

WITHINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

March and April 2026



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Byworth Trust

The Byworth Trust Clerk contact details have changed to: Josh Cole byworthtrust@btinternet.com

Events

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



The Cart Shed
Transforming Lives



The Cart Shed is a charity which supports children, young people and adults struggling with their emotional wellbeing and help around 130 people every week from the age of ten on our four woodland sites.

These sites are on a working farm in Norton Canon and all our activity happens in the woodland where our participants take part in traditional woodland skills like woodworking and willow and get professional therapeutic help.

Volunteers cook tasty hot lunches over open fires and others drive our minibuses or support our tutors. All this activity is at no cost to participants which is why our fundraising is so important and the Plant Fair is a major part of that as well as being a great day out.

If you want to know more about our work, get help for yourself or someone you care for, or if you'd like to find out more about volunteering visit our website www.thecartshed.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY/JUNE EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE: 7TH APRIL 2026

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

St Peter's Church

Services at St. Peter's Withington March/ April 2026

8 March, 9:30am Communion
15 March, 9:30am Communion
22 March, 4pm All-Age Service
29 March, 10am Benefice Palm Sunday Service @ Westhide
2 April, 7pm Maundy Thursday Service @ Dormington
3 April, 2pm Good Friday Service @ Withington
19 April, 9:30am Communion
26 April, 2:30pm Annual meeting, 4pm All-Age Service

Notices for both parishes:

Soup and Study

Tuesdays, February 24 - March 24, 2026 @ St. Peter's Withington, 6:30pm for Soup, 7pm Study. Join us as we explore the spiritual essentials of the Christian life: finding direction, keeping going, gaining wisdom, finding security, and enjoying refreshment. Join us for one or all the sessions as you are able. For more information, contact Tiffany- revtiffjackson@gmail.com, 07871 222793.

Holy Week Walks are back!

March 30th -April 2nd 2026, 6pm-7pm

Join us for our walks between the Bartestree Cross churches as we prepare for Easter. All ages and creatures are welcome.

Monday- St. Peter's Lugwardine to St. Peter's Withington
Tuesday- St. Peter's Withington to St. Bart's Westhide
Wednesday- St. Bart's Westhide to St. John's Weston Beggard
Thursday- St. John's Weston Beggard to St. Peter's Dormington

Easter Sunday Services:

6:30am Sunrise Service in the Vicarage Garden
9:30am Family Communion Service @ Lugwardine
11am Communion Services @ Westhide and Weston Beggard

Services at St. Bartholomew's Westhide - see page 7.

Vicar's Note:

As I am writing this, I am having my chimney swept. It feels rather appropriate as I prepare for our Ash Wednesday service that begins Lent in mid February. Don't worry, I won't be using the ash from my chimney for the service! However, there is something that feels rather appropriate about it.

Ash Wednesday can seem very strange. It is a day when we recognize our own mortality, our own weaknesses, and the mistakes that we have made. Things that we usually hide in the dark and don't discuss, we bring out into the open and even wear a symbol of it on our foreheads - ash in the shape of a cross. It is a 'sweeping the chimney' process where we clean up and clear up - a process that we begin on Ash Wednesday but continue with throughout the season of Lent. We do it in preparation so that the light of Easter resurrection may burn brighter and provide more warmth to those around us as we celebrate Easter and journey through the rest of the year just as the fire in our home fireplaces might.

By the time you read this, Ash Wednesday will be behind us. But just like chimney sweeping and spring cleaning, it is good to start any time, so you might want to take a moment to check in on yourself so that your fire can burn bright in this next season. If you want to explore more about how we live as Christians, you can pick up a Lent devotional in one of our churches, or join us on Tuesday evenings @ St. Peter's Withington for our soup and study (6:30 for soup, 7pm for study) as we explore how to find direction, keep going, gain wisdom, find security, and enjoy refreshment. Ash is messy and sometimes so is faith. So let's take this season to clean up and then celebrate a joyful Easter!

St Peter's Church

Wanted - Do you have any old jigsaws?

Do you have any old Jigsaws looking for a new home?

Solders in Ukraine who have been injured need something to distract them as they undergo rehabilitation. Jigsaws cross language barriers so are ideal. We have recently met a Herefordshire business man with significant links in central Ukraine who can arrange safe delivery.

Jigsaws can be left at St Peter's church for us to pass on. We will receive feedback of safe delivery but not precise location information as this might endanger the injured troops

Thank you in anticipation

June Wynter Church secretary

Scaffolding at St Peter's church, Withington

Recently several people have asked about the scaffolding at the church as they visit or walk through the graveyard. Storm Claudia with the significant strong east wind in November got underneath the lead flashing at the junction of the bell tower and nave, causing water to get into the church. Subsequent storms Gorette, Ingrid and Chandra have compounded the issue all having East Winds (very unusual I am told by people who have lived here a long while).

By the time you read this article we hope that the roofers will have repaired the damage externally. But the internal damage to the kitchen will take a bit longer as the wood needs to dry properly before repairs can be undertaken in the kitchen.

June Wynter Church secretary

Withington Book Club

I begin with a reasonably desperate plea for new members / interested folk. Our lovely group has been going for seven years. We currently number five. People often ask me what the group is like and what sort of books do we read.

We think we're very welcoming and friendly. We each take turns choosing books which means a rich and varied collection. In fact, all of us can point to books we wouldn't have chosen to read but which, in the context of our group, have turned out to really inspire and interest. Come along with your idea of book heaven too. We also enjoy our trips out for meals and visits to Hay festival, amongst others.

Please give us a try, you never know, it might be the start of a new chapter.

Recently, we enjoyed a Christmas meal at Newton Court and we have read 'A Woman of War' by Mandy Robotham. Her first novel, a well researched tome dealing with aspects of life and death in Nazi concentration camps and Hitler's Berghof from the point of view of a German midwife imprisoned in Ravensbrück because her family took a stance against the prevailing regime. Sounds quite dreadful but proved to be a story showing, amongst other things, the power of love.

Our next two books are 'Eleanor Oliphant is absolutely fine' by Gail Honeyman and 'Suite Française' by Irene Nemirovsky

We do need a couple of new folk. Ring me on 851710, if you're even a teeny bit interested.
Best wishes.

Sue

Preston Wynne

Hello Everyone,

Last time we wrote we thought Spring might be just around the corner...Umm...at the moment the only thing round the corner is rain, cold wind, floods and mud! Oh yes and pot holes, lots of them, little varmints - getting to be bigger varmints by the minute. Let's move swiftly on, at least we can do that on here if not on our roads.

Church News

Saturday 7th March 4.00 pm Pizza Church

Sunday 22nd 11.15 am H.C.

Saturday 4th April 6.00 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 26th 11.15 am H.C.

The carol service held on 21st December was well attended, after which the congregation enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies. The 100 Club draw took place after that, lucky winners being:

1st prize £50 No. 82 Ralph Evans

2nd £25 27 Rachel Cooper

3rd £12.50 40 Jane Evans

Please note: SUBS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2026. Still only £10 per number p.a. for a chance to win the above prizes 3 times a year. Great odds!! Thank you to those who are already paid up members.

Contact Hilary if you wish to pay by BACS or Tricia on 820650.

Hall News

Christmas Lunch held on 7th December was excellent. No visit from Father Christmas this year as he was very busy and since there was only one little diner under 12, he left a present under the tree for them.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 14th March 7.30 pm IRISH PUB NIGHT (Irish stew for supper obv's,)

Saturday 25th April 7.15 for 7.30pm ST. GEORGE'S DAY SUPPER

3 courses £15

Looking forward to seeing you there!!

Finally, many congratulations to the lovely Sophie Edwards (daughter of Michael and Janet) and Ciaran Yeo on their engagement on 22nd January. Wonderful news!

That's about it for now, just think next time we write it will be nearly Summer....ummm....

Love Hilary and Tricia xx

Westhide

As there was no 'Westhide News' in the January edition, perhaps we should look back briefly and thank those who joined the Westhide carol-singing event on Christmas Eve. This started, in keeping with tradition, at Oldbury Farm, but this year's event was different in that the farmhouse has now been totally transformed and updated by Rachel and Steve...with a little help from Sam and Anna and other friends....and the carol-singers were so well-catered for, that there was a danger they would stay there all night and not actually move round the village at all. It was a great evening. Many thanks to all those who joined the singers and to those who provided refreshments.

Most of January seems to have been rainy, but we did have some beautiful crisp, cold, frosty days in early January when the village of Westhide looked almost medieval and the views to the snowy Welsh mountains were magical. Sadly we are now back to puddles, mud and wet dogs.

The news from St Bartholomew's is that the church lighting has eventually been upgraded and modernised, replacing the old tungsten bulbs with low-energy floodlights. This work has been kindly supported by grants from the Hereford Historic Churches Trust and the 'Net Zero Quick Wins' fund from Hereford Diocese.

Inside the church is a small children's area where there are a few books and toys. If anyone has surplus toys or books, especially for very young children, please consider donating them to this area. It is hoped that this will become a resource for the village for anyone looking after small children. Items can be used in the church or borrowed.

There is also a box in the church, just inside the door, for donations to the local food bank. Thank you to all those who contribute to this.

Looking forward to March and April, one of Herefordshire's best kept secrets is the wonderful carpet of bluebells that appears in the woods above Westhide. The wild daffodils are also beautiful and well worth seeking out. April should also see the arrival of the cuckoo. Who will be first to post on the Westhide App?

A few newcomers have moved to the village within the last few months. Welcome! We hope you have not been put off by the relentless rain. Hopefully by the time you read this, Spring will be on its way, the days will be longer and warmer, and there may even be lambs at Oldbury.

Clare

Services at St. Bartholomew's Westhide

- 8 March, 5pm Evening Service
- 22 March, 11am Communion
- 29 March, 10am Benefice Palm Sunday Service
- 2 April, 7pm Maundy Thursday Service @
Dormington
- 3 April, 2pm Good Friday Service @
Withington
- 5 April, 11am Easter Communion
- 26 April, 11am Communion

DISTRIBUTION OF MAGAZINE IN WESTHIDE

As we head into 2026, the Parish magazine will be delivered by a new 'postman'.

For many years Sheila and Robin Peers have trekked around Westhide, whatever the weather, delivering your copy. Sheila and Robin have now decided to hand over this duty, and I shall be taking it over.

My name is Charles Willy, I moved into Old Vicarage in Westhide just over a year ago. I know that everybody in the village will wish Sheila and Robin well, and want to say a huge thank you to them for all their hard work.

Whitestone Baptist Chapel

Sunday March 1st. and Communion. Wendy Davidson.

Sunday March 8th. Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

Sunday March 15th. Rev. Jo. Child.

Sunday March 22nd. Gary Tabener.

Sunday March 29th. Catherine Young.

Sunday April 5th. and Communion. Wendy Davidson.

Sunday April 12th. Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

Sunday April 19th. Rev. Jo. Child.

Sunday April 26th. Tony Bailey.



Whitestone Baptist Chapel.
SINCE 1821.

All Services each Sunday at 11.00 a. m.

Withington Village Hall

I'm sure everyone who reads my contributions to the Parish Magazine hangs on every word, so you will recall in the last issue I said we were getting the oak floor recoated and new toilet fans installed. That work has now been done, along with a new timer for the floodlights on the all-purpose court in the playing field. A few articles ago, I wrote about the machines used for repairing the local roads being stored in the Hall car park. The Council and Balfour Beatty were apologetic, and have recently re-chipped the car park extension as a thank you. The covering was looking very thin, so that is a great help. We have also had the Hall gutters cleared, which turned up some interesting items; aside from a wealth of plastic bottles, the cleaners found poo bags, sunglasses and even a bottle of after shave. I don't know how or why people throw things into what are very high gutters, but they will now run properly at the time when there is a lot of water to clear.

At our last Trustee meeting we decided to purchase some folding chairs and a trolley to stack them on. These will replace at least some of the old plastic chairs, which have served us well but are showing their age. We hope the more portable chairs will also help protect the floor. We recently had the cooker, hob, extractor, buffalo grill and plate warmer professionally cleaned inside and out and everything looks a lot better for it.

The curtains in the main hall will shortly be replaced with blackout roller blinds. The CCTV upgrading will get underway at the end of February and the Parish Council continues to sort out the logistics for the containers housing the external toilets and changing rooms. I'll write more about these matters as and when they are installed, but if you see tradesmen in and around the Hall, that's probably what they are working on.

Finally, advance notice of the Village Hall AGM on Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to the public, please come along if you want to find out a bit more about the Hall and how it is run. If you want to make contact before then, please email me at withingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Paul Fretten

Address : Withington Village Hall Coppice Close Withington Hereford HR1 3PP

what3words: sleeps.nicely.groom

Booking Secretary: wvhbookingshr1@gmail.com

Emergency phone: 07362 783 641

Chairman: withingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Free neighbourhood safety training for businesses

Shops and businesses are often victims of crime. Nearly half of retail staff say they are attacked or abused once a week. It causes serious damage to businesses and employee wellbeing.

We developed [Neighbourhood Safety Training](#) as part of our commitment to the [Community Safety Charter](#). The training is **free** and designed specifically for businesses and shops. Online modules include ASB, Harassment and Personal Safety and we have more coming soon. If you own, manage or work in a business or retailer, you can sign up.

Reforms announced to speed up Police response times

Police forces will be forced to respond to emergency calls faster in England and Wales under new reforms. Under the new reforms, response officers will be expected to reach the scene of the most serious incidents within 15 minutes in cities and 20 minutes in rural areas. Forces will be expected to answer 999 phone calls within 10 seconds.

Online shopping.

According to the Office of National Statistics, nearly a third of the shopping in the UK is now done on the internet. Which is why criminals are increasingly turning to web-enabled fraud to steal money & personal details. The good news is, there are steps you can take to shop safely and securely. [Find out how on Neighbourhood Watch website.](#)

Helping people become active bystanders

Our free Bystander training empowers people to safely intervene when they see harassment, discrimination, or abuse happening in public spaces. Fatou, our London Project Lead, has already trained over 150 people. The feedback has been really positive with participants telling us they feel confident to act. We've also created a video to explain what the Bystander effect is, and what to do if you find yourself in a tricky situation.

[Watch the Bystander video on Neighbourhood Watch website.](#)

Have you heard about the switch to digital landlines?

Landlines are changing, and the UK's telephone network is going digital by January 2027. If you have loved ones with additional needs such as elderly relatives or someone who uses a telecare device or pendant alarm, BT's Connected Together initiative encourages you to take a few simple steps to support them through the switch. BT's Connected Together website is where customers, can access all the guidance and support they need.

If you have fallen for a scam,

Report it to Report Fraud (*formerly known as ACTION FRAUD*) on 0300 123 2040 or via reportfraud.police.uk

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks. You can also report Scam mobile calls by texting 7726 with the word "Call" followed by the fraudulent caller's phone number.

Forward Fake Emails received to toreport@phishing.gov.uk

If you think your bank account or personal banking details have been used fraudulently, then use the short phone number - 159 - to contact the Fraud Prevention Department of most major UK banks.

West Mercia Police

West Mercia Police - Local Policing Changes

Hello, I'm Inspector Julie Watson of Hereford City and South Herefordshire Safer Neighbourhood Teams and I would like to tell you about some positive changes we've made to the organisation of West Mercia Police.

On Monday (19 January) the force changed the way it organises and delivers local policing to make sure services continue to meet the needs of local communities.

As part of these transitions, Herefordshire and Worcestershire has gone from being two local policing areas to a combined one (Herefordshire & Worcestershire).

This new structure is designed to strengthen resilience, improve coordination and ensure resources are focused where they are needed most.

Herefordshire's communities will continue to receive the same level of service from their Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), where we have recently seen an uplift in officer numbers.

The force has operated under its current structure since 2018, and feedback from the public has highlighted several ways to enhance how it functions and meets demand.

The planned investment supports the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Communities Plan and contributes to the national Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, helping ensure policing remains visible, accessible and responsive.

The updated operating model is expected to provide a stable, long-term framework that better supports officers and staff, adapts to evolving demands and maintains a high standard of service for the public. We look forward to engaging with our communities as we continue our duties to protect and serve the people of Herefordshire.

A short reminder as we approach the deadline for Self-Assessment returns. Whilst criminals may impersonate HMRC at any time, the period up to deadlines is a key time to be aware of emails, texts, or even phone calls, claiming to be from HMRC.

HMRC will never send a request for your bank account details, personal information or notify you by text or email about Tax Rebates and Tax Refunds. Do not be tempted to click on any links in such emails.

Criminals often use threatening language in messages and phone calls which is to pressurise you into acting too quickly without thinking – if in doubt, then just hang up, wait a while, then call back on the genuine HMRC number which you can find on www.gov.uk or on any HMRC correspondence you have.

Criminals will take advantage of the Self-Assessment deadline to panic you into sharing personal or financial details or even paying bogus "Tax Due". HMRC will never ask for payment by Gift Cards, as appears in some fraudulent messages.

So please take a moment to think before parting with any information or money. If in doubt, check with HMRC using reliable contact details provided by them.

Contact details—West Mercia Police

 Non-emergency
101

 Emergency
999

 From abroad
+44 300 333 3000

 Web
westmercia.police.uk

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- Plan the safest route home and share it with trusted contacts
- Use the SOS feature to alert friends if you feel unsafe

FREE on Apple App Store & Google Play, or search WalkSafe and start your journey with confidence today!

West Mercia Police strengthens its local policing model

Ensuring communities continue to receive a visible, accessible and responsive policing service, on 19 January West Mercia Police adopted a new operating model, transitioning from five local policing areas (LPAs) to two.

This new structure — Shropshire & Telford, and Herefordshire & Worcestershire — is designed to strengthen resilience, improve coordination and ensure resources are focused where they are needed most.

The force's current structure had been in place since 2018 and, following feedback from the public, opportunities to improve how the force works and responds to demand were identified.

Every community within West Mercia Police will continue to have a named local officer.

You can find your local policing team by visiting www.westmercia.police.uk and entering your postcode in the 'Find Your Area' section.

"Government's proposed roads strategy a welcome step forward" - Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion

I welcome the news from the Government earlier this month that it plans to introduce measures to make our roads safer, including lowering the drink driving limit, and learner drivers having to wait six months before sitting their theory and practical tests.

In 2025, there were 462 collisions on West Mercia's roads, causing 678 injuries. A proportion of these, 12%, involved a driver aged 70 or over. While between January and October, 100 collisions involved drivers aged 17 to 24, with speeding, behaviour and inexperience identified as major contributing factors.

Through correspondence I receive and my work with road safety partners and the force, I frequently hear from bereaved families who are calling for Graduated Driving Licences (GDLs). Despite myself and others supporting this, it is a shame the Government didn't go further by introducing these as part of its strategy. *Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion*

I will continue to support the bereaved families in West Mercia, calling for GDLs to be introduced and also to limit the number and age of passengers anyone under the age of 24 can carry.

Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion

Neighbourhood Matters

Volunteering opportunities near you



Looking for a new challenge this new year? Want to get more involved in the community you live in? Then perhaps volunteering is the answer.

PCC John Campion supports a number of initiatives across West Mercia, which make a real positive difference in their local areas thanks to their incredible volunteers.

These include:

Independent Custody Visitors

RoadPeace

West Mercia Search & Rescue (recruitment for volunteers opens in September 2026)

Find out more by visiting the PCC's Facebook page.

Reader's Corner

Lone workers and their mental well being

In the last issue I did a book review of Bear Gryll's book: The greatest story ever told. In the same pattern I want to alert your attention to the next book I have just finished BY YOUR SIDE, Scott Mitchell's excellent book about the love of his life - his wife the National treasure Barbara Windsor.

As a former care worker I found it a privilege to assist less able people from 18 to 108 with different illnesses. disabilities in different settings such as care homes or assisted living . It was an honour to help them but one of the most distressing illnesses I experienced was dementia as it robbed people of their memories and those nearest to them. I also have experience of it with my own father, so I found Scott's account very moving - my plea is to anyone reading this if you see someone a bit disorientated please be patient with them and their family.

Please consider getting support by attending dementia friendly activities.

Submitted by a Reader

As a child of the 60 -70's I have seen profound changes in topics people now talk about. Mental health is an example as it now seems to be centre stage. So as an advocate for Men's well being I was thrilled to see that Farming Minds, the Charity that assist distressed farmers/families, got a well deserved award for the great work they do with the farming community.

My advice to all of us, is to keep an eye out for friends who are lone working and invite them for a cuppa.

Submitted by a Reader

What to do on a Wednesday Morning.

Gentlemen, are you retired and looking for something to do for one morning each week?

If so, why not come along to our PROBUS group at the Bunch of Carrots Pub at Hampton Bishop?

We meet every Wednesday morning from 10.45am until midday and on most weeks we have a programme of interesting speakers to entertain and inform us.

Here is a small sample of our Spring Programme.

Inside the Royal Yacht,

Cambodia and Vietnam,

Garden Birds,

My Life as a War Camera man.

So come along, have a cup of coffee, try us out and have your first three meetings for free. You will find us very informal and welcoming.

If you would like to find out more first, why not ring me on 07738 634902? Robin: Hereford PROBUS 3

Contact Details

Byworth Trust Clerk:		Tim Dutton	07730652209
Police:	Safer Neighbourhood Team	Adam Westlake Rachael Mahoney	07773052580 07483108011
St. Peters Church:	Rector Secretary Warden	Rev'd Tiffany Jackson June Wynter TBC	07871222793 851677
Village Hall:	Chairman Booking Secretary	Paul Fretten Nicki Powders	07508030520 07362783641
WG Parish Council:	Clerk Chairman Vice-Chair	Sophie Glover Paul Andrews Judith Howe	617306 07860300393 850117
Whitestone Chapel		Ian Porter	01981 540388
Withington Book Club		Susan Patmore	851710
Withington Post Office:			850356
Withington Parish Magazine:	Editor	Margaret Thompson	850182

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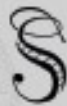
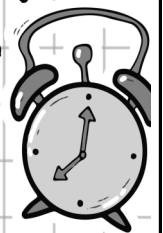
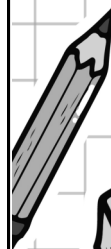
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- If you are under 25 years old
- and wish to further your Education or Training

You can apply for a grant to Buy Books, School Uniform, Course Fees, Tools, Equipment Etc
You can get money towards School Trips and much more

Apply to the Clerk to the Elizabeth Byworth Trustees, with brief details of what you want and the approximate cost plus your name, age etc

Email: byworthtrust@btinternet.com



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AT CARRIAGES



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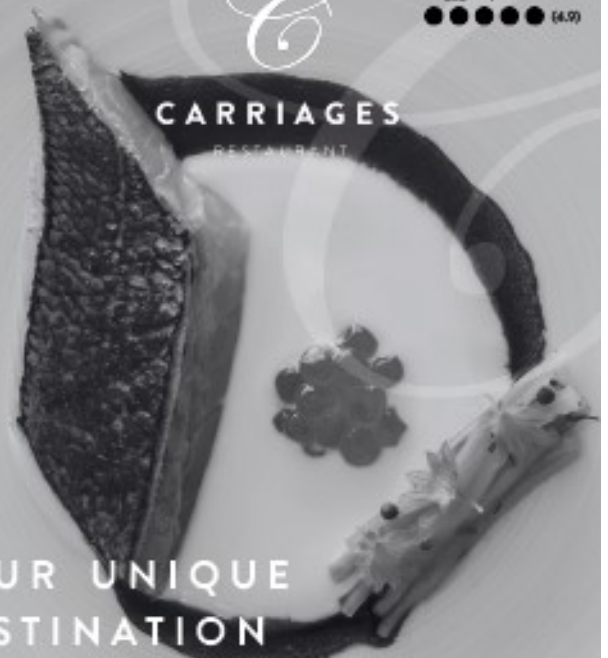
www.carriageshereford.co.uk/thesidings thesidings@allpay.net 07543309427

Whitestone Business Park, Hereford HR1 3SE | [@herefordthesidings](https://www.instagram.com/herefordthesidings)



CARRIAGES

RESTAURANT

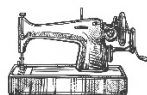


YOUR UNIQUE DESTINATION RESTAURANT

Carriages Restaurant is a refined Herefordshire dining destination devoted to exceptional cuisine and impeccable service, where seasonal menus celebrate the region's finest ingredients with creativity and precision. We welcome guests by reservation only.

www.carriageshereford.co.uk | carriages@allpay.net | 01432 852 303

Whitestone Business Park, Hereford HR1 3SE | [@herefordcarriages](https://www.instagram.com/herefordcarriages)



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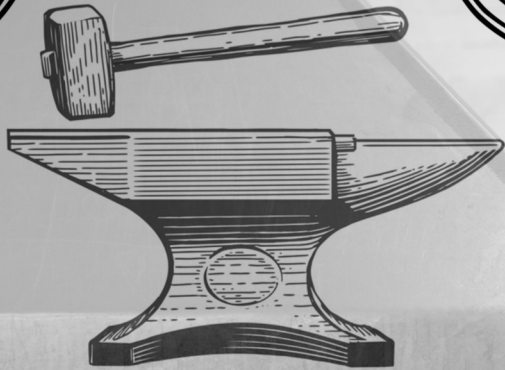
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We run a FREE 24 hour Support Line 7 days a week for farmers and their families within Herefordshire who are feeling distressed and need someone to talk to anonymously.

Counselling:

We provide fully funded counselling to anyone in the Herefordshire farming community who may be in emotional distress.

Training:

We offer FREE mental health awareness training to anyone living or working in or with the farming community in Herefordshire.

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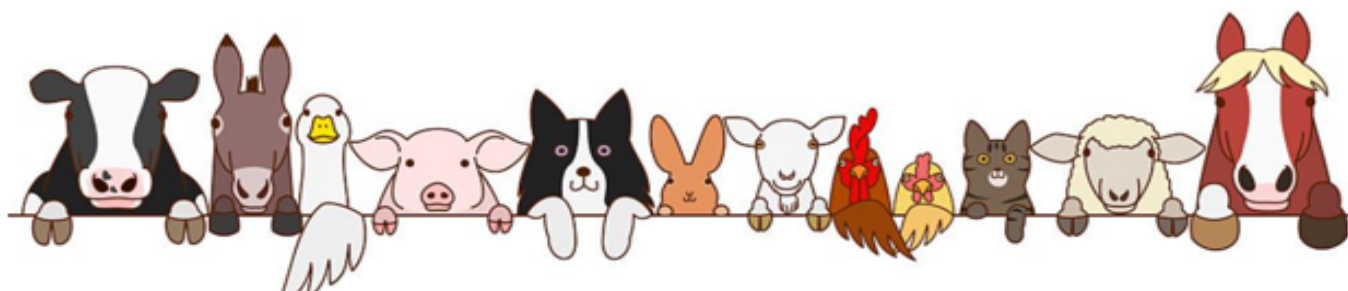
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