

Manna mailing April 2025

A time to celebrate

This Easter, churches in Radstock are coming together to create a special Easter Trail, inviting the community to journey through the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection in a way that is engaging, reflective, and accessible for everyone.

Nathanael Worsley, Curate at St Nicholas Church in Radstock has worked alongside Radstock Baptist Church to help deliver the trail. He says, “The Easter story is at the heart of our faith, and we wanted to find a way to make it visible across the town. The trail will give people a chance to interact with it at their own pace—whether that’s through reflection, discovery, or simply walking with family and friends.”

The trail is a collaboration between Radstock Baptist Church, St. Nicholas Church, and other local churches. It aims to bring people together, by providing a focal point for faith in the town. Nathanael says, “We’ve seen before how something as simple as a walking trail can create space for people to connect—not just with the story of Easter but also with each other.

Nathanael concludes, “Alongside the trail, our local Churches Together group will also lead a Good Friday Walk of Witness, beginning at Radstock playground and culminating in a service in the Methodist church car park. Easter naturally draws Christians together and these events reflect that unity. It’s a reminder that faith isn’t just individual; it’s something we share.”

For many in Radstock, the Church and St Nicholas in particular, has played a key role in their upbringing, whether that’s through Sunday services, youth groups, or school connections. Nathanael says, “Even people who may not attend church regularly still have a strong sense of its presence in the community, so our hope with this Easter Trail is to remind people of the deep roots of faith here, and to invite them to rediscover the story of Jesus in a fresh way that resonates with their own lives.

We hope that this Easter will be a time of renewed faith, reflection, and community connection. It’s not just about remembering an ancient story, it’s about encountering Jesus today, in a way that brings hope and meaning to all our lives.”

News in brief

Jane Austen’s 250th Birthday

Bath Abbey presents ‘Austens at the Abbey’, a unique celebration of Jane Austen’s life and legacy, running from 5 April - 27 September 2025. This special program includes an exhibition exploring Austen’s connections to the Abbey, interactive family fun days, and exclusive after-hours tours featuring costumed guides bringing 18th-century Bath to life.

 [Visit bathabbey.org/austen for details and tickets](https://www.bathabbey.org/austen/).

Caring for creation

Snowdrop Extravaganza at Keinton Mandeville Church brought visitors from around the area to learn all about this tiny popular flower. Mickey Little, a well-regarded snowdrop specialist shared his knowledge with visitors who were invited to stay and enjoy a hot meal in the church. The day also provided an opportunity to share information about the eco initiatives undertaken and the work carried out to improve natural habitats in the churchyard.

Offering comfort and support

A bereavement support course hosted by St Mary’s Church in Frome is helping people in their community to navigate their grief by providing a supportive space for sharing and reflection. The group, which meets at St Mary’s, follows the six-week facilitated programme, ‘The Bereavement Journey’. The course is for anyone bereaved at any time and is led by volunteer facilitators many of whom have experienced grief themselves. Philip, one of the participants, reflected, “It’s about serving the whole community and the individuals within it in things that matter most.”

Bishop’s letter by Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

‘God is good… all the time!’

When I was a priest in Nottingham, I remember thinking that as a parish we seemed to reflect more of the story of the crucifixion of Christ rather than His resurrection. Ours was a parish which had many personal stories of loss and suffering, of challenge and trial, and sometimes this made it difficult to lift our faces to the horizon to see the triumph and glory beyond the grave.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage us to take time to ‘walk the way of the cross’, to notice God’s grace as we do so, even in the painful moments as well as keeping our eyes fixed on the coming glory.

As I write this, I am catching glimpses of the kingfisher on its perch outside my study window. Always a delight! It sits on the branch across the moat in stillness, watching for the sign of a fish before it suddenly dives and then crests the water with its prize. A splash of colour rarely seen by many. It fills me with hope and joy, two gifts which I think Easter inspires.

Walking through Lent we are continually called to become conscious of our mortality and are reminded of the price Jesus paid on our behalf. Giving himself in death that we might have life. And we have that life because his death was not the end but the beginning of a new chapter, of life in all its fulness.

So, whatever the circumstances of your life this Easter, allow yourself to fully recognise and experience the challenges but never lose the prospect of the glory to come! ‘God is good… all the time!’

**Bishop Ruth**

A time to reflect

Revd Tobie Osmond talks about the specially commissioned artwork that will form part of the reflection at Taunton Minster during Easter.

**What’s planned for Good Friday at the Minster?**

A three-hour meditation from 12-3 pm, marking the time Jesus was on the cross. There will be hymns, silence, and reflections. This year, we’ve commissioned artwork by Jenny Keogh from Go Create in Taunton, to help us reflect on grief and the meaning of the cross.

**What themes will the artwork explore?**

The pieces reflect different stages of grief – such as anger, denial, guilt, and sorrow—helping us to explore what Jesus and those around Him experienced. The final stage, acceptance, leads to hope.

**What do you hope people take away from this?**

My hope is that by exploring these emotions, we will better understand what Jesus went through and be more attuned to what Easter truly means.

**Why is it important to focus on Good Friday?**

Good Friday reminds us of the loss of Jesus. By sitting with that grief, we prepare to fully celebrate His resurrection. After journeying through grief, we come to the joy of knowing the victory has been won, and we are all invited back to be with God again.

**What is planned for the Minster’s Easter Sunday service?**

Bishop Michael is joining us for this. We will begin at sunrise with a Holy Fire outside and will bring the light into the Minster. This year, we will also have a confirmation when people are asked to renew their baptismal vows, it will be a truly amazing moment.