
Week ending 18 January 2025

Connect

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



Cathedral service to welcome back Bishop Ruth

We are delighted to share that Bishop Ruth is returning to our diocese in February, following her secondment to the Diocese of Coventry. A welcome service will be held on Sunday 2 February at the 3pm Candlemas Eucharist at Wells Cathedral. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.



Energy Footprint Tool now open for 2025

The Church of England's [Energy Footprint Tool](#) (EFT) is now open for churches to enter energy use from 2024. Last year an incredible 60% of churches in Bath and Wells took part. This year we are hoping to get as close to a 100% as possible.

The data collected will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects. The EFT calculates the carbon footprint by analysing energy consumption and sources. This is crucial for identifying opportunities to cut costs, reduce emissions, and take meaningful steps toward sustainability.

You can find the Energy Footprint Tool on the [Online Parish Returns System](#). Completing it is straightforward. You'll need your 2024 energy bills, details about your energy suppliers, and a rough idea of your church's usage. Once you have this information, the process takes about 15 minutes. Dan Wills, Bath and Wells Net Zero Enabler, has produced [a step-by-step guide](#) and can also help to provide a paper version, or upload data on your behalf. [Email: dan.wills@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:dan.wills@bathwells.anglican.org)



Share your views on Safeguarding

A reminder that in March, it will be the turn of Bath and Wells to be audited by the INEQE Safeguarding Group. The audit is part of a national programme, commissioned by the Archbishop's Council, to conduct an intensive and comprehensive review of safeguarding at each diocese and cathedral in the Church of England.

People holding different roles across the diocese, including clergy, church volunteers and worshippers are invited to complete a safeguarding survey for the INEQE audit. [Find out more about the survey.](#)



Bishop Michael shared his thoughts on Safeguarding in a recent article, 'Towards truth and accountability', [published in the Church Times, last week.](#) In it Bishop Michael talks about a radical solution needed to address the safeguarding crisis in the Church of England. He will also share his views on this at the forthcoming General Synod debate.



Giving and funding latest

The second issue of Money Matters, the new mailing for everyone concerned with church finances, will be out soon. If you'd like to subscribe to the newsletter, which contains all the latest giving and funding news, finance updates, hints and tips, and useful resources, sign up on our website [newsletters' page.](#)

Also coming up is the first Money Matters - Generous Church training day for clergy, which takes place on 26 February. If you are a member of clergy and yet to sign up, you can do so on the [event calendar page.](#)



Safeguarding spring training

Is it time to update your safeguarding training? The Safeguarding trainers have a number of courses taking place from now into the spring, including the Safeguarding Leadership course, which is delivered as two sessions, one week apart, as well as a one-session version tailored specifically for those with PTO who only have occasional ministry in church.

Safeguarding Leadership is available as an in-person or online course. Safeguarding Leadership for PTOs is taking place at Flourish House. [Find out more.](#)



Racial Justice Sunday - 2 February 2025

Racial Justice Sunday was established 30 years ago, in response to the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence two years earlier.

This year's theme, 'Coat of Many Colours', is designed to help us reflect on the increasing diversity that exists in the churches in Britain and Ireland. It offers an opportunity for all Christians to join together in:

- Reflecting on the importance of racial justice
- Thanksgiving for human diversity
- Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice
- Action that truly makes a difference
- Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives

[Resources for churches are available to download on the Churches Together website.](#)

Growing Good Toolkit during Lent

The Church Urban Fund's (CUF) Growing Good Toolkit is a free course for churches, offering six sessions to help your congregation grow in faith and make a difference in your community. During Lent and throughout the year, Growing Good helps churches reach out through loving service and social action, grow spiritually through discipleship, and invite everyone to be part of God's work transforming work. [Find out how the Growing Good Toolkit can help your church.](#)





Lent & Easter Ideas Chats

Tuesday 25 February, 19:30 - 20:30
Wednesday 26 February, 10:30 - 11:30
Hosted by the Go Team, online

Join the Go Team on Zoom to share ideas and resources, and think together about how we tell the story of Jesus and celebrate Easter with our communities. Also, learn more about the soon-to-be-launched Lent Cross Challenge for churches, schools and families at home. [Register free on the Bath and Wells website](#)

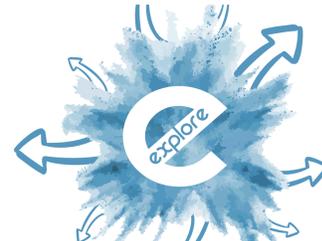


Taizé Evening 2025

Sunday 2 March 2025
Bishops Palace, Wells,
5:30pm

Join Bishop Michael for a Taizé evening. It will be an opportunity to enjoy a time of prayer with Taizé chants, reflection, fellowship, and also offer the opportunity for those who haven't been to Taizé before to find out more about this year's pilgrimage. [Register online to attend](#). For information email taize@bathwells.anglican.org

Find out more about [the Taizé pilgrimage 2025](#).



MYCN Explore 2025

Each month on Zoom 7:30-9pm.

Are you working with young people in your local area or school? Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN) enables churches to connect with young people and help them journey towards discipleship.

MYCN are running Explore, an online, multi-session, video-based resource to help equip churches to connect with young people. [Find out more about the sessions and sign up](#).



Clergy well-being day

Clergy are invited to attend a clergy well-being day to be held at Flourish House, Wells on Thursday 13 March.

Jacqueline Ede, Programme Manager at St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing, will offer an opportunity to explore well-being, and to reflect on the different types of preventative and restorative support available. The afternoon



Dwelling in the Word

Online roundtable 10am Tuesday 18 February or 7pm Thursday 20 February 2025

A national roundtable zoom meeting for anyone interested in Dwelling in the Word. Organised through the Church Mission Society (CMS), this offers an opportunity for those who have been working with the practice for a long

will be led by Gill Sakakini, using art to help reflect and ponder on the day's theme.

Places are limited, so [please register via the online form](#) prior to 6 March. [Further details can be found on our website.](#)

time, those new to it, and those curious to find out more, to review and reflect on the practice.

Find out more and register to take part. [Dwelling in the Word roundtable - Church Mission Society \(CMS\).](#)



Save the Date!

Each year, as a diocese, we come together to celebrate all that lay people give to the life of the church and to their community. The Celebration of Lay Ministries is an opportunity to give thanks for their gifts and ministries, acknowledging the ways we witness God moving and working among us.

This year's celebration takes place at Wells Cathedral on 14 June 2025. [Register now to join the celebration.](#)

Environment news



Big Garden Birdwatch

Take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers help to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. You can too. [Find out how.](#)

Wilder Churches

Bishop Michael, will be joining the 20 March Meetup, sharing his love for the natural world, stories from his own woodland and his passion for Creation care. 7-8:30 online. [Find out more and book now.](#)

Drop in Sessions

The Environment team are hosting a Wilder Churches drop-in session at Flourish House 19 March. Open to everyone. For more information email sara.emmett@bathwells.anglican.org.

[Don't forget to sign up to the Environment newsletter to receive all the latest information, tips and advice.](#)

In Brief

- [Movement Worship Night](#)- Taunton Saturday, 25 January.
- Spiritual Walk with Hedgerow Chaplain, Steven Wort, 21 January. Starting in Wiveliscombe at 10am. 3.75 miles. for more information please email.stevenwort@hotmail.co.uk
- Christian Aid Annual Changemakers Conference on 8 March, 10.30am to 1.00. Attend in London or at a regional watch party (Yeovil and Bristol are the closest) or watch on-line at home. [Changemakers Conference: Changing the world together | Christian Aid](#)
- USPG Lent Study course this year is on the Nicene Creed, celebrating its 1700 year history, with reflections from around the world. Details are available from the [USPG](#) website.
- USPG's Lent Appeal 2025 will support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East Gaza Crisis Response.

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



The Willis Monument: The Story of its Restoration

After nearly ten years of effort, the Willis Monument, an 18th-century Grade II* listed structure in the churchyard of St. Edward's Church, Goathurst, stands proudly restored. This significant project, which overcame numerous hurdles, is a testament to the dedication, teamwork, and



SOUP! is served in the transepts of Wells Cathedral

Launched in April 2016, by [Wells Independents](#), **SOUP!** is designed to support local charities and projects. It is a quarterly programme of fund-raising lunches - the money raised going towards supporting good causes in Wells and the surrounding area.

The latest event was held in



Luxmuralis, light show comes to Wells Cathedral

Tuesday 28 January – Saturday 1 February 2025.

The son-et-lumière artwork encourages reflection on humanity's place in the universe as vibrant light is projected around the Cathedral, transforming its interior and turning the walls and ceilings into a stunning cosmic display. The son-et-

community of St Edward's.

Churchwarden, Brenda Smith, said, "As I reflect now, I have become increasingly aware of God's timing and 'hand' in the restoration of the Willis monument and how important it is for us to respond to opportunities positively when they arise, rather than be daunted!

"Nothing is too hard or impossible if it is in keeping with God's will and for His glory. Suddenly, 'doors' open, people are willing to help, and everything falls into place. It does seem like a minor miracle and the PCC can now heave a sigh of relief that it is no longer a burden, but an important part of our mission and outreach!" [Read more.](#)

the transepts of the cathedral with all 120 spaces filled.

Four local charities were the recipients. The event not only raises money for them but also helps to raise their profile locally. Visitors attending heard from a volunteer with Youth with Future (a charity which supports young people who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness) who shared how their charity had spent the money they received from SOUP! in October.

Bishop Michael opened the lunch saying: "SOUP! is one of the best things that happens in Wells and I am really grateful to the Dean and Chapter and Virgers for making this possible." [Find out more](#)

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'Luxmuralis' is the name given to the artistic collaboration between sculptor Peter Walker and composer David Harper, who specialise in immersive fine art, light and sound installations around the UK and abroad.

Secure your place early by [purchasing tickets via the Cathedral's website.](#)

Diocese of Bath and Wells

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