

Week ending 13 June 2026

Connect

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



Clergy Day

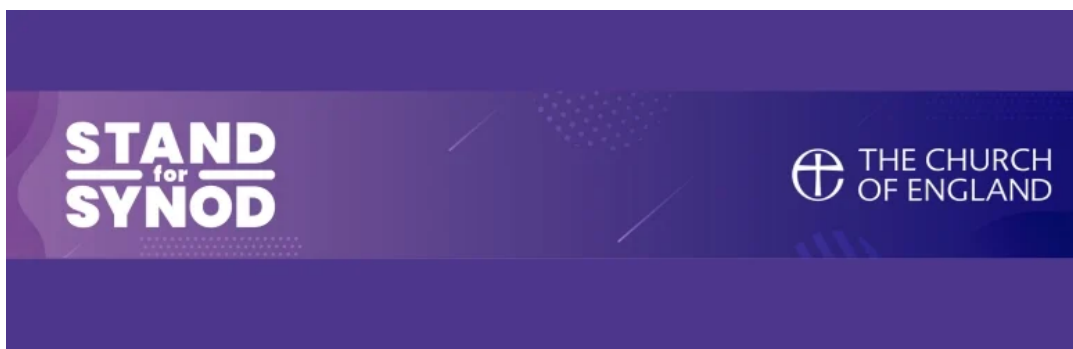
"The Gospel still works!" That was the reflection of Bishop Fiona who joined so many clergy at our annual Clergy Day on 8 June to hear from Dr Rhiannon McAleer and Laura Hancock - who are both exploring how young people engage with spirituality, scripture and the local church.

In the afternoon, attendees caught up with the latest news on investment and support to enable and encourage mission in our local community. Bishop Fiona said, "So many different threads that have come out of today but summarising what they are saying is, the Gospel still works. And Jesus Christ is still in the business of calling people to know him." [Read more about the day.](#)



Annual Review 2025: inspiring stories from around our diocese

The latest annual review, telling the story of Bath and Wells in 2025 is available to [view online on our HeyZine site](#) or to [download from this page](#). Introduced by Bishop Michael, and featuring a joyous picture from Coker Ridge Benefice, our annual review shares a host of inspiring examples of people from around our diocese living and telling the story of Jesus throughout last year. It also highlights some of the work of Support Services, shines a spotlight on Safeguarding following last year's audit as well as looking at the support offered to parishes with money matters.



Elections to General Synod

New members are being elected to General Synod this year – and you are invited to stand as a candidate. Members of the General Synod are a mixture of clergy and lay people. Those elected will serve for five years.

Joining General Synod is a fantastic opportunity to represent the concerns of our communities and our diocese at a national level. Almost anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand for election as a lay member and there is a supportive induction programme to help new members in their roles.

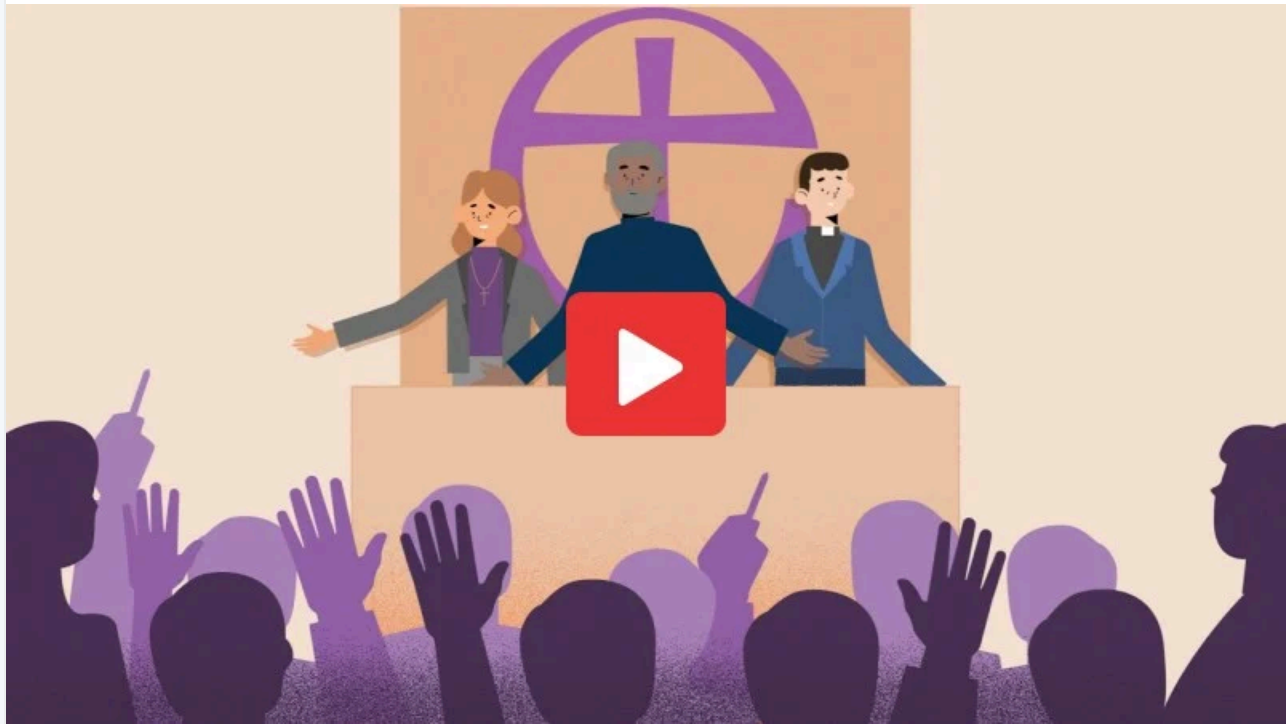
We are looking for candidates who represent the whole range of people and churches in the Church of England and particularly welcome candidates whose background may currently be underrepresented.

If you are interested in standing for election find out more about it [on the Church of England website](#).

What is the General Synod and what does it do?

The General Synod is the legislative body of the Church of England. Together with the Westminster Parliament, it is the only body in the land which is entitled to make national law for England. In addition to legislation, the General Synod also agrees the national budget for the Church of England and debates a wide range of public and social issues.

This short animation has more information about the role of the General Synod.



EFT deadline is two weeks away!

The deadline to complete this year's Energy Footprint Tool is the end of the June! If you complete it, you could see some great benefits, just like Holy Trinity, Frome did. If you need help or advice, please [email Dan Wills](mailto:Dan.Wills@bathandwells.org.uk).

[Complete your EFT here.](https://bathandwells.org.uk/eft)

A promotional graphic for the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) deadline. It features a landscape background with a church in the distance. The text reads: "Net Zero Carbon 2030" in the top left, "DIOCESE OF Bath & Wells Living and telling the story of Jesus" in the top right, and a quote: "We reduced our carbon footprint from 29 tonnes to 22 tonnes - saving around £1,900 in gas costs." attributed to Sue Marshall, Churchwarden, Holy Trinity Frome. At the bottom, it says "Completing your Energy footprint tool helps turn energy data into practical savings, lower emissions and targeted support." and "Complete your Energy Footprint Tool today." with the website "bathandwells.org.uk/eft". There is also a logo for "FOOTPRINTS FOR CREATION" at the bottom left.



Save the date! A celebration of creation care

Join us for a 'Celebration of Creation Care' at 10am on 9 September at Flourish House, Wells.

This will be a time of reflection, celebration and sharing all that has been achieved as well as acknowledging the challenges.

Last year, some of you were able to support with the event and we would love to ask for your support again - whether that's joining participants, sharing how your role connects with this work, offering prayers, something to read or helping with activities on the day.

To book your place please [click here](#) and if you are able to support, please [email Sara Harbron](#), Bath and Wells Climate Justice and Environment Adviser.

St John's Foundation appoints new Chaplain



St John's Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment of Revd Andrew Avramenko as its new Chaplain. Andrew will join the charity on 10 August 2026, succeeding Revd Jacky Wise, who has served St John's Foundation since January 2020.

As Chaplain, Andrew will lead worship at the Chapel of St Michael's Within in Bath city centre and at the historic Magdalen Chapel in Holloway. Andrew will also play an important role in supporting St John's almshouse residents. Read more [here](#).

Rachel Moore and Pat Rawlinson have been commissioned as Anna Chaplains at St Peter's Church, Freshford.

The Revd Nigel Rawlinson, Vicar at St Peter's, says he hopes that the number of Anna Chaplains serving in the benefice will continue to grow in the months ahead.

New Anna Chaplains commissioned

[Find out more about Anna Chaplaincy in Bath and Wells](#)

Or contact Wendy Haslam
wendy.h@stillwaters.work for more information.



Lay Ministry Day

Bishop Fiona joined the Lay Ministry Day, at Flourish House, Wells, which brought together Lay Commended Ministers from across our diocese, to celebrate and give thanks for all that God is doing through lay ministry across Bath and Wells.

Throughout the day there was lots of time for conversation, prayer, learning and encouragement. It was also an opportunity to connect with other lay ministers and to share experiences and be inspired by one another. [Read more about the day.](#)

Equip and resource lay ministry in your benefice

This event being held between 10:00-16:00 on 9 July in Wells is for clergy, Readers and potential equipping facilitators. It will enable you to grow in confidence to facilitate lay ministry in your local area using the suite of resources available through the Lay Ministry Pathways. [Please register online.](#)

Celebrating our partnership with Zambia

On Sunday 5 July we come together as a diocese to focus on, and celebrate our partnership with our brothers and sisters in Zambia. It is an opportunity for every parish across our six partner dioceses to pray for and learn more about each other, and to consider our place as part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

If your church is planning a service there are [resources available on the diocesan website](#) for use where you are.



Windrush Sunday

Windrush Sunday this year on 21 June 2026. It is an opportunity to celebrate the Windrush generation, the men, women and children who came here from 1948 to 1972, and the way they have transformed life in Britain and Ireland in so many positive ways.

On Sunday 21 June a Windrush Thanksgiving service will take place at Christ Church, Bath. All are welcome.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have created resources for use by churches marking the event. [They can be found online.](#)

Windrush Day celebrations at Bath Abbey

Bath Abbey is hosting artwork by Paula Ogun Hector and Samantha Walker on June 22 and 23 June. Paula's new British Carnivals tapestry honours the enduring cultural contribution of the Windrush generation to Britain. Samantha has curated a display of

photographs and personal objects called INVITATION: Continuing Conversations and there will also be photographs by Dennis Whyllie.

On 22 June, there will be a series of public talks throughout the afternoon by members of the Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association who will share their experiences as members of the Windrush generation arriving in Bath, as well as their descendants.

On 23 June, there will be a celebration Evensong from 17:30 – 18:15 and everyone is warmly invited. More information about all the events is available on [the Bath Abbey website](#).



Bishop Michael's letter to the Times newspaper

Bishop Michael, who is a co-convenor of the Anglican Health and Community Network, has had a letter to the Times published on the subject of tackling Ebola. He writes:

Sir, If the international community is to counter the threat of Ebola it must both invest in, and pivot towards, the systems that communities already rely on (“Hospitals can’t protect us from Ebola. It’s safer not to go”, news, Jun 1).

When I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019 with Justin Welby, I witnessed how local church networks provided in many cases the only bedrock of resilience in areas torn apart by war. In such communities, local churches and their organisations (such as the Mothers’ Union) are trusted, permanent neighbours. This uniquely equips them to dismantle misinformation, preach a message of fact-based hope and extend a compassionate, faith-based safety net to track and care for displaced populations and encourage the take-up of medical care.

If we are to choose what Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organisation, calls the “courageous path” of peace, we must accept that global health security is national security. True defence requires investing in local, faith-based networks capable of fighting the conditions – conflict, poverty and displacement – that allow a deadly virus to thrive.

The Right Rev Dr Michael Beasley
Bishop of Bath and Wells, and co-convenor of the Anglican Health and Community Network

If you want to join us in praying for all those affected by this crisis, there are some helpful [prayer resources available on the Tearfund website](#).



Visitations

This year's Archdeacons' Visitations are taking place, and it's been lovely to meet so many of you already. Our image includes photographs taken in Taunton, Quantock and Tone Deaneries. As you're aware, attendance is mandatory for all churchwardens and licensed clergy, but Readers and other licensed ministers are also welcome to attend. Clergy and churchwardens are requested to attend their own deanery venue however, if that's not possible, you may attend another deanery service. For remaining dates and more information, please visit the [Visitations page](#) of the diocesan website.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers!

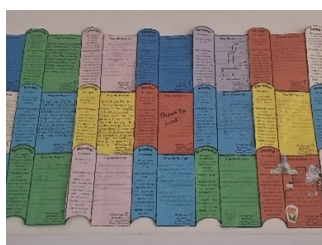
Last week we celebrated Volunteers Week and gave thanks for all our wonderful volunteers across Bath and Wells. In case you didn't see it, our Bishops, Archdeacons and members of support services shared their thanks to all those across our diocese who freely give their time, skills and gifts. Thank you for all you do to make a real difference as together we share God's love to help grow God's Kingdom here in Bath and Wells.



In Brief

- Taking place at St Bart's Crewkerne from 19:00-21:00 on 24 June, 'Our Suffering Family' is an event run in partnership with [Open Doors](#) in support of the persecuted church. This will be an opportunity to learn about the work of Open Doors, pray for persecuted Christians and focus on what we can do to help. For more information, please email info@stbartscrewkerne.org or phone 01460 712481
- Living Well with Conflict is an interactive workshop taking place on Tuesday 23 June. This engaging and practical workshop led by Carolyn Merry, an experienced mediator and trainer will help you transform conflict into opportunities for growth and stronger relationships. Find out more [here](#).

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



Fantastic fundraising

After storm damage left St George's Church, Wembdon facing a major roof repair bill, the PCC quickly began exploring ways to raise the money needed.

Prayer was at the heart of all that they did, and the appeal launched with a mid-week Time of Prayer followed by a Gift Day which raised an incredible £71,000!

A community concert raised a further £750 and a wonderful cream tea in the Parish Centre brought in a further £200. Other ideas included a quiz, a recipe book with favourite recipes from members and friends, an opportunity to 'Buy a Tile' for the roof as our picture shows, and selling some notelets depicting old photographs of Wembdon Village.

Read the full story [here](#).

Community cohesion and interfaith film

Revd Dr Katy Garner, Bath Spa University Chaplain, is one of the many representatives from faith groups across Bath and North East Somerset who have taken part in a film promoting interfaith dialogue.

Faith Foundation Director, Nathan Hartley, said, "Bath and North East Somerset, and the wider area, is not only a fantastic place to live, work and visit - it's also a place full of opportunity and religious diversity.

"[In this short film](#), we highlight some of the fantastic work religious groups and projects are undertaking in our community."

Read more about the film [here](#).

Sacred books at Wells Cathedral

At the end of May, Bishop Michael and the acting Archdeacon of Wells, Jonathan Lloyd, welcomed Father Ayoob Adwar, formerly a monk and priest of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq, to Wells. Fr Ayoob's monastery and church of St George, Mosul (Nineveh), in Iraq, and the whole of his diocese were violently destroyed in a full-scale persecution of Christians in the country from 2003 onwards.

Many sacred texts were destroyed during the persecution, but as the librarian of his monastery, Fr Ayoob was able to organise the transfer of hundreds of sacred manuscripts, books and scrolls. Read this moving story [here](#).

Diocese of Bath and Wells

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