
Week ending 22 November 2025

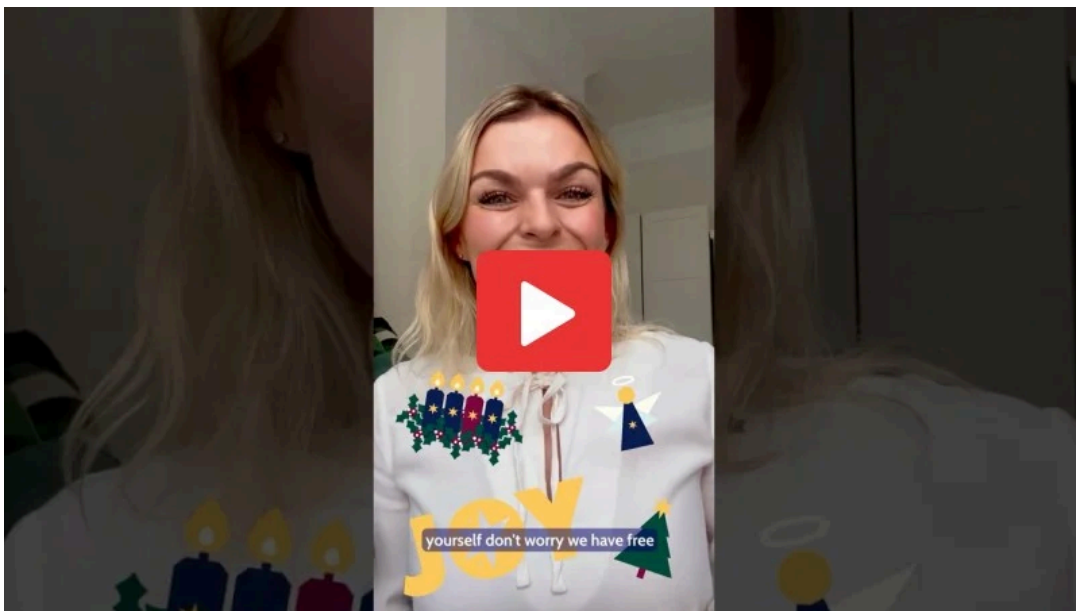
Connect

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



The Joy of Christmas

The Church of England's theme for this Advent and Christmas is The Joy of Christmas. There are [lots of great resources available](#) for individuals, churches and schools. The resources are designed to help all ages to be drawn into the joy of the first Christmas. The printed resources include a children's book, The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas, there are daily reflections, and digital resources. This video looks at the resources and how you may want to use them where you are.



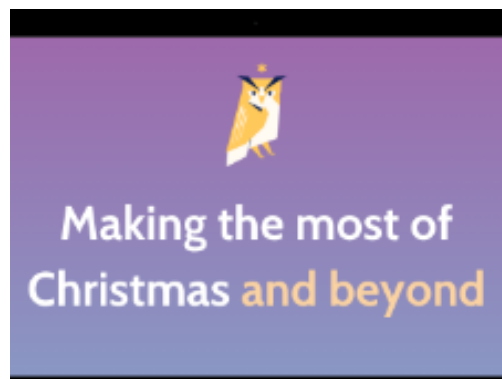
Digital Labs webinars for Advent and Christmas



Ask us anything: Social media tips for Advent and Christmas

November 24, 12pm - 1pm [Register here](#)

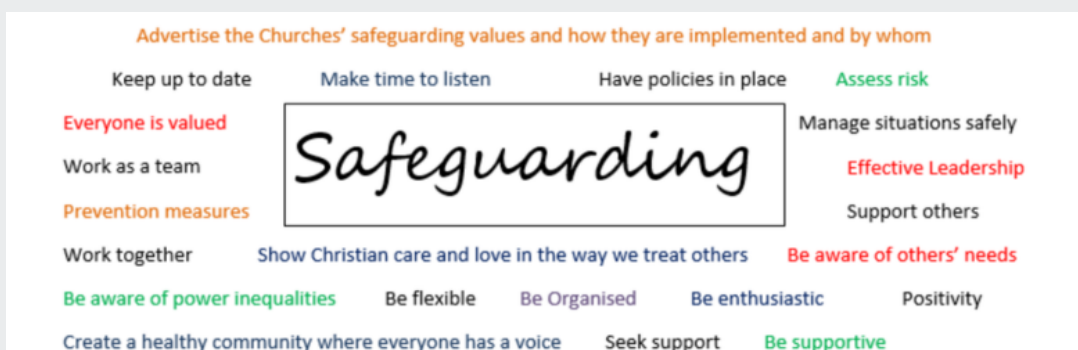
In this webinar there will be last minute tips to help you make the most of social media opportunities across December.



Interactive webinar: Making the most of Christmas and beyond

December 4, 12pm - 1pm [Register here](#)

In this interactive session there'll be a chance to share highlights, and think about how to make most of the Christmas period.



Reflections on Safeguarding

Many churches throughout Bath and Wells celebrated Safeguarding Sunday this November. Many others will do so throughout the year, as Safeguarding Sunday services can be held at any time.

We'd also like to share with you 'Reflections on Safeguarding', a wonderful collection of poems written by people from across the diocese who have expressed their feelings, experience and gratitude through poetry. We've gathered these poems into a booklet, which we invite you to download and share with others in your church community. Download the Safeguarding poems booklet and find resources for use in Safeguarding Sunday Services [on the diocesan website](#).



Bishop of Tewkesbury to be new lead safeguarding bishop

The Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett, is to be the Church of England's new Lead Safeguarding Bishop, taking over from Bishop Joanne Grenfell who leaves the role at the end of March 2026.

Bishop Robert will work closely with the National Director of Safeguarding, Alexander Kubeyinje, and other members of the National Safeguarding Team. The Church of England is continuing to strengthen its safeguarding practices by committing to independent scrutiny and improving delivery. This includes implementing recommendations from the Makin review, the Charity Commission, and insights gained from independent safeguarding audits. [Read more](#) about Bishop Robert and his new role.



Celebrating Interfaith week in Bath

People from across Bath's faith communities came together at Christ Church in Bath to celebrate Interfaith Week. The team at the church worked with Spirit of Peace using their Arts at the Intersection approach ([Arts at the Intersection](#)) and featured music from Sikh, Jewish, Christian and Caribbean traditions.

The event was organised collaboratively with the [Spirit of Peace](#), Narinder Tegally, Bath and Wells Interfaith Adviser, William Heath, Chair of the Bath Interfaith Group and Revd Heather Smith Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church.

The Bath at Work Museum, facilitated creative arts activities, inviting attendees to design flags for an upcoming Faith in Bath exhibition and to share their thoughts on 'What faith in Bath means to me'. [Read more](#) and find out about other interfaith events taking place.

Statistics for Mission: FAQs for Churches

With the Statistics for Mission 2024 report only recently published, churches are encouraged to start reporting their 2025 figures. If you've got questions about completing your church's Statistics for Mission return or are unsure about what to include, how to interpret the categories, or just want a bit of reassurance before submitting it, the video Q&A below is here to help! Ken Eames, who heads up statistics at the NCIs, has created the video to answer the questions you may have.



Exploring Your Spiritual Journey

This is an exciting, experiential course in Christian prayer for people of all denominations and none, lay and ordained. Explore your personal spiritual journey with God, and grow in faith and self-awareness. The only prerequisite for the course is a desire to discover more about your inner journey and a willingness to encounter God more deeply and in a variety of ways.

[Find out more and register for 2026.](#)

Save the date!

Mixed Ecology of Church conference

Monday 21 September 2026, at
Canalside, Bridgwater

Why Mixed Ecology of church?

How do we create a Mixed Ecology of
Church?

Join us for a day of learning, sharing, and
exploring how diverse forms of church
can flourish together and grow the
kingdom of God.

A day that could transform your parish!

Full details and booking information
coming soon.

December's Prayer Calendar

December's Prayer Calendar is available to download now from [the Bath and Wells website](#).

In Brief

- In response to requests from churchwardens across the country, Churchwarden Publications have put together a brand new Church Calendar for 2026. Details of the calendar and how to purchase it can be [found online](#).
- [Annual Churches Together in Somerset Public Lecture](#), in partnership with Wells Cathedral, at 18:00 on Tuesday 25 November 2025 at Wells Cathedral. World Council of Churches European President, Rev Dr Susan Durber, will be speaking about the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and what it means for us today. This is followed by [refreshments at Loft Cafe](#) at Wells Cathedral, eat in or take away.

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

Emperor Haile Selassie I in Bath and Wells

Wells Cathedral Education Room was packed as people gathered for an inspiring evening about Emperor Haile Selassie I in Bath and Wells: His Journey, His Faith. The evening brought together speakers, historians and members of the community to explore the Emperor's profound spiritual legacy and his historic connections to the region. Haile Selassie I was Emperor of Ethiopia from 1930 to 1974 and was exiled during the Italian occupation of Ethiopia.

Lighting up the half term holiday

Churches across our diocese marked the 31 October in a variety of ways this year, and all shared the light of Jesus with their communities.

Holy Trinity Frome hosted a 'Light Party' where they created stained glass lanterns and heard about how Jesus the Light of the World takes the darkness of sin away. The children wrote prayers together and attached them to small LED lanterns – filling the window with a glorious light display which remained lit overnight and into the following week.

A community commemorates

In 2018 the community in Middlezoy came together to consider how best to commemorate the anniversary of the end of WW1. Jean Campbell from Holy Cross Church, Middlezoy, shared with us what was decided and what took place to mark this momentous event. She tells of the musical called 'Home' which was created and performed in Holy Cross Church, set against a backdrop of perspex figures representing the service men and women who never returned home. And how, with the help of many people from

Ras Benji, Operations Manager of Fairfield House, Haile Selassie's wartime residence in Bath, delivered an account of the Emperor's time in the region and presented Bishop Michael with a framed article documenting the Emperor's visit to Wells Cathedral in 1938. [Read about the evening's talk.](#)

The children's team at Christ Church, Weston-super-Mare, welcomed families to 'LightFest' – a family friendly alternative to the darker traditions surrounding Halloween. Find out more about all the wonderful events [which took place.](#)

the village, they decorated the church using hundreds of red poppies. There was also a small display to remember the animals who lost their lives and a memorial, using 350 purple poppies, was created to commemorate them. Jean shares how this was a whole community event. [Read all about it in Jean's own words.](#)

Diocese of Bath and Wells

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