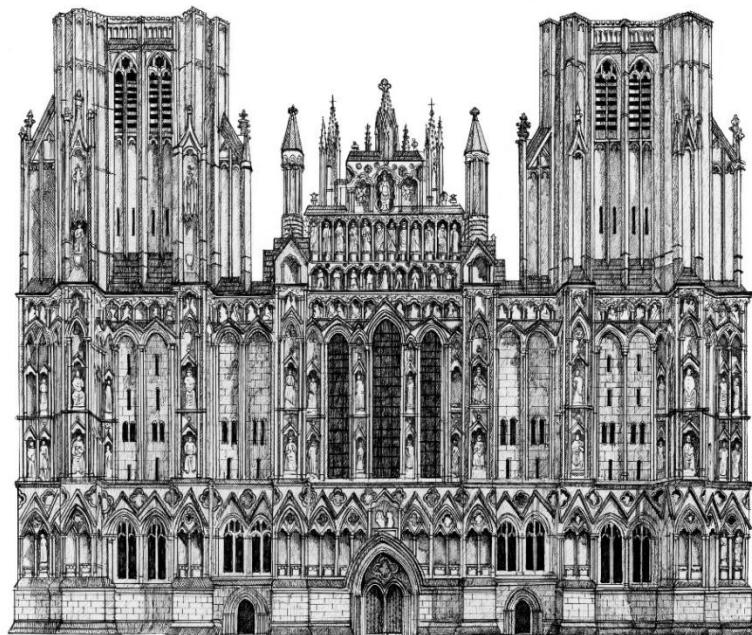




DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living and telling the story of Jesus



Choral Evensong

and the Welcome and Installation of
The Right Reverend Dr Fiona Gibson
as Bishop of Taunton

The Second Sunday before Lent

Sunday 8 February 2026

3.00 p.m.

Welcome to Wells Cathedral and to this service of Choral Evensong. During the service, The Right Reverend Dr Fiona Gibson will be welcomed into the Diocese of Bath and Wells and installed into the Quire of this Cathedral Church.

This afternoon's service is sung by the Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral of Wells Cathedral Choir. The worship songs are led by Hope Stream.

A collection for the work of the Cathedral will be taken during the final hymn. If you're a UK taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope so we can claim back tax on your donation. You can also give via the QR code or contactless points as you leave. To set the QR code 'tip' to zero, choose 'enter custom amount'. Thank you for your support.



News and notices can be found in the weekly Chapter Letter, which is published separately.

No photography or recording of any kind may take place during services, concerts, or rehearsals without the express permission of the Chapter.

The Cathedral has a loop system. Hearing aids may be switched to the position T.

The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Canon Precentor*
In Residence, 8 February

ABOUT BISHOP FIONA GIBSON

Fiona was ordained deacon in 2011 and priest in 2012. She served her curacy and first incumbency in the Diocese of St Albans, before her appointment as Archdeacon of Ludlow in the Diocese of Hereford.

Fiona was born and brought up in north London. She studied for a BEd (Hons) in History and Education at Homerton College, Cambridge, before becoming a primary school teacher. She thought that she would remain in education for her entire career but, she says, 'God had other plans.' She undertook her theological studies at Oak Hill College, London, and has a MTh in Theological and Pastoral Studies. She holds a PhD in Divinity from the University of Aberdeen, studying for it alongside her ministry in St Albans and Hereford.

Fiona is married to David, who works in financial services, and they have two adult children. When she's not working, Fiona enjoys reading, playing board games, listening to podcasts, walking, taking photographs, and wild swimming.

BEFORE THE SERVICE

At 2.45 p.m., all stand as the Dean of Wells escorts HM Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset to his seat in the Nave.

All sit. The Dean of Wells welcomes the congregation.

At 2.50 p.m., the following Processions enter the Cathedral.

Clergy and Readers' Procession

Civic Procession

Representatives from the Diocese of Hereford

Representatives of Ecumenical and Link Dioceses

Bishops' and Deans' Procession

ORGAN PRELUDE

Rhosymedre, from Three Preludes founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

During the following hymn, the Cathedral Foundation Procession enters the Nave.
All stand to sing



**God is here! As we his people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of his Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
Of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold,
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old,
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe.**

Common Praise 301

Text: F. Pratt Green (1903–2000)

Music: BLAENWERN W.P. Rowlands (1860–1937)

THE INSTALLATION

The Bishop of Taunton, with the Bishops' Chaplain and Diocesan Registrar, stands with the Chapter before the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Bishop of Bath and Wells adds his welcome to the congregation and introduces the Bishop of Taunton.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells reads the Deed of Collation which he presents to the Bishop of Taunton, and reads the Mandate which is delivered to the Chapter Clerk.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells returns to his seat.

As the organ plays, the following Procession moves to the Quire.

Virger

College of Canons

Lay Members of Chapter

Residentiary Canons

Dean of Wells

The Bishop of Taunton
followed by her family,
accompanied by the Chapter Clerk

The Chapter Clerk, the Bishop of Taunton, and the Chapter move to the Dean's stall in the Quire and stand before the Dean of Wells.

Clerk Dean Toby, the Bishop of Bath and Wells has issued this Mandate directing the Chapter of Wells to install The Right Reverend Fiona Gibson into the Prebend of Wanstrow.

Dean And we, the Chapter of Wells, decree to proceed according to the tenor and effect of the Mandate now exhibited to us.

The Chapter Clerk administers the oath.

Clerk You shall swear that you will observe the laws, statutes, privileges, liberties, and customs of this Cathedral Church; and that you will be obedient to the Chapter thereof in all matters relating to your duties as a member of the College of Canons, and that you will not reveal to others any matters that are confidential.

The Bishop of Taunton takes the oath on the 17th century Bible, given to the Cathedral by Bishop Robert Creighton (Dean of Wells, 1646–1670; Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1670–1672).

I, Fiona Gibson solemnly swear that I will be obedient to the Chapter of Wells in all matters relating to my duties as a member of the College of Canons. I will faithfully observe and keep and, as far as in me lies, will cause others to observe and keep the statutes, privileges, liberties, and approved customs of this Cathedral Church. I will not reveal to others any matters that are confidential. So help me God and these Holy Gospels.

Dean On behalf of the Chapter of Wells we welcome you, Fiona, into our fellowship as a Prebendary of this Cathedral Church and we now enjoin the Archdeacon of Wells to install you into the Prebend of Wanstrow.

The Bishop of Taunton is conducted to her assigned stall and placed therein by the Archdeacon of Wells.

Archdeacon Fiona, I induct and install you as a Prebendary of this Cathedral Church. We assign to you the stall belonging to the titular Prebend of Wanstrow.

The Bishop of Taunton stands to make this declaration.

I, Fiona, being now duly installed as a Prebendary of Wells, do solemnly declare that I will faithfully observe and keep and, as far as in me lies, will cause others to observe and keep the statutes, ordinances, and approved customs of this Cathedral Church; that I will, to the utmost of my power, defend and maintain the possessions, privileges, rights, and liberties thereof; that I will set forward and promote such works as may fitly be done therein for the service of God and the benefit of his Church in this Diocese; and I will be ready to undertake and fulfil the same to the best of my ability.

During the following hymn, the Procession returns to the Nave.

All stand to sing



**O thou who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.**



**Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.**

New English Hymnal 431

Text: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Music: HEREFORD Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876)

All sit.

THE COMMISSIONING

The Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Bishop of Taunton stand in front of the Altar. The Bishop of Bath and Wells says

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.
You gave your Christ as a light to the nations,
and through the anointing of his Spirit,
you established us as a royal priesthood.
As you call us into his marvellous light,
may our lives bear witness to your truth
and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

All

A Chorister says

The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All
**By his mercy, we present our whole lives
to God as a living sacrifice.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself,
taking the form of a servant.

All
**Through your love,
make us servants of one another.**

A child server says

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor.

All
May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world.

Though many, we form one body in Christ.

All
We belong to one another.

A student from Pyrland School says

By God's grace, we have different gifts.

All
We will use them in faith.

Rejoice in hope, stand firm in trouble, be constant in prayer.

All
Filled with his Spirit we will serve the Lord.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells says

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
I present to you Fiona, Bishop of Taunton.
Will you accept her ministry among you,
and be ready to welcome her with your love and prayers?
All
**In the fellowship of Christ, we welcome you
as a servant and shepherd of the people of God.
May the Lord richly bless you,
and make your ministry a blessing among us.**

Representatives of the Diocese and Community are invited to welcome the Bishop of Taunton.

During the following song, the Bishop of Taunton kneels on the Dais step, and the children and the Bishop of Bath and Wells pray for her.

All stand to sing

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed his own blood for my soul.**

**My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll.
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul!**

*Text: Horatio Spafford (1828–1888)
Music: Philip Bliss (1838–1876),
arranged by Keith and Krystyn Getty*

The Bishop of Bath and Wells invites the congregation to welcome the Bishop of Taunton with applause.

All remain standing.

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: Anthony Piccolo (b. 1946)

All sit.

PROPER PSALM 148

Praise the Lord of heaven :
praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his :
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon :
praise him, all ye stars and light.

Praise him, all ye heavens :
and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord :
for he spake the word, and they were made;
he commanded, and they were created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever :
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord upon earth :
ye dragons, and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and vapours :
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills :
fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle :
worms and feathered fowls;

Kings of the earth and all people :
princes and all judges of the world;

Young men and maidens, old men and children,
praise the Name of the Lord : for his Name only is excellent,
and his praise above heaven and earth.

He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him :
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

All stand.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

All sit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING
read by a student from Pyrland School

A reading from the book of Proverbs, the eighth chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth —
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Proverbs 8.1, 22–31

This afternoon's reading from the Old Testament.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT
The Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Text: Luke 1.46–55
Music: Annabel Rooney (b. 1973), *Evening Service in A minor*

All sit.

NEW TESTAMENT READING
read by The Venerable Derek Chedzey, Archdeacon of Hereford

A reading from the book of Revelation, the fourth chapter, beginning at the first verse.

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.'

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

'You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.'

Revelation 4

This afternoon's reading from the New Testament.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS
The Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Text: Luke 2.29–32

Music: Annabel Rooney (b. 1973), Evening Service in A minor

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All
I believe in God
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day, he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect for the Sunday called Sexagesima

O Lord God,
who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do:
Mercifully grant that, by thy power,
we may be defended against all adversity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels and all just works do proceed:
Give unto thy servants that peace
which the world cannot give; that both
our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended
from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Collect for Aid Against All Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O Lord;
and by thy great mercy,
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Music: Anthony Piccolo (b. 1946)

All sit.

THE ANTHEM

Faire is the heav'n, where happy soules have place,
In full enjoyment of felicitie,
Whence they doe still behold the glorious face
Of the divine, eternall Majestie.

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins
Which all with golden wings are overdight,
And those eternall burning Seraphins,
Which from their faces dart out fierie light;
Yer fairer than they both, and much more bright,
Be th' Angels and Archangels which attend
On God's owne person, without rest or end.

These then in faire each other farre excelling
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling
Fairer than all the rest which there appeare,
Though all their beauties joynd together were:
How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

*Text: Edmund Spenser (1552–1599), from 'A Hymne of Heavenly Beauty'
Music: William Harris (1883–1973)*

All kneel or remain seated.

THE PRAYERS

The prayers are written and led by those who will work most closely with the Bishop of Taunton, in the areas for which she will have particular responsibility: Education and Schools, Transforming Communities, Vocations, and Wellbeing.

The prayers conclude with the Diocesan Prayer for Growth and Transformation, and the Grace.

All Loving God,
**you alone bring growth to your Church
and transformation to our communities.
We give thanks for the ways in which
you are already at work in our lives and world.
As we look to the future,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and grace in living and telling your story.
Help our churches to grow in commitment to you,
in numbers and diversity,
and in partnership with our local communities,
in all that gives life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

All stand to sing

**A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb.
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,**

**All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.**

**And the angels cry, ‘Holy!’
All creation cries ‘Holy!’
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.**

**If you’ve been forgiven and if you’ve been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom and if you bear his name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We’ll sing the song forever and amen.**

**And the angels cry, ‘Holy!’
All creation cries, ‘Holy!’
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.**

**Hear your people sing, ‘Holy!’
To the King of Kings, ‘Holy!’
You will always be holy,
Holy forever.**

**Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.**

**And the angels cry, ‘Holy!’
All creation cries, ‘Holy!’
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.**

**Hear Your people sing, ‘Holy!’
To the King of Kings, ‘Holy!’
You will always be holy,
Holy forever.**

**You will always be holy,
Holy forever.**

Text and Music: Chris Tomlin (b. 1972)

Following the introductory sentence, all sit.

The Right Reverend Dr Fiona Gibson
Bishop of Taunton

During the following hymn, a collection is taken. If you're a UK taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope so we can claim back tax on your donation. You can also give via the QR code in the front cover of this Order of Service or contactless points as you leave. To set the QR code 'tip' to zero, choose 'enter custom amount'.

All stand to sing



**We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for all throughout the earth,
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall,
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,
Hated by those he came to save,
In lonely suffering on the cross:
For all he loved, his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
Empty the tomb, for he was free:
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified:
He sends his Spirit on his Church,
To live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim;
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

New English Hymnal 486

Text: Edward Burns (b. 1938)

Music: FULDA William Gardiner in *Sacred Melodies* 1815

THE BLESSING
given by the Bishop of Bath and Wells

The peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

All remain standing as the Procession leaves the Nave. The College of Canons Procession leaves to the Chapter House, where the Bishop of Taunton will be installed.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Nun danket alle Gott, Op. 65, No. 13
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)

