



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Hereford

November 2011

**MARK MY WORDS**

A day to look at St Mark's Gospel

Calligraphy; Bible Studies; Photography; Music; Worship; Godly  
Play; Kite Making

Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2011

10am until 3.15pm

in Hereford Cathedral

For booking or further details contact the Cathedral Library  
01432 374225/6 or [library@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:library@herefordcathedral.org)

**Historic Churches of Herefordshire & Shropshire**

A Diocesan Calendar starring 13 of our churches is now available.  
Cost: £7.50 cellophane wrapped with sturdy envelope for gift  
posting.

Available in Diocesan Offices Hereford & Ludlow,  
Hereford & Ludlow Visitor Centres and Ludlow Church Shop.

By post add £1 postage and packing

The Calendar, The Diocesan Office Hereford HR4 9BL

*Great Christmas present*



**LYDE CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

At St Peter's Church, Lyde

10am-12 noon - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Mince Pies, Presents ... & hoping Santa will be dropping in



**'How (not) to live with nuclear power'**

Annual Engaging Issues lecture by Claire Foster-Gilbert  
*leading UK expert on ethics and the environment*

Tuesday 8th November 7.30pm at Church Stretton Secondary School

Admission £4 (*students free*)  
available from John Thomas (Florist) and Burway Books, Church  
Stretton.

- *the huge potential of nuclear power and its pervasiveness*
- *how humans have wielded that power and why*
- *how humanity might journey towards a greater wisdom in interacting with other elements in the universe*
- *how then might humanity use or not use nuclear power*

This lecture is jointly organised between Engaging Issues and  
Stretton Climate Care

[www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk](http://www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk)  
[info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk](mailto:info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk)

tel: 0752 849 3181

**ADVENT FAYRE**

Market Square, Ross-on-Wye

All day - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011



**Diocesan News Service for Magazine Editors.**

Copy in writing for December issue by **1st November 11** to:  
**Anni Holden, Communications Officer,**  
**The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL**



## A-Z of Churchyard Conservation



S is for Slow-worm

The slow worm is not a worm or a snake but a legless lizard. They have a polished, cylindrical appearance and, unlike snakes, have eyelids that can blink.

They live in both urban and countryside habitats, liking allotments, waste ground, churchyards and gardens.

Their diet consists of slugs and soft-bodied invertebrates. Being cold blooded they hibernate in the winter so are mostly seen in spring and summer.

Slow worms give birth to 5-10 live young 10cm in length. They grow to about 35 cm. They can live around 15 years in the wild and up to 50 years in captivity!

In churchyards the cracks in dry stone walls and old vole holes provide shelter.

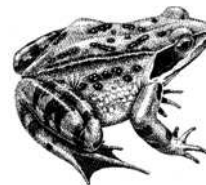
The Latin name *Anguis fragilis* means 'fragile snake' and refers to the way the slow worm can drop its tail to escape predators.

***Caring for God's Acre, the conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds, 01568 611154, [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)***



## Common Toad

T is for Toads



There are two kinds of toads native to Britain. These are the Common Toad

(*Bufo bufo*) and the rarer Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*). The two species can be easily distinguished by the presence of a prominent yellow line down the back of the Natterjack Toad.

Toads differ from frogs - they have dry, warty looking skin, crawl rather than jump and lay their eggs in a string rather than a bunch. Often found in the dry stone walls around churchyards, toads will hunt after dusk for slugs, snails and earthworms. They sleep during the day and hibernate in the winter under rocks and stones or in a hole in the ground.

**For more information contact The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, 01733 558960, [www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)**

**Caring for God's Acre, the conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds, 01568 611154, [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)**

One of the benefits of having to drive regularly as part of my Episcopal ministry is that I get the opportunity to listen to the radio. Sometimes the journey and the hour coincide affording me the pleasure of listening to the Today programme and catching up on current affairs. Those of you who listen to that programme will know that topics stretch far and wide from concerns over growing obesity levels, to bankers' bonuses to environmental concerns, to the latest parliamentary concerns or political intrigue. John Humphries and James Naughtie seem to me to be particularly good at asking the penetrating and hard questions of those who come their way. Theirs is the knack of exposing what might be mere rhetoric or political posturing. At the heart of the questioning or debate is a challenge to integrity and right action. In an information saturated age we desire wisdom.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines wisdom as a combination of experience and knowledge with the power of applying them. Euripides a 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Greek playwright wrote: *Cleverness is not +wisdom*. In a not to dissimilar vein Nelson Mandela is reputed to have said: *A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination*. We live in an age, more than most, where information abounds and access to it is

speedy if not instant. Knowing what is required is no longer the fundamental concern. The issue instead is whether those who know what is right have the will or strength to do it. Sadly wisdom is often in short supply.

In the Church's calendar we are entering what is known as the Kingdom season culminating on Christ the King Sunday just before Advent. The gospels are full of wisdom much of which comes through the teaching of Jesus. He, in so many ways, embodies wisdom. It is one thing to say; follow that, it is quite another to do it. We might fairly ask is such wisdom attainable and if so how? The gospels and indeed the Bible suggest that we cannot on our own. Instead we need and are offered God's life and strength. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1940s, gets to the point using Shakespeare as an illustration: *It is no good giving me a play like Hamlet or King Lear and telling me to write a play like that. Shakespeare could do it - I can't. And it is no good showing me a life like the life of Jesus and telling me to live a life like that. Jesus could do it - I can't. But if the genius of Shakespeare could come and live in me, then I could write plays like this. And if the Spirit could come into me, then I could live a life like His.*

+Alistair