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Week ending 23 August 2025

## Connect

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



## Generosity Week

Generosity Week 2025 Sunday 28 September to Sunday 5 October.

It takes place in the Harvest season, so that as we thank God for his generosity to us, we also have the opportunity to think about how we might respond to that generosity.

However, Generosity Week is also deliberately flexible so that your church can hold its own Generosity Week at a time to suit you. There are resources to support your church's journey of generosity. This year they include new Cheeky Pandas videos which explore the idea of 'Godly Generosity', looking at how children can use their time, talents and treasure to grow the kingdom of God here on earth. [Find out about the resources on offer.](#)

## Intentionally Intergenerational conference

11 October, 2025

10:00 - 15:00 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. [Read more](#) about the day and register to join.

Angeline White, Lay Minister / Music Director - Christ Church, Weston-super-Mare, will be one of the speakers.



## National Estates Churches Network Conference

23 Sep 2025 10:00 - 16:00

Sheffield Cathedral

The 'Called From The Margins: Embracing Every Gift In The Church' Conference, will look at ways to encourage and equip local leaders to spot, encourage and then use as many of the God given gifts in their church, to the blessing of the individual, the church, and their wider community. [Find out more about the conference and book online.](#)



## Green grants available now

More than 800 SMEs and charities in the West of England have been supported to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions, through free Carbon Surveys and Green Business Grants.

Grants between £200 and £15,000 are available to cover up to 60% of eligible costs for energy saving improvements. Projects have included LED lighting, solar panels, insulation, heat pumps, radiant heating and cooking appliances.

Registered charities are eligible to apply and a number of churches have been supported, with installation of radiant heating and heat pumps being the most popular.

One of these churches is St John's Church in Keynsham, which has been approved a grant of £15,000 to replace a gas boiler with radiant heating.

Grants are available first come, first served and all projects must be completed by March 2026. There is also help to find carbon saving opportunities.

If you would like more information get in touch with Bath and Wells' Net Zero Enabler, [dan.wills@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:dan.wills@bathwells.anglican.org) or [register for an application pack today](#).

## Season of Creation

Creationtide 1 September to 4 October, is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is peace with creation, based on Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between people and God. [Find out more and download resources](#).

Rev'd Dr Mike Perry, Bishop's Adviser for Climate Justice in Salisbury Diocese, has also written [new Season of Creation 2025 resources](#) which are free to use.



## Advent and Christmas resources: The Joy of Christmas

### Special Webinar: 2025 Resources

4 September, 2025 14:00

### Children, young people and families

22 September 2025, 12pm

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy! The national resources on offer this year are designed to help draw all ages into the joy of the first Christmas.

[Sign up to attend the webinar](#) on Zoom and learn more about the resources on offer. If you can't attend on the day, you can still sign up to receive a recording of the webinar after the event.

This special webinar will give you plenty of ideas, as well as unpacking the resources available for churches, schools and individuals as part of the Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme, The Joy of Christmas.

The webinar will share details of resources including a retelling of the Christmas story – The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas. [Please register](#) online for the webinar.

## Ethnic minority heritage clergy, ordinands gathering

A special gathering for GMH/UKME Clergy, Ordinands, and those on ordained vocational pathways, Wednesday 1 October 2025 at Methodist Central Hall, London.

This will be a meaningful day of worship, reflection, celebration, and networking, led by the Lead Bishops for Racial Justice, Bishop Arun Arora and Bishop Rosemarie Mallett, alongside Archbishop Stephen Cottrell.

Please register to attend by 31 August via the Eventbrite link [Register here](#).

## Young Leaders

[A Young Leaders Learning Hub](#) is to be launched in Weston super Mare this Autumn. It follows the successful launch of Hubs in Bath and Taunton. The Hubs are a learning community of young leaders, aged 15-25, looking to grow and support one another. Each week Movement are sharing video shorts in which young adults share their views and inspiration. Why not check them out? You can catch them on [Instagram](#) and on [YouTube](#) until 3 November.

Free Harvest resources  
available for churches

CHARIS Refugees Art  
Installation



[Ripple Effect](#) has Harvest resources churches, including a quiz, an all-age service and fundraising tips.

[rippleeffect.org/harvest](http://rippleeffect.org/harvest)

[Watch the short Harvest video](#) to see how the climate crisis is making it hard for Jeanne in Burundi to farm her land and feed her children — and how, with Ripple Effect's support, families like Therese's have turned struggle into abundance.

1 September until 11 September Bath Abbey

The charity [CHARIS](#), which helps settle refugee families in the Southwest, has invited the Iranian artist Ati Etesami, currently based in Somerset, to display her latest conceptual installation at Bath Abbey. The piece, a project titled, 'Voyage of Light Grace', delves into the refugee journey. [Find out more.](#)

## In Brief

- Fr Pip Martin, Priest in the Six Pilgrims Benefice: Babcary, South Barrow, North Barrow, Alford, Hornblotton & Lovington, has invited clergy who are interested in reviving a Bath and Wells Chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP), to Mass at Wells Cathedral at 11am on Monday 29 September & to stay on afterwards for lunch or snacks in The Loft Cafe. If you would like to attend, please email Pip [frphilipmartin@gmail.com](mailto:frphilipmartin@gmail.com) by 20 September.
- Cider and Cheese Festival Wells Cathedral, 27 September. Connoisseurs are invited to sample a range of Somerset's best produce, meet local makers and experts, & enjoy live music and family activities.
- An online talk by Dr Margaret Cooling exploring different language styles with an emphasis on using embodied language to communicate faith. 9 September 2025 - 19:00 - 20:30 [Please register.](#)
- National Heritage Open Days St James' Church Taunton 13 & 20 September, 10:00 - 16:00.
- Experiential two-day course with an emphasis on 'learning through making', organised by the Christian group Flock. 6 & 7 October, 2025, in Shepton Mallet. [Find out more.](#)

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

### Eco-arts festival

A unique eco-arts festival celebrating the vital waterways of Somerset and the rich tapestry of plant and animal life they support has officially opened in Shepton Mallet.

The festival, running until 30 August, has been created by 'Flock,' a

### Supporting those living with dementia

At Milborne Port a dementia-friendly service has been created to offer familiarity, calm, and connection for those living with dementia and the people who care for them. Priest in Charge, Revd Rona Stuart-Bourne developed the service in

### Sustainable flower festival

St John the Evangelist Church, Clevedon, recently held a sustainable flower festival, using arrangements made entirely from locally grown flowers, many of which were from the church's own allotment.

growing creative Christian community in Shepton Mallet. It has organised the event in collaboration with Somerset Wildlife Trust and is using the festival to spotlight the importance of water ecosystems.

At the heart of the event is the Water Life Trail, which is a scenic route along the waterways around the town. Along the route it features 50 striking sculptures made by local artists. The artworks have been made using recycled, repurposed or natural materials found locally. [Find out more about the festival.](#)

response to a growing need locally, "It's become a space where people feel they can come as they are. We call it Memory Lane."

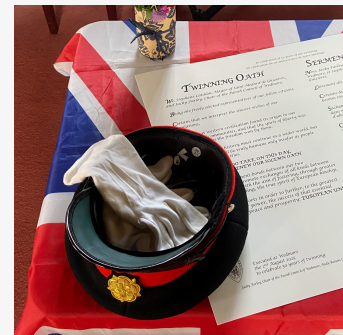
The service takes place in a relaxed setting and the worship is shaped by those who attend.

To support those who attend, the service follows a simple structure, and we believe that consistency has been key. Rona shares her approach "We have the same structure and prayers, the same songs, the same rhythm." The prayers are also chosen for familiarity. [Read all about the special service.](#)

All were designed without the use of a single block of floral foam.

The move to sustainable flower arranging was intentional and carefully planned. The team decided a year ago to stop using floral foam in church. The transition was surprisingly easy. With a little research and trial and error, they were able to make arrangements.

Using an overgrown allotment site behind the church, they grew their own flowers. These along with responsibly gathered wild materials, helped form the displays for the festival. [Read all about the flower festival.](#)



## Wedmore celebrates 50 years of Twinning links

St Mary's Wedmore hosted a special service to celebrate 50 years of twinning links, friendships and visits between Wedmore and St Medard de Guizières near Bordeaux. Nearly 100 people enjoyed the entirely bi-lingual service, singing 'Amazing Grace' in English and French at the same time. There was a greeting from The King courtesy of Deputy Lord Lieutenant Nigel Beacom and a signing of the renewed Twinning Charter. Afterwards everyone headed out into the church grounds for an old-fashioned Village Fete, which included the vicar Richard Neill taking his turn in the stocks!

## Diocese of Bath and Wells

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