

## Introduction to the Diocese

Welcome to the Diocese of Hereford! We may be the smallest mainland diocese in the Church of England, but we think small is beautiful. It means you can know your colleagues and be known, and we hope supported to exercise your best ministry. We offer proper structures such as MDR and access to confidential well-being support including accompaniment, supervision and counselling if needed. We also know that informal support is just as important. The accessibility of senior staff, informal social connection and financial help through a discretionary fund when needed helps foster a sense of being valued and belonging.

We believe the local is the best place to discern God's call. Our parishes and benefices are the centre of the diocese not the Diocesan office. Our strategy seeks to unite us around the common purpose of 'Proclaiming Christ and Growing disciples' lived out in three values of Prayerfulness, Christlikeness and Engagement. We recognise our parishes and clergy are diverse and we encourage people to live out these things in line with their own giftings, individual and communal. We have been seeking to help parishes embed these values in our churches. 2023 was a year of prayer, with events around the diocese, including communion services on the hills covering every deanery, exploring prayer workshops and more intense times of prayer for our common life. 2024 was a year of faith, seeking to grow our discipleship, and 2025 a year of outward looking engagement with our communities. This year is a year of celebration as we celebrate our 1350<sup>th</sup> birthday since our founding by Putta in 676. The senior staff seek to model these values and join with parishes in activities to deepen our spiritual life.

I hope you will feel led to join us in this beautiful corner of God's creation, in particular to consider the Benefice of South Wye and Bullinghope. It is a place of great potential, gifted people and excellent community relationships. May you know God's wisdom as you prayerfully consider this opportunity.

+ Richard

