

Week ending 18 October 2025

Connect

The bulletin for clergy, lay leaders and all who are the Church in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.



Celebrating Reader Ministry at Wells Cathedral

It was a joy-filled day as Readers from across the diocese gathered in Wells for the Annual Readers' Day. Seven new Readers were commissioned at the cathedral, and four were welcomed to the diocese, surrounded by the love, prayers, and support of their families, friends, and parish communities.

The day was also a time for all Readers in Bath and Wells to reaffirm their commitment to serve God through their ministry. Speaking after the service Simon Hill, Warden of Readers and Archdeacon of Taunton, said, "Readers play a vital part in church and community life across Somerset and are a key part of shared local ministry. Many parishes and chaplaincies benefit from the ministry of Readers through their pastoral care, leading of worship, being teachers of the faith, and enablers of mission." [Read more about the day.](#)



Safeguarding Sunday 2025

This year's Safeguarding Sunday takes place on Sunday 16 November. It is a day when thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to share the message of the importance of safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people. This initiative, spearheaded by Thirtyone:eight, who provide out-of-hours support in Bath and Wells, invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work being done to create safer places.

More information about Safeguarding Sunday, and resources to help you plan your service, are also available on the [Thirtyone:eight Safeguarding Sunday website](#).

A video message from Bishop Michael and Ben Goodhind for parishes to share as part of their Safeguarding Sunday services will be made available to parishes very soon on the [Bath and Wells website](#).

The November issue of [Manna](#) will also focus on safeguarding.



Anti Slavery Day art exhibition

From 17-19 October, Hidden Voices Bridgwater is hosting an art exhibition in St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater focusing on the hidden slavery in everyday products and services. Called The Hidden Market the exhibition aims to explore the realities of modern slavery and human trafficking. All the works have been produced by local artists.

Sian Owen of Hidden Voices Bridgwater explains, "We think it is a powerful way to bring home to people the reality of modern slavery and the way in which slavery can exist in the supply chains of many products and services we readily enjoy." The group has also paid for an illuminated road sign on the A38 to raise awareness of modern slavery. If you are organising an Anti-Slavery Day church service this month check out the [Clewer](#)

[Initiative's Anti-Slavery Day church resources.](#) There are prayers, liturgy, suggested Bible readings and hymns.



Intentionally intergenerational: It's a whole church thing!

More than 70 people gathered in Wells for a conference entitled 'Intentionally Intergenerational'. The day, hosted by the Go Team, with speakers from around our diocese, sparked much conversation and reflection on how, as local churches, we can be the family of different ages and stages that God intended us to be. Some of those who attended said they felt it was an inspiring day, "It's a whole church thing. It's a culture change." [Read more about the day.](#)



Remembrance at Wells Cathedral

In the 80th anniversary year of the end of the Second World War, Wells Cathedral is holding a series of events to mark this special occasion. As part of the Cathedral's Living Liberty project, the Tapestry of Black Britons is coming to Wells this November and will form part of the Remembrance activities.

The Tapestry of Black Britons honours Black British, Caribbean, African, and Asian contributions to WWII. Inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry and African traditions, this evolving artwork by Paula Ogun Hector highlights 2,000 years of Black presence in Britain. A special preview with the artist [takes place on Friday 4 November.](#)

Find out more about all the events taking place at [Wells Cathedral this November.](#)

Digital support for Advent and Christmas

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves around a single word: Joy! The resources offered this year are designed to help people of all ages be drawn into the joy of the first Christmas. For churches, these include activity sheets for children, digital Christmas card templates, icons, social media covers and templates, 'What's On' and 'Keep in Touch' flyer templates, poster templates, and PowerPoint templates from [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.AChurchNearYou.com) (login required).

For individuals there are downloadable reflections for 11-15 year olds, daily reflections, and online services. There are also collective worship resources, and weekly Advent activity and colouring sheets for schools. [Find out more.](#)

There are also a host of Advent and Christmas webinars to support churches.

Church websites at Christmas

22 October, 14:00 - 15:00
[Register here](#)

Livestreaming and recording church services at Christmas
28 October, 14:00 - 15:00 [Register here](#)

Social media tips for Advent and Christmas
24 November, 12:00 - 13:00 [Register here](#)

Arts in Ministry Day

Saturday 29 November 2025

09:30 - 15:30 Wells

Led by Gill Sakakini, Pioneer Priest in the Arts, this day will look into the many ways the arts inspire us to engage afresh with God's Story. Come along to create, listen, reflect and learn. Come on your own or bring a friend. No experience is necessary - just a willingness to have a go! [Book your place online](#)

Rural Forum

Monday 3 November 2025

10:00 - 15:30 Bagley Baptist Church

The theme for this year's forum is Calling in the countryside. Matthew Frankum, Vocations Team Leader, and Bishop Michael will help us consider what God is saying to us in our rural setting and how we can encourage others in using their gifts in our churches and communities. Book your place [using the online form.](#)

In Brief

- An exhibition of responses to imaging the story in the chapel at Flourish House, Wells launches 1 November, 16:00- 18:00, and is then open daily until 14 November.
- Tuesday 11 November, there will be a special Evensong at Wells Cathedral to mark the start of COP30, the UN's annual climate change conference. More details will

be shared on the [Cathedral website](#).

- 31 October, the BRLSI is holding 'Interfaith & Bath – A Personal Perspective' with a panel of leaders and experts from different faiths. There will be a Q&A session following the talk. More information and tickets [are available online](#).
- This November, St Saviour's Church, Bath is hosting Creative Bible Workshops designed to bring Scripture to life through story, art and physical expression. Find out more [on St Saviour's website](#).

If you have news to share, tag us on your social media channel or [email the Communications team](#).

Celebrating Harvest in Bath and Wells

In Portishead, people of all ages came together to celebrate Harvest. There were beautiful flower arrangements, salt dough creations and plenty of food. Hollowed pumpkins filled with sand were made into bright, sustainable flower displays. Everyone shared a harvest meal made with Fairtrade ingredients, at which a local Fairtrade speaker shared how the everyday choices we make can help support others around the world.

Meanwhile, at St Mary's Luccombe Harvest service there were some unusual visitors in the congregation this year – a host of scarecrows! After sitting quietly in the pews during the service they then stood alongside the villagers who had created them for the parish scarecrow competition.

£12,000 to good causes

Thanks to the generous giving of parishioners, St John's Church Peasedown has given away another £12,000 this year to local, national and international causes.

The congregation follows the biblical principle of giving away the first 10% of its income each year in a bid to practice what it preaches. This year, £12,000 was set aside for the church's Mission Giving Committee to make decisions about where the money should go.

Over the last 14 years, St

150 years of music at Bath Abbey.

On Sunday, Bishop Michael was at Bath Abbey to join the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Boys and Lay Clerks Choir. Since its establishment, the choir nurtured generations of young singers. The choir first sang at a service in Bath Abbey on 3 October 1875.

During a special Choral Evensong, Bishop Michael blessed and rededicated the choir, giving thanks for generations of music and faithful service. Also joining the celebration were the Boys and Vicars

Celebrating and looking to the future

School leaders gathered at Flourish House this month to celebrate the excellent SIAMS reports they have received over the last two academic years. It was a great opportunity to come together to reflect, give thanks and share experiences. Participants heard the comments made by SIAMS inspectors which recognised the hard work and dedication of our church schools as they live out their Christian foundation each day.

John's Church has distributed a staggering £139,000 in charitable giving!
In the past 12 months, the committee has received applications for funding and financial assistance from a range of organisations. [Find out more](#) about the work at St John's.

Choral of Wells Cathedral.

The evening featured the premiere of a beautiful new work by composer Annabel Rooney, a setting of Psalm 98: "O sing unto the Lord a new song." [Find out more about](#) the choir and the celebrations.

These celebrations were followed later in the month by the first SIAMS training day of the academic year. The day focused on vision and values, spirituality, religious education, and the vital role of governors. Louise Jenkins, Lead Education Adviser, said, "I am hugely grateful to everyone who attended for the engagement and enthusiasm they shared."

Diocese of Bath and Wells

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