



The West Hereford Team Ministry
The Team Office, Vowles Close, Hereford,
HR40DF 01432 273086 / www.westherefordteam.org.uk

Hello everyone,

I have the joy of writing to you as the Reverend Jo Burden, having been ordained a deacon on Sunday. It was a real blessing to know that so many of you were praying for me even if you couldn't be present in the cathedral. It was also a great joy to see some of you gathered at St Michael's for a service in the afternoon.

If you read the various pieces of liturgy that Ruth sent out in the mailing last week then you'll see that it quite a great charge that the Bishop lays on Deacons. This is why it's so important that we don't make our promises alone – the congregations promise to support the deacons through prayer and encouragement. We can't minister alone!

You may also have seen that we don't make the declarations in our own strength – by the help of God we will be diligent in prayer, care for those in need and be a faithful servant.

It's these three strands which make ministry possible – our own actions, gifts and skills, the support of others, and the grace of God.

It's also these three strands that will hold us together as a congregation in the weeks and months to come. Borrowing from the Revd Rachel Robertson, "Of course if you've ever plaited hair - you do this with three strands. A strong rope is made of more than two strands woven together." As it says in Ecclesiastes "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." (4:12)

What can you do to hold those three strands together? Is there someone you've been meaning to call or haven't heard from in a while? Are there words of encouragement you could give? Are there things you need to bring before God? Are there skills that you've been discovering or building up over lock down that you can give back to the community and the church?

How can we be a 'threefold cord' in the West Hereford Team Ministry?

I know that I will be pondering this as I begin my diaconal ministry. I will be giving thanks for this community, for your faithful prayer and your encouragement. I will pray also your encouragement and your growth.

We know that for many of you the uncertainty and anxiety about lockdown restrictions and health continues. We want to remind you that we are here for you. If you find you need a chat, prayer, or some practical help then do reach out – either by phoning 01432 273086 or by contacting your Pastoral Coordinator.

We hope these resources help you feel connected as we worship as a scattered Church. Please be assured that you are not forgotten and that you are remembered in our prayers – and that we long for the day when we can meet again as the whole church in one body and one place.

God Bless,
Ruth and Jo