



ST. JOHN KEMBLE DEANERY

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2026

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

At the Parish Pastoral Council AGM, the Parish Bereavement Group at Belmont Abbey was launched. The first meeting will be held on 20th October and thereafter the second Tuesday of the month.

The aim of the group is to provide a safe, friendly, welcoming space for anyone in the deanery who has experienced the loss of a person (including an unborn child), no matter how long ago, and feel the need of support and a chance to explore their grief.

The purpose of the group is to reduce isolation, normalise grief and share coping strategies, rather than providing a "fix".

The group will be run by Ellen Sarewitz (trained bereavement supporter) and Julie Mirfin (trained volunteer). Initial contact will be through a request made via an enquiry form, (available in the church porch) or via the Belmont Abbey Parish Website: Belmontparish.org.uk or by email: parishbereavement26@gmail.com

Meetings will be held in the Parish Centre at Belmont, last for 1.5 - 2 hrs, open and close with a prayer and refreshments will be available. Anyone in the deanery is welcome to attend.

SYNODALITY READING GROUP

Join the Deanery-wide Synodality Reading Group meeting online once a week on a Tuesday at 7pm for six weeks. The idea is to receive and digest the Final Document of the years-long worldwide synod on synodality, which invites us to create room for the Spirit to guide the Church in our changing world. At each weekly hour-long session we'll pray with Scripture, read a short passage from the synod Final Document, and share in small groups using Conversation in the Spirit. To receive the Zoom link, email Austen at aivereigh@gmail.com

ST. ETHELBERT'S – DID YOU KNOW?

St. Ethelbert's Church Leominster and St. Joseph's Church, Bromyard keep the feast of St. Eadfrith on 26th October, the Northumbrian monk who is the patron saint and founder of Leominster.

Eadfrith of Leominster also known as Eadridus (died 675) was a seventh century saint from Anglo-Saxon England. Although very little is known of his life and he is not mentioned in contemporary texts, stories suggest that he was an important figure in the process of Christianisation of Anglo-Saxon England.

The later foundation legend of the minster at Leominster tells the Eadfrith came from Northumbria and worked as a missionary to the Hwicce kingdom and in 660 converted King Merewalh, subregus of the Magonsaete, a contemporary (and possibly son) of King Penda of Mercia.

According to these foundation legends, Eadfrith founded Leominster Abbey for women around 660 as a conventual priory of the monks of Reading Abbey. This abbey was mentioned in the Domesday Book and was re-founded about 1139, at which time it may have been associated with the royal family.

Eadfrith is known to history mainly through the hagiography of the Secgan Manuscript, but also the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and the Catalogus Sanctorum Pausantium in Anglia.

Eadfrith died in 675 and was buried in Leominster (though this burial is not listed in the resting places of saints in the aforementioned Secgan Manuscript, which lists only a St. Aethelred at Leominster).

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S – LOTS GOING ON!



Lots of building work at SFX. Ongoing work to restore two major mosaics in the church, as well as complete refurbishment of the Kemble Hall toilets and hall painting. Our sound system upgrade, with new speakers fitted throughout the church has just finished.

A very well-attended BBQ occurred on Sunday 13th September ... the only day in the entire summer when it rained!

As well as our usual infant baptisms we had on Sunday 20th September, Adam Gates being baptised, receiving first holy communion and being confirmed and also Fergus Gates was baptised and received first holy communion.

The SFX WhatsApp channel is continuing to grow with 164 followers.

From 5th-9th October, there will be 25 pilgrims leaving for the SFX Rome pilgrimage.

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Latin and Liturgy Course

Thursday 1st October @ 6.00pm

St. Francis Xavier

Fr. John will be leading this Latin and Liturgy course. The course will run on the first Thursday of each month.

Vespers for the Feast of St. Thomas of Hereford

Thursday 1st October @ 5.30pm

Hereford Cathedral

Join the monks of Belmont Abbey for Evening Prayer to celebrate the feast of Hereford's great saint, Thomas Cantilupe and pray at his shrine in the Cathedral.

A Service of Healing Prayer

Friday 2nd October from 6.45pm

Belmont Abbey

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer for physical, spiritual, emotional or mental healing, do come to be strengthened through prayer and intercession. Led by Fr. Michael Clothier OSB of St. Gregory's Community. Vespers is at 5.55pm beforehand if you wish to pray evening prayer with the community. Compline (night prayer) afterwards at 8.00pm.

A day on Meister Eckhart

Saturday 3rd October, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Belmont Chapterhouse

Led by Dr. Sheila Newman, the day will offer space for reflection and silence as we explore Eckhart's promise that, even in darkness, God draws us towards a deeper joy, freedom and peace.

Love Was His Meaning: Julian of Norwich

Monday 5th October, 4.00pm – Thursday 8th October, 2.00pm

Belmont Chapterhouse

A retreat on Dame Julian of Norwich led by Abbot Brendan Thomas OSB with Dr. Sheila Newman.

The Bible: Myth or History?

Saturday 10th October, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Belmont Chapterhouse

A free illustrated lecture series in Biblical Archaeology with David Rohl. The great flood and the Tower of Babel.

Called to Love

Saturday 10th October

St. Mary's, Bridgend

Do you care about our world and people in need? Caritas Cardiff-Menevia is holding a day at St. Mary's Church, Bridgend with keynote speakers and plenty of opportunity to share and discuss ideas and create new contacts. To register, please contact caritas@cardiffmenevia.org

Lectio Divina

Thursday 15th October, 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Belmont Parish Centre

If you would like to know more about Lectio Divina and participate in a group setting, Dom Leo Maidlow Davis of St. Gregory's Community will be leading two introductory sessions. (The first session is on Wednesday 30th September from 3.00pm – 4.30pm). For more information, contact Renata Schmidt at renatajmj@outlook.com

Meet the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team

Thursday 22nd October: 9.30am – 11.30am

Our Lady's, Llandoverly

Everyone is invited to the Church hall for a coffee and a chat to meet the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team at Our Lady's Church, College View, Llandoverly, SA20 0BD

The Saints in Christian Art

Friday 30th October, 5.30pm – Sunday 1st November, 2.00pm

Belmont Chapterhouse

On the Feast of All Saints the Church invites us to lift our eyes to that great multitude of men and women whose lives were transformed by the grace of God. Across the centuries, artists have sought to portray these saints—not simply as heroes of the past, but as living witnesses to the beauty of holiness.



Don't Forget: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Hereford hold a Coffee Morning on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome!

FUTURE EVENTS

Harvest Mass

To be held at St. Joseph's, Bromyard on Wednesday 11th November at 11.00am. All donations will go to Bromyard Food Bank.

Belmont Abbey Parish Christmas Fair

Saturday 14th November in the Chapterhouse from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Some stalls for Christmas Crafts and local businesses still available at £10/each – contact Louise Wright at louise@thewoodee.com for more information and to book a table.

The Dispersion of the Nations: The geography and archaeology of Genesis

Led by David Rohl. The descendants of Noah – Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. Discoveries in Egypt's Eastern Desert. The iconography of Mesopotamian influence in early pharaonic Egypt. Saturday 21st November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm in Belmont Parish Centre.

Advent Carol Service

To be held at St. Joseph's, Bromyard on Sunday 29th November at 3.00pm.

The Advent Retreat: When God Draws Near

2026 Advent Retreat led by Abbot Brendan Thomas and Dom Alexander Kenyon. Monday 30th November from 4.00pm to Thursday 3rd December, 2.00pm.

Christmas Concert - Belmont Abbey Parish presents - Hereford Police Male Voice Choir

Saturday 5th December at 7pm in the Chapterhouse. Tickets £10, under 10's £5. Contact Louise Wright at louise@thewoodee.com to book tickets.



"Almighty and eternal God, give us the grace and strength to carry out the work entrusted to us in this diocese. Bless our families and our parishes. Open our hearts to the prompting of the Holy Spirit so that, strengthened in faith, growing in hope, and living in charity, we may be missionary disciples making your name known and loved. Guide our Bishop and Clergy and grant us all things necessary for our common life, that we may be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

PLEASE NOTE

If you wish to advertise anything in the Deanery Newsletter, please ensure it is with your Parish Priest or Chair of your Parish Pastoral Council so that it can be submitted to Tricia Carter (triciacarter2691@gmail.com) by the 20th of the month.