
Week ending 4 October 2025

Connect

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



Bath and Wells welcomes the new Archbishop of Canterbury

Downing Street has today announced that the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is to be [the next Archbishop of Canterbury](#).

Welcoming the announcement Bishop Michael said, "I am delighted that the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has been appointed as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. This is wonderful news for the Church of England, and the wider Anglican Communion." You can read Bishop Michael's message in full [on the Bath and Wells website](#).

He also shared this video message.



Bishop Michael responds to Manchester synagogue attack

Bishop Michael shared a message following the incident at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester. The attack, which has been declared a terrorist incident by police, took place on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

Bishop Michael said, "Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters in the Jewish community of Manchester, and throughout the country. The attack on the synagogue on this holiest of days for the Jewish people is both horrifying and an assault upon us all. We stand with our brothers and sisters in their loss and distress, and are with them in prayer and solidarity at this terrible time."



A PRAYER FOLLOWING THE ATTACK AT HEATON PARK SYNAGOGUE, MANCHESTER

God our refuge and strength,
close at hand in our distress;
meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes
to the peace and light of your constant care.
Help us so to hear your word of grace
that our fear will be dispelled by your love.
Amen.



BioBlitz supports church's journey to a Silver Eco Church Award

Members of Keinton Mandeville Church recently joined forces for a BioBlitz in their churchyard recording the species of insects, plants, trees, and birds that live there. The event, which was held as part of the monthly Faith and Fun all ages service, is part of Keinton Mandeville's [Eco Church](#) journey. They're now working towards a Silver Eco Church Award after achieving Bronze last year.

[Find out more](#) about the BioBlitz and the Eco Church work taking place.



Churchwardens' Day

More than 60 churchwardens attended the Churchwardens' Day at Flourish House last weekend. It was an opportunity for discussions, question and answer sessions with representatives of Support Services teams, and mutual support from fellow churchwardens across Bath and Wells. Reflecting on the day one churchwarden said, "It was so useful. There is always that situation of 'you don't know what you don't know' until someone explains. So all information is useful."

Julia Hill, Head of Mission Support and Ministry Development, said, "It was marvellous to see churchwardens from across the diocese gathering together for support and encouragement. It reminded us again of what a fantastic job is done by people locally and what a privilege it is to support them."



Step Forward South West

Bishop Michael was the keynote speaker at the first Step Forward South West vocations event held in Exeter. It was a day for young adults from across the five dioceses of the South West to find out more about different kinds of ministry within the Church of England.

Throughout the day, participants heard from people involved in a variety of ministries including chaplaincy, youth ministry, ordained ministry, and the Ministry Experience Scheme, which is particularly designed for people in the 18-39 age group, to help them discern their calling whilst getting hands-on experience.

Further information about the Ministry Experience Scheme can be found on [the Church of England website](#).

New Prebendaries for Wells Cathedral

During Choral Evensong at Wells Cathedral this week, prebendaries Edward Baynton-Coward, Caroline Mason, Tracey Staples and Alison Vercoe were installed as members of the College of Canons. Prebendaries are appointed in recognition of their work in the diocese and play a valuable role in maintaining the Cathedral's close links with the parishes of the diocese. [Read more about the new prebendaries.](#)

Rural Forum 2025

Bagley Baptist Church

Monday 3 November

This year's Forum will focus on 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.

The event is free of charge, and lunch and refreshments will be provided. The Forum is open to all, so please do share this with all who may be interested.

Bookings can be made via the Rural Forum [online registration form](#) or email sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org

Chaplaincy Gathering

Celebrating Difference and Finding Hope

14 October 09:00 - 15:30

St Mary's Bridgwater

Christian chaplains from across our diocese, as well as those with an interest in chaplaincy, are invited to join the day.

Key speakers are chaplains in our diocese.

- Ewan Huffman and team (Hinkley Point C construction site)
- Anne Fulton (St Margaret's Hospice)
- Katy Garner (Bath Spa University)

Please register [using the online form](#) by Wednesday 6 October.

New Worshipping Communities

As we seek to become a mixed ecology of church, there are opportunities for learning and support.

Whether you are in the process of beginning something new, or are considering doing so, Greenhouse offers guidance. To find out more about Greenhouse, [fill in the online form](#).

[Beyond the Walls](#) is a monthly webinar run in partnership with dioceses of Bristol, Exeter, Truro and Bath and Wells. Check out the upcoming webinars and book your place online.

Standing Firm in Power and Pride

The theme for Black History Month 2025 is Standing Firm with Power and Pride. to mark the month the Somerset African Caribbean Network is holding a series of events.

- October 1 – 31 “Sending things Home” installation Old Cinema St Margaret’s Hospice shop Yeovil.
- October 11 The Library Sessions: The Wonderful Story of Trinidad Calypso: Carnival, poetry, politics, jump up!" Dave Chapple Vinyl's and Talk 1 - 3pm Yeovil Library.
- October 1 - Nov 16 Celebration of Demonstration, Wayne Campbell Photographic Exhibition, Shoemakers Museum, Street.

More information is available on the [Somerset African Caribbean Network website.](#)

Lay Ministers' support

If you are a Lay Worship Assistant or Lay Pastoral Assistant and would be interested in joining with others with the same commendation for support, ideas and encouragement, please get in touch with Richard Priestley, Developing Ministries Adviser, using [the online form.](#)

Anti-Slavery Day 2025

Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October is an opportunity to consider what we can all do to eliminate modern slavery in their communities. [The Clewer Initiative](#) has Anti-Slavery Day Liturgy and Prayers available to download. [This month's Manna](#) focuses on Anti-Slavery Day.

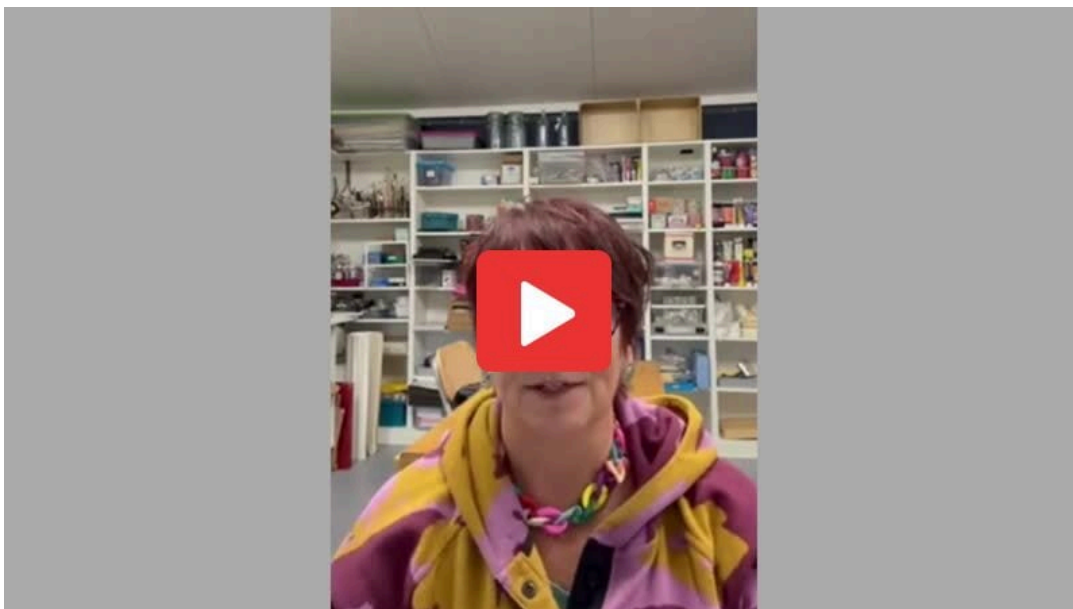
Creative Arts in Ministry Day

Saturday 2 November

09:00 - 15:30

Flourish House Wells

Dig deep into the many ways the arts inspire us to engage afresh with God's story with this free day workshop led by Gill Sakakini, Pioneer Priest in the Arts and the Go Team's Ruth Slade. In the video below Gill explains more about the day. If you'd like to come along please register [using the online form.](#)



Exploring your spiritual journey

Bookings are now open for 2026 course beginning in January.

Exploring your Spiritual Journey with other like-minded people provides an opportunity for learning more about our own spirituality, and hearing about some of the best known spiritual traditions, so that with mutual support we can be led by the Holy Spirit along the path prepared for us to fulfil God's purpose.

Please find an outline of the course [on the diocesan website](#), as well as information about how to register for the 2026 course.

Available now

October's Prayer Calendar is available to download now from [the diocesan website](#).

This month's edition of Manna, Bath and Wells monthly magazine, focuses on modern slavery. Read and download in full [from the diocesan website](#).

In Brief

- Work to Save Wells Cathedral's Grand Organ is to begin in January. The cathedral took the decision to start work in the New Year following a growing number of mechanical faults which risk imminent catastrophic failure of the organ. Read more about the refurbishment [on the Wells Cathedral website](#).
- Professional theatre company 'Oddments' is coming to the Mission Church in Street on 18 October with their new production of 'Amazing Grace'. This is the true

story of John Newton, the sailor and slave-trader who went on to write the famous hymn 'Amazing Grace'. [Book tickets online.](#)

- Friends of the Holy Land warmly invite you to an evening of open dialogue, new perspective and hopeful inspiration, London, W1K 3AH. [Please register.](#) Also available to watch live [online through YouTube.](#)

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

Hundreds attend Cider & Cheese Festival at Wells Cathedral

The new festival was part of the cathedral's drive to welcome more people into the building, as Toby Wright, Dean of Wells, explains, "At Wells Cathedral, we are pursuing the bold ambition to become this country's most joyful cathedral. And as part of that vision, we want to ensure that Wells Cathedral is a place where the whole of our local community feels warmly welcomed."

Harvest and 1st birthday celebrations

More than 100 people joined the joint Harvest held by [Orchard Grove Church](#) and All Saints Church, Trull held on a local farm. 137 people of all ages gathered together to worship, to give thanks to God for the food and resources of the earth, and for His goodness in creation, and to climb on to tractors and share a picnic lunch together.

The event was organised to celebrate Harvest and also to give thanks for the first birthday of Orchard

Photographing the beauty of Creation

The second Chew Valley Nature Photography Festival, held at St Andrew's Church, Chew Magna brought the community together to celebrate the beauty of the Chew Valley and to give thanks for God's creation.

The Photography Festival opened with the premiere of a new film about Richard Brock. Across the weekend, visitors enjoyed displays by local conservation groups, and children's activities. There

Learning about the history of clergy vestments

This October a rather unusual fashion show is taking place at St John's Church in Frome. Instead of featuring the latest fashions and models 'Fashionable Faith' will showcase the history of ecclesiastical vestments worn by members of the congregation.

The idea is to learn more about the vestment's meaning and purpose. The idea came about after a recent growth in the congregation meant more

Grove Church. A year ago, All Saints Trull commissioned a team to plant a church into Orchard Grove, a new housing development in Taunton. Then the church was made up of a team of just 15 adults and two children, in the last year Orchard Grove has grown. There have also been other opportunities to serve people locally with a pop up café on site.

[Read more about the celebrations.](#)

was a prayer room for quiet reflection.

The photography competition attracted nearly 500 entries. The weekend concluded with a Festival service led by Bishop Michael who spoke about Luke 12:22-31 and reminded us to place our trust in God while caring faithfully for the world he has made.

[Find out more about the festival and see the entries.](#)

people began asking about the meaning and symbolism of the vestments used. So the plan to host a fashion show with the vestments has been planned. It is hoped that people who are interested in the history of the vestments, as well as those who would like to see the workmanship and needlework used to create them, will also enjoy the fashion show.

[Find out more about what's been planned.](#)

Diocese of Bath and Wells

The Diocese of Bath and Wells Flourish House, Wells
United Kingdom

Our mailing address is:

comms@bathwells.anglican.org

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