

Week ending 28 February 2026

Connect

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



Bishop Fiona leads pop-up Ashing Service in Wells Market Square

On Ash Wednesday, Bishop Fiona was in the centre of Wells to offer people the opportunity to take time in their busy lives to think about and mark the start of Lent by joining an Ashing Service in the Market Square.

Many local residents, traders and visitors took time to pause, pray, reflect and receive the sign of the cross with ashes on their forehead, or hand. There was also the option to receive the cross on a printed card which they could take home with them. [Read the story in full.](#)

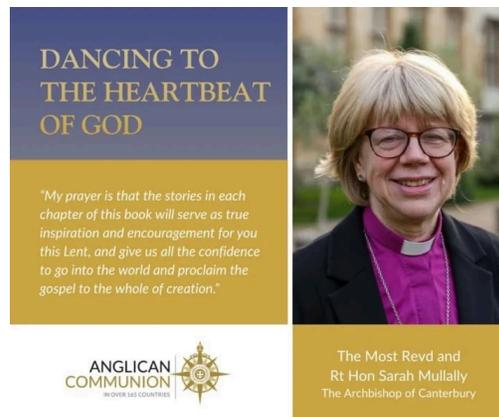


In Weston super Mare, Churches Together Weston shared ashes with their community in the town centre as they prayed with together outside on Ash Wednesday. You can see more pictures from the service on the [Churches Together Facebook page](#).

New Lent book

The Archbishop of Canterbury's 2026 Lent book, *Dancing to the Heartbeat of God*, brings together voices from across the Anglican Communion to explore the diversity of discipleship.

Archbishop Sarah writes that her prayer is for these stories to inspire and encourage us this Lent. [Read more.](#)



Complete your 2025 Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

The deadline for submitting your response to the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) has been extended to 30 June 2026. You can complete it now using the Parish Returns System. This will not only help reach our diocesan target of being net zero by 2030, but it can also be a gateway to accessing support and funding to reduce your church's energy bills and carbon footprint. You only need your energy bills and short window of time to complete it.

For more information on the EFT, how to complete it, and to find out how completing it can help care for creation, [visit the EFT page on the diocesan website](#).

A quick reminder of some other upcoming dates:

- 2025 Statistics for Mission Return – The deadline has been extended to 13 March 2026. If you have not yet completed your return, please do so via the Online Parish Returns System: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>
- 2025 Year-end Accounts – submit within 28 days of Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
- 2025 Return of Parish Finance – the deadline is 28 June 2026

If you need an account created on the Online Parish Returns System or require any assistance, please email returns@bathwells.anglican.org.



Easyfundraising grants - 20 x £500 grants available

The easyfundraising Impact Fund is now open with 20 unrestricted grants of £500 for UK not-for-profit organisations, including churches. These grants are unrestricted, so your church can use the funds wherever it's needed most, e.g. core costs, equipment, resources, activities, or just running costs. The application form is straightforward, quick and easy to complete, and the fund is open to churches of all sizes.

Closing date 5 April. [Apply online on the easyfundraising website](#).



Taking action on domestic abuse

Throughout 2026 the diocesan Safeguarding team is focused on raising awareness of domestic abuse, which is one of the three most common referrals received by the team.

Diocesan Head of Safeguarding Ben Goodhind says, “Domestic abuse is a huge, society-wide issue that requires a society-wide response. Throughout 2026 we will be sharing opportunities to explore how we can support that response in a faith setting, and raise awareness of why that can be particularly impactful, along with a range of other useful information.”

There is a programme of training on the topic of domestic abuse planned for 2026, aimed at Parish Safeguarding Officers, but open to all. Experts from a range of specialist fields, including spiritual abuse, child on parent violence, and male victim support, will feature in the training, along with members of the diocesan safeguarding team, including Ben, who has 25 years experience working in the field of domestic abuse.

All the dates and full details of the training sessions will be available shortly on [the Safeguarding Eventbrite page](#).

Safeguarding training courses

There are still spaces available on the forthcoming safeguarding courses for those who need to renew their training. Courses are booked through Eventbrite and can be accessed by visiting the [Events Calendar on the diocesan website](#) and filtering for Safeguarding. If you have any difficulties in booking, please email:

training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org

Safeguarding Leadership

- 4 March and 11 March 2026 Online (zoom) Evening 19:00pm - 20:45
- 18 March and 25 Mar 2026 Online (zoom) Evening 19:00 - 20:45
- 19 March and 26 March 2026 In-person, Wells 09:30am – 11:30am

PTO Pathway for Safeguarding Leadership

- 12 March 2026 online (Zoom) 10:15 – 12:00
- 12 March online (Zoom) 13:00-14:45
- 21 May 2026 In-person, Wells 14:00-17:00

PSO Induction / Network:

- 5 March 2026 In-person, Wells 10:00 – 13:00

Train-the-Trainer

- 25 March 2026 In-person, Wells 10:00 – 13:00



Reflections on being a General Synod Young Adult Representative

Eleanor Motion from Bath and Wells is one of five [Young Adult Representatives to join General Synod](#) to help raise the voices of young people in the Church of England.

The group have been co-opted onto Synod for the remainder of this term. She's written about her time in London and has kindly shared her blog about her experiences. ".....I was asked to speak and share my experiences as a young adult in the Church of England. Some of the main points that were made were being heard, I know sharing this was hard for me because it was a personal story but with the support of my group and knowing this message could make a good change in the Church, I knew I had to do this....."

Read Eleanor's blog in full [on the diocesan website](#).

Year of Prayer



Share your prayers, video, photos and pictures

Among the resources available during the Year of Prayer is the [2026 Prayer online noticeboard hosted on Padlet](#). We would love to hear from you about the things you are doing where you are. Why not share your pictures of stories about prayer in your

context? Find the Padlet and all the prayer resources on the [Prayer section of the Bath and Wells website](#).

March Prayer Calendar

The March edition of the Prayer Calendar [is available to download now](#).

Praying through Lent

The [Praying through Lent resource](#) is a simple way for people of all ages and stages of faith to pray their way through Lent, pausing to pray and then carrying that prayer into whatever you are doing each day.

As part of that, each week we are reflecting on The Lord's Prayer. In the video below the Go Team's Ruth Slade asks us to think about and pray the first line of the prayer.



Anglican Network for Intercultural Churches

Formed in 2023, ANIC believes in encouraging intercultural belonging, shared leadership, and mission across the Church.

The 3rd Anglican Intercultural Mission Conference: The Primer, takes place in Wolverhampton on Saturday 21 March 2026 (09:30–16:00). The day is practical and designed for clergy and lay leaders, parish teams, and diocesan colleagues who want to move from goodwill to workable steps in local church life.

[Book your place online](#) To find out more about ANIC [check out their website](#).



Beyond the Walls

Looking for inspiration and fresh ideas in pioneering ministry?

Join the Beyond the Walls discussions, created by the dioceses of Exeter, Truro, Bristol and Bath and Wells to support pioneer leaders and fresh expressions of church.

Three online conversations take place on 10 March with Revd Dr Al Barrett, 14 April with Jonny Baker and 12 May with Revd Sally Taylor.

- New perspectives
- Encouraging stories
- Shared learning

To find out more and sign up visit the [Beyond the Walls website](#).



Lego Serious Play Remix workshop

Wednesday 18 March, 13:30–15:30
Bagley Baptist Church

The Go Team are offering LEGO Serious Play Remix – a practical introduction to the essentials of LEGO Serious Play, adapted for the realities of children's work, youth work and education chaplaincy so you can take it straight into your setting. Led by Ben Mizen, a Creative Consultant, Founder of Ideas Alchemy. £5 per person. [Please book online.](#)

Movement worship night in Weston super Mare

Movement Worship Night, Locking Castle, Weston super Mare, 8 March 18:30 for youth and young adults. Young people from all parts of Bath and Wells are invited to come together to worship Jesus, dive into God's word, pray for one another and enjoy being together.

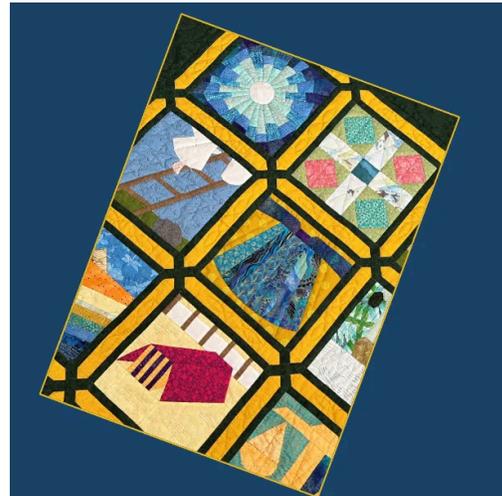
For more details, check out the Movement [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

Faith in Fabric

Saturday 21 March

St Francis of Assisi Church, Bridgwater

An exhibition of quilts made by church members depicting the stories of the Old Testament. Entry is free. Patterns of the designs on the quilts are available to buy. For more information contact [Revd Catherine Carlyon](#).



In Brief

- Connecting and strengthening rural voices on poverty, an online roundtable event organised by Church Action on Poverty, The Diocese of Truro and Churches Together in Cumbria. The event takes place on May 21 from 10.30 - 12 noon. [Sign up and find more online.](#)
- Church Urban Fund Finding the treasure - Exploring ABCD together. A free day for churches seeking hopeful, practical ways to engage their local contexts. Birmingham 15 May, 10:00-16:00. [Event details and tickets can be found online.](#)
- Peaceable living- Building peace in our divided worlds. Saturday 21 March 2026, 10:00-16:00, St Mary's, East Chinnock with speakers Jo Berry CBE and Simon Keyes. For more information and to book tickets please contact Alex Swarbrick alexclaire.es@gmail.com
- Quiet Reflection Day 6 March 09:45- 14:15, St John the Baptist, Wellington. Please email Fiona Brown - fionareflection@btinternet.com

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



St Peter's Café Church 2nd anniversary

There have been celebrations at St Peter's Church, Williton, as Café Church marked its second birthday. This milestone reflects the passion and commitment shared by those who come along each month. It has become a space where faith is shared in simple, but powerful, everyday ways.

To mark the occasion a member of the St Peter's church family, shared a reflection in which they explain what Café Church means to their community and why gathering in this way is important to all who come along.

"As our monthly Café Church service enters its third year, we reflect on what it had added to our church and local community. "It has helped me get to know people in a less formal setting," says



Spreading God's love across the sea

Ladies in the parish of Middlezoy are spreading God's love way beyond diocese borders by knitting hats for the Seafarer's Mission in South Shields.

An initiative which started with some of the congregation of Holy Cross Church has spread to the community and over the past few years, they estimate they've sent over 200 hats to the Mission!

Jean Campbell, the lady behind this venture says, 'We decided to support the organisation as we often celebrate Sea Sunday. It's an organisation very close to my heart as my father was a merchant navy captain and also served in the Royal Navy during the second world war. My grandfather and uncle were also sailors.'



Bishop Rose attends church author event

Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover, is the first of what is hoped will be many author events at St John's Church in Keynsham. The evening is part of St John's 750 Project, a fundraising campaign to support plans for a re-ordering of the church building. The vision is to create a more flexible space that offers better opportunities for the community to use the building.

Bishop Rose will be speaking about her memoir, 'The Girl from Montego Bay' in which she shares her journey from growing up in Jamacia, to Canterbury to be Bishop of Dover.

Organiser of the event, Dave Biddleston says, "Hosting Bishop Rose as our first speaker is a celebration of faith lived courageously. Her

someone who attends Cafe Church. Whilst another member shares how they like the spontaneity and informality, and that there are families worshipping together. There is no doubt that Café Church will continue to be a blessing to all of us." [Read the full story online.](#)

Paul Akerman from the Mission to Seafarers said, 'Every knitted item we receive is far more than a gift of clothing; it is a reminder to seafarers that they are seen, valued, and remembered.'

[Read all about](#) this wonderful venture.

journey is rooted in a steadfast trust in God."

The event takes place on Friday, April 17 from 18:30 - 22:00. [Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite.](#)

[Read more](#) about the event and St John's fundraising plans online.

Sharing the Lord's Prayer

As part of the #YearOfPrayer we are sharing The Lord's Prayer as a video each week. This week David Phillips, Curate, Hillside Benefice prays with us.



Diocese of Bath and Wells

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

Our mailing address is:

comms@bathwells.anglican.org

Copyright © 2025 Diocese of Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Finance, All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#)

