a new generation are making choices about weddings and marriage. This one-day seminar (organised by Church House, Westminster) will share insights from new research, helping us understand more about couples making choices on marriage. Location: Solihull.



### [New Approaches to Bible Reading - 26 April 2018](#)

Led by Sue Richardson (Theological Education Adviser for Christian Aid), this is a day to explore certain kinds of approach to Bible reading – spending time as practitioners, using three different approaches and examining our responses to them.



**[Re-imagining Remembrance and Armistice in a Warring World - 17 May 2018](#)**

Rachel Mann, a priest, poet and writer based in south Manchester is hosting this study day. She will look at how the changing shape of Church and British society raises questions about how best to remember the dead of the past one hundred years.



**[Joyful Apologetics - 28 June 2018](#)**

This one-day course (led by Revd Dr Joe Kennedy) argues that, if we are to respond effectively to this contemporary wave of thought and emotion, we need to begin by listening to it and taking it seriously. In other words, before we speak, we need to learn why it is that so many people feel that Christianity offers a joyless and futile life – constricted, inauthentic, immoral, dangerous, hostile to human flourishing.



**[Peaks, shallows and deeps - Holiday Retreat - 7 to 12 October 2018](#)**

A guided holiday retreat hosted by the Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia, Lake Como, Italy. Full package excluding travel: 695 Euros For more information contact [jeanniewillan@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanniewillan@btinternet.com)



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