

Week ending 6 July 2025

## Connect

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



## A weekend of joy and celebration

It was a lovely sunny weekend as friends, families and church communities gathered at Wells Cathedral to celebrate the ordination of ten Priests and twelve Deacons.

On Saturday Wells Cathedral was filled for The Ordination of Priests.



On Sunday people from all over the diocese and beyond, came together for The Ordination of Deacons



[Read more](#) about the weekend and those who will serve in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Join us as we dedicate a week of prayer to children and young people across our diocese and beyond.



## Week of Prayer for Children and Young People

This year's Week of Prayer will focus on different ages and stages. Churches, schools, small groups and individuals across our diocese are encouraged to join in praying for the children and young people in our communities. The Prayer Guide focuses on a different age group each day. A short daily video will feature children and young people encouraging us to pray. The themes will be echoed in the Diocesan Prayer Calendar and on social media during the week. [Read more and download](#) the Prayer Guide.



## Budget Consultations

Monday is the last opportunity to join the discussions around setting a three-year budget. The last session will be taking place on Zoom at 19:00 – 20:30.

The final in-person session took place at Flourish House on Monday morning. Diocesan Secretary, Jenny Hollingsworth shared the proposed three-year budget with attendees

Attendees shared their responses and asked any questions they had.

[Find out more and sign up to attend Monday's session](#)



## 250 free online fundraising packs available

This month easyfundraising is offering 250 exclusive church fundraising packs to churches in our diocese.

Simply:

1. Register your church for free funding with easyfundraising:  
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/bath-and-wells/>
2. When prompted, choose the option to schedule a call with a member of the team, who will then send you your free pack and explain how easyfundraising can help your church with funding.

If your church is already registered with easyfundraising, you can also get a pack by [booking your call online](#)

But be quick – once the packs are gone, they're gone!



## What is easyfundraising?

easyfundraising is a free, easy, and accessible way for your church community to raise funds. When people shop online with retailers, including Tesco, Trainline, Argos, Amazon, M&S, and 8,000 others via the easyfundraising website or app the retailer they shop with sends your church monetary donations.



## Giving every church a voice: the National Churches Trust survey 2025

[The National Churches Trust](#) is conducting a survey to help policymakers, the media, and the wider public better understand the challenges churches face and to highlight the vital work that churches undertake.

The project aims to build a picture of Christian places of worship: about their maintenance, funding, management, and additional uses by the wider community.

Responses will provide essential evidence to build a clearer picture and enable a better understanding of the challenges churches face and highlight the work they do. The deadline for completing the survey has now been extended to 13 July. [You can complete the survey online now.](#)

## Healing Forum

Monday 14 July 2025, 10.00 – 12.30.  
Flourish House, Wells.

This Healing Forum will be about encouraging a healthy culture and how we support those experiencing domestic abuse. The speaker will be the Revd Lucy Davies.

To book a place, contact:  
[Sue.whitehead@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Sue.whitehead@bathwells.anglican.org)

01749 685272

## Intentionally intergenerational

Saturday 11 October, 10:00 – 15:00 at  
Flourish House, Wells

A free day conference exploring worship and ministry across the generations

Join the Go Team and leaders from a variety of contexts and traditions who will be sharing stories and top tips.

[Book your place online.](#)

# New features on AChurchNearYou.com

The Digital team have introduced new features for editors on AChurchNearYou.com.

Some of these include:

- A calendar tab
- Tags for services and events now appear in alphabetical order
- Editors can now set multiple email addresses to receive messages from the public
- Create a 'Who's Who' page with an image, name and contact details.
- Add a signup button on homepage, directing people to where they can subscribe.

A full rundown of changes can be found on the editor help centre: [Acting on your feedback: What changed in June 2025 – AChurchNearYou.](#)

The digital team are also running [a webinar on 12 July](#) to share more about these updates and demonstrate how editors can make the most of them. Do sign up to attend if you're interested in learning more.

## Nature notes for parish Magazines

Is your church keen to celebrate and protect the wildlife in your churchyard? [Caring for God's Acre](#) is offering a free monthly resource to support churches.

Nature notes are short , engaging articles written by ecologists. Each one highlights a seasonal plant, animal or churchyard feature and are designed to be easily added to newsletters or parish magazines, or noticeboards. To receive it please email [enquiries@cfga.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cfga.org.uk)

### In Brief

- An evening with Judith Rose, Wednesday 16 July 2025. 19:00 St Andrew's Church, Cheddar. Judith talks about her new book, First In Line, which is about the development of women clergy, reflecting on her own personal journey.
- Collection Day for TWAM Tools with a mission. Saturday 19 July 10:00-15:00, Roman Road Bemerton Salisbury are collecting tools for their work in Africa, including Zambia. Please contact Revd Rosemary Fletcher - [rosemary.fletcher@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.fletcher@methodist.org.uk) for more information.

## Village comes together for return of historic church clock

St Catherine's Church clock, Montacute, believed to be one of the oldest working clocks in the country, has returned to home after undergoing restoration. The clock, which experts now believe dates back to around 1400, was removed in March for restoration and has now been reinstalled in the church tower.

The restoration included regilding the clock and replacing the dial with one in its traditional colours of blue and gold. Children from the village school, joined members of the church community, villages and a host of local camera crews to watch as the clock was returned to the tower.

Churchwarden Nic Laycock described the clock as a "Somerset treasure". The clock room has been fitted with new lighting and cameras, so visitors to the church can enjoy this precious piece of history. [Watch the ITV report on the day's events](#).

## Walking Together

At 6:45am on 3 July 2025, as the sun rose over Bath Abbey, a group of six determined walkers from the Monday Night Tea group at St John's Church in Chilcompton set off on a 31 mile pilgrimage through the heart of Somerset.

The group, which meets on a Monday evening, brings together young families from the local community to meet, enjoy a meal and connect with one another.

Their challenge was to help raise awareness and funds for the maintenance and repair of St John's Church and Church Hall as part of [the New Life Project](#).

Dan Owen, one of the group, said, "With every step along the journey, it did not just clock up miles, but moments of community, discovery, and resolve. A remarkable challenge and a meaningful walk, all under the broad Somerset skies."

## Windrush legacy celebrated

Bishop Michael presided at a special thanksgiving communion service at Christ Church, Bath, to mark the 77th Windrush Celebration. The annual service honours the contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants to the life of the church and wider community.

Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association (BEMSCA), as well as representatives from Fairfield House and the Black Families Education Support Group, were among the groups joining in the service.

Music for the service was provided by the Rainbow Steel Band, the oldest steel band in the country. Afterwards everyone was invited to share a wonderful Caribbean-style lunch together.

## Called to serve

Across the diocese we have been undertaking Archdeacons' Visitations, which involve the formal admission of churchwardens to their office, as well as providing support and encouragement to the parish. At the Yeovil and Ivelchester Visitation Steve and Emma Miller were sworn in as new churchwardens.

Emma shared with us their journey and tells us what made them decide to take up the role.

She explained how, "When Nicky, our last churchwarden, announced that she was stepping down, there was uncertainty around who/if this role would be picked up. It took a couple of weeks of thinking and asking the Lord for advice, but I spoke with Steve and explained that this felt like a calling; there is no other way to describe it.

"After many discussions and prayers, we knew this role was for us..." [Read more of Emma's story.](#)

## School celebrates 150 years

Worlebury St Paul's Church School, has been celebrating its 150th anniversary with a week-long series of events. The celebrations included a special worship led by the pupils and Bishop Michael.

The celebrations honoured the school's outstanding alumni and the generations of students and educators who have shaped its legacy. Founded in 1875, the school has grown from a single-building Victorian schoolhouse into a vibrant educational institution serving over 180 pupils from reception through to year six.

Michelle Bamford, Headteacher said, "This is a milestone not just for our school but for everyone who has walked through its doors. It has been wonderful learning about our school's rich past, celebrating the present and looking ahead to the future of education in our community." [Find out more about the celebrations.](#)

## A musical thank you

In 2022, Anthony Knight, a talented young musician began performing a series of charity recitals featuring the music of Bach and Telemann in churches and care homes across Bath and Wells. Over the course of his project, he gave 75 recitals, including a performance at Wells Cathedral, and raised £13,715 in support of the DEC Ukraine Appeal.

In recognition of his contribution, Anthony was honoured with an invitation to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Now a student at the Royal College of Music, Anthony gave a solo concert in June. He has made a high-quality digital recording of the performance and is offering this as a thank you for the warm welcome and encouragement he received in churches across the diocese. It is available [as a download](#).

[Read more about Anthony's journey.](#)

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