

Week ending 14 February 2026

Connect

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



The ordination and consecration of Fiona Gibson as Bishop of Taunton

The ordination and consecration of the Ven Dr Fiona Gibson as Bishop of Taunton in the Diocese of Bath and Wells took place on Friday 6 February 2026 at Southwark Cathedral. Fiona officially became a bishop alongside The Ven Jean Burgess, who is now the Bishop of Grimsby in the Diocese of Lincoln. The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, presided over the service.

Fiona was then welcomed to the diocese at a special Evensong at Wells Cathedral on Sunday, 8 February. The nave of the Cathedral was packed with people from across the diocese, including clergy, officers, civic and church leaders, as well as Fiona's family and former colleagues.

After a welcome from Bishop Michael, Fiona, senior clergy and members of Wells Cathedral Chapter moved into the Quire, the central part of the Cathedral, where she swore an oath to the Chapter of Wells in all matters relating to her as a member of the

College of Canons. She was installed into her official seat in the Cathedral by Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells, who inducted her as a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral. For full details and pictures, [visit the Bath and Wells website](#).



Measure today, change tomorrow: EFT now open to submissions

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open for submissions. Completing the EFT is part of our shared journey to net zero and supports the Church's fifth mark of mission, to care for creation. Last year 65% of our churches completed the EFT, up from 30% in 2022. Speaking about the importance of the EFT at the recent Diocesan Service for Creation Care, Bishop Michael said, "It is great that we have 65% of our churches completing the EFT, but it would be fantastic to get to 100%. That could be a game changer because it would give us the data to enable us to speak with authority." [Read more and find out how we can help you here](#).

General Synod

Bishop Michael has been in London this week attending General Synod. Synod took place at Church House, Westminster from 9-13 February. Archbishop Sarah opened with her first presidential address since becoming archbishop. [Catch up with all that's been taking place at General Synod this week](#).

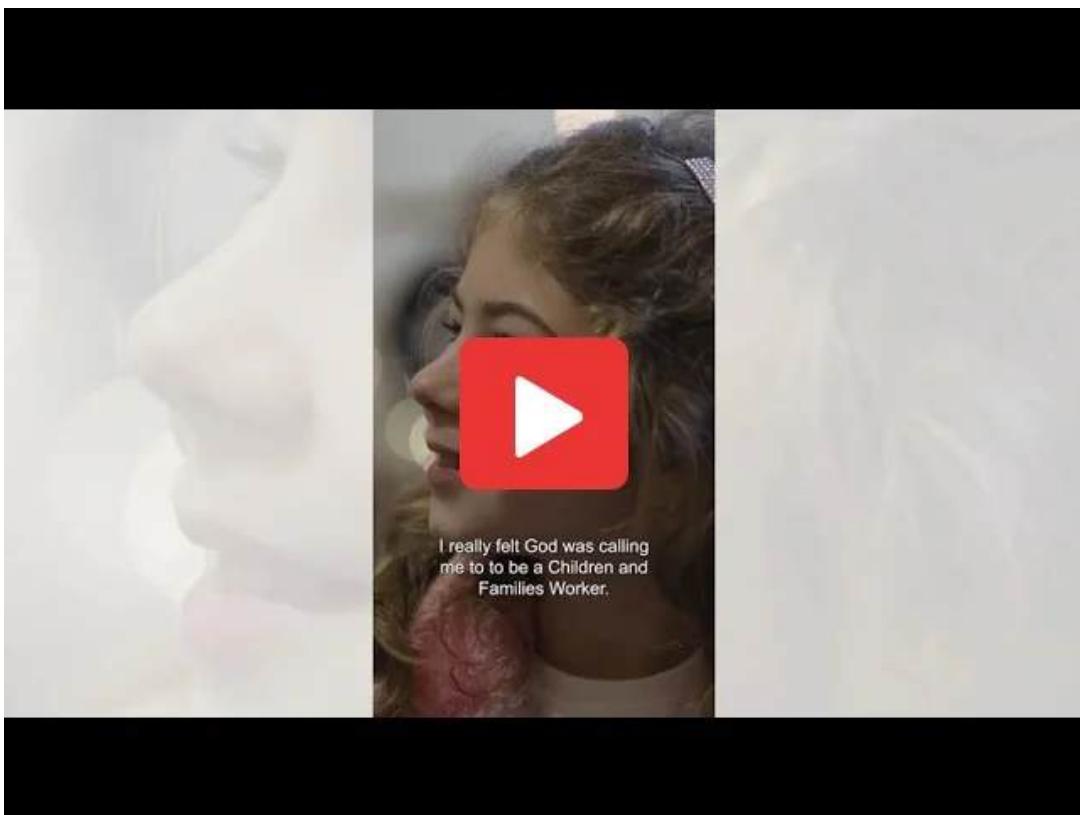
A number of people from Bath and Wells have also been taking part in General Synod. Eleanor Motion is one of the General Synod new Youth Representatives. She joins five young adults selected, following an open application process, to be representatives and follows General Synod plans to increase the number of young people able to take part in its debates, marking a significant step in strengthening youth representation at the heart of the Church of England's decision making.

The Youth Representatives will participate in Synod meetings and debates. Eleanor says she is delighted to be a representative and has already been speaking at a fringe event.

[Read more about the Youth Representatives](#).



Charlotte Berry, Children and Families Worker at Holy Trinity, Nailsea shared her story of faith via video as part of the General Synod debate on how to better support and recognise those from working class roots who are called to ministry. In the video Charlotte shares how she feels called by God, "He's called me because he knows who I am, and he knows what I can bring to my role and how to serve him in this community." Watch Charlotte's powerful testimony below.



Elections to Synod

General Synod will be holding elections in 2026. If you would like information about standing for election for the next five year term, you can find out more on the [Church of England website](#).



Parish Returns deadlines

- 2025 Outstanding parochial fees / returns – The submission deadline of 31 January 2026 has already passed. Please submit any outstanding fees and returns ASAP.
- 2025 Statistics for Mission Return – Deadline extended to 13 March 2026. Thank you to those who have submitted their returns already!
- 2025 Year-end Accounts – submit within 28 days of Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
- 2025 Return of Parish Finance – Deadline 28 June 2026
- 2025 Energy Footprint Tool – Deadline 30 June 2026



A special service for Racial Justice Sunday

A special service of the Cathedral Eucharist to mark Racial Justice Sunday, was held at Wells Cathedral. The Revd Canon Sonia Barron, former Co-chair of the Church of England's Anti-Racism Taskforce and member of the



Faith and civic leaders explore Plymouth's community and culture

Narinder Tegally, Bath and Wells Interfaith Adviser and Richard Kelley, Chaplaincy Adviser for the diocese were among the civic and faith representatives from Somerset who visited Plymouth to explore the city's

Archbishops Commission for Racial Justice was the guest preacher.

[Read the full story on the diocesan website.](#)

The service at Wells Cathedral forms part of the Resistance, Racial Justice and Reconciliation exhibition and series of events. The next event will be on Wednesday 25 February 2026, 19:00-21:00 (Doors open from 6.30pm to view the exhibition), Wells Cathedral Education Room. [Tickets are free via Eventbrite.](#)

community and cultural connections. The trip was organised by the Somerset Interfaith Forum, which aims to foster dialogue and understanding among all the faiths represented across Somerset.

Hosted by Dr Judith Beckman, President of Plymouth Synagogue, the visitors were shown the 263-year-old Plymouth Synagogue. Built 1762-4 it is the oldest Ashkenazi synagogue in continuous use in the English-speaking world. [Find out more about this story.](#)

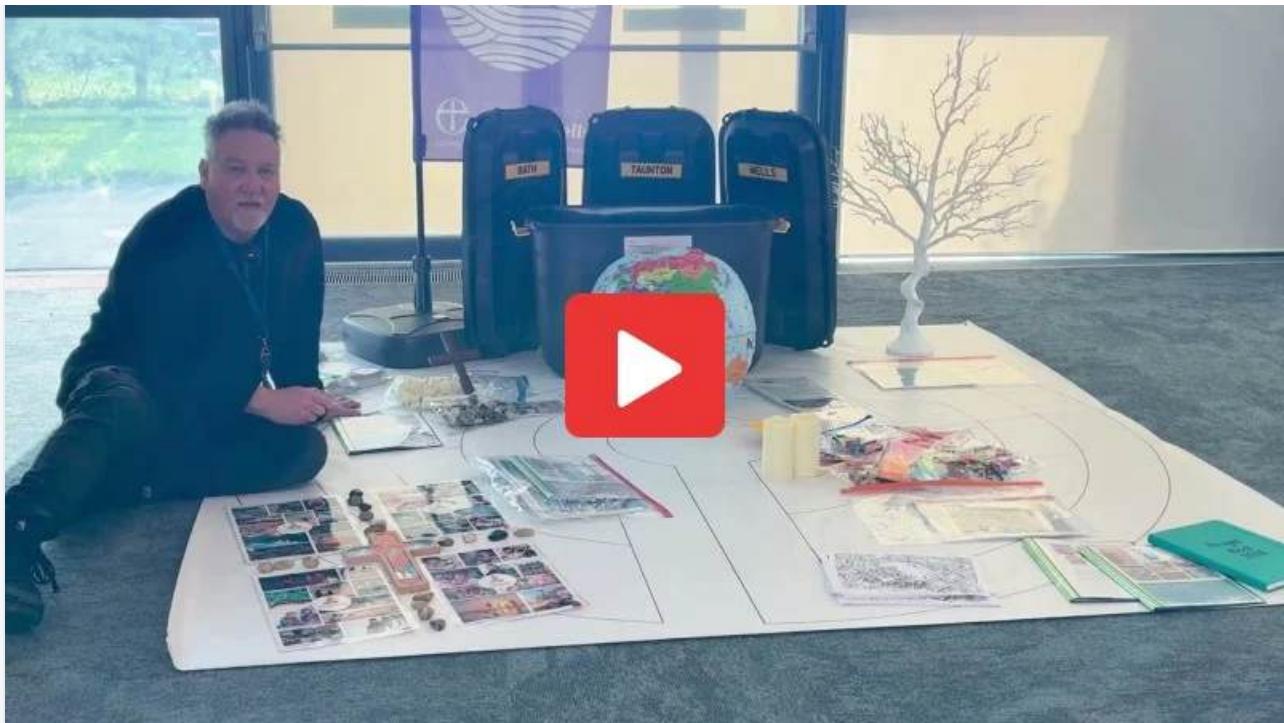


Join the wave of prayer by sharing your prayers, photos and stories on the online prayer board, hosted on Padlet. Please add your prayers and [share the link which you can find online.](#)

[Find out about resources](#) for church communities, children, young people and schools, and information about pilgrimage. Two new Pilgrim Path booklets - praying for your community and praying for your rural community - are available to download.

The [Praying through Lent resource](#) is a collection of simple daily ideas which each week focuses on one of the six petitions of the Lord's Prayer, there's a daily Bible reading and prayer prompt to take with you through the day. The resource can be used by churches, schools, families and individuals.

You may want to book one of the prayer boxes with resources and ideas for creating prayer spaces in a variety of contexts. If your deanery would be interested in having a week of prayer then please contact your [Archdeaconry Assistant](#). Want to know what's in the box? The team explain in the video below.



Peaceable living

Building peace in our divided worlds

Saturday 21 March 2026

10:00-16:00

St Mary's, East Chinnock

St Mary's welcomes speakers Jo Berry CBE and Simon Keyes. Jo is an international peace builder, founder of Building Bridges for Peace, and Simon was previously Professor of Reconciliation and Peacebuilding at the University of Winchester, and is the Bath and Wells Adviser on Peacebuilding. For more information and to book tickets please contact Alex Swarbrick alexclaire.es@gmail.com

Finding the treasure - Exploring ABCD together

15 May
10:00-16:00
Birmingham

Church Urban Fund (CUF) is inviting local churches and community organisations to a free event focused on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) — an approach to community engagement helping churches seek hopeful, practical ways to engage their local contexts.



The day is open to lay leaders, pioneers, volunteers, and clergy who share a heart for mission and discipleship. [Full event details and tickets can be found online.](#)

Vacancies

Lament to Action Group - volunteer members

The Diocese of Bath and Wells is seeking volunteers to join its Lament to Action Group, which supports and shapes the diocese's long-term commitment to racial justice.

This work is rooted in Christian faith and values and seeks to move beyond words towards meaningful and lasting change. The group works alongside the Diocesan Racial Justice Adviser, offering insight, challenge and encouragement as the Diocese responds to its independent Racial Justice Audit and the Church of England's From Lament to Action strategy.

Members act as critical friends, helping to ensure that commitments to racial justice lead to practical, sustained action. For more information about this post, please visit [the vacancies section of the diocesan website.](#)

Lead Chaplain to Hinkley Point C

The Diocese of Bath and Wells in partnership with Churches Together in Somerset and EDF Energy seeks a new Lead Chaplain due to the current postholder being offered a new opportunity. You will offer spiritual and pastoral care and articulate a contemporary vision for faith and spirituality within a rapidly growing community on what is the largest construction site in Europe.

We are seeking someone experienced in chaplaincy or church leadership with an understanding of the demands of a modern industrial environment. Applications are open to lay or ordained candidates.

Closing date 20 February.
For more information please see the [vacancies section of the Bath and Wells website.](#)

In Brief

- 371st Clergy Support Trust Festival, St Paul's Cathedral, Tuesday 12 May, 5pm with guest preacher Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of Canterbury. [Please book tickets.](#)
- Quiet Reflection Day, 6 March 09:45-14:15, St John's Wellington. To reserve a place please contact Fiona Brown fionareflection@btinternet.com
- Open day Spiritus Theological College, Saturday 7 March, Marjon, Plymouth. An opportunity to meet staff and students. To register please [book your place online](#) for more information email info@spirituscollege.ac.uk.
- Join in a day long 'rhythm workshop' or two hour 'worship evening' 28 March 2026 St Saviours' Church, Bath. Open to everyone - you do not have to be a musician already! Book your free place via [eventbrite.co.uk](#)
- 'One heart, one voice', National Network of Pastoral Musicians Conference 24-26 July 2026 in Northampton. Suitable for all abilities. More information from, jburrige@me.com
- Half term holiday activities Wells Cathedral 17, 18 and 19 February 2026, 10.30-15:00 Marvel at the medieval masterpieces then make your very own souvenirs to take home!
Masons' Marks 7 February. Find signatures in stone left by the Cathedral builders, design and carve your own maker's mark in soap.
Stories in Stitches 8 February. Discover the stories behind the embroideries and altar frontals then stitch your own.
Wondrous Windows 19 February. Explore the Cathedral's windows then try out stained glass themed crafts.
Admission included with entry ticket or locals' pass. No need to book – simply drop in on the day! More information is available on the [Wells Cathedral website](#).

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



Welcoming school leaders and parish partners for training

This week, school leaders and some parish partners attended a SIAMS training session at Flourish House. SIAMS is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican



Young adults explore God's call

Young adults taking part in the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) have been meeting in Bristol. Bath and Wells together with the Diocese of Bristol, is taking part in the scheme which is a



Live Gospel performance is enjoyed

Royal Shakespeare Company and West End Lion King actor, Lloyd Notice, was in Bath for a performance of his one man show in which he

and Methodist Schools. Attendees had the opportunity to explore what the new 2023 SIAMS framework looks like, covering topics including the importance of Christian vision, the inspection questions, self-evaluations and evidence keeping. They also met Bishop Fiona and heard about her background in education, as a former teacher, governor and also Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education in her former diocese. Fiona said, "Education is one of the four portfolios I will be focusing on, and I hope I at least have a little credibility with you in that I may know a little of what you do. I do not know your context, but I talk your language and I am really looking forward to getting to know you all."

year-long opportunity designed for young adults aged 18 to 30 who are exploring whether God may be calling them to ministry within the Church of England. In Bath and Wells, Alfie Rendell and Finley Jones are giving a year to God through a placement at Wells Cathedral supervised by Toby Wright, Dean of Wells and Helen Weld, a Vocations Adviser for the diocese. Throughout the year they serve in a mission-focused context, gaining valuable hands-on experience. Alongside their practical involvement, each individual receives theological training and one-to-one mentoring. [Find out more about MES.](#)

shares the Gospel of Mark.

His show, which played to a packed audience at All Saints Church, Weston, shared Mark's Gospel telling the story of Jesus's life, teachings, miracles, death and resurrection. The performance also included an original score by Stefan Everton.

The event was free to attend and the church was filled with people who enjoyed a full reading of the Gospel in performance form, inviting the audience to engage with it in a different way, offering another way to hear and understand it.

This week Fr Ackson Kampala, Parish Priest of St Francis's, Chawama in Zambia, shares the Lord's Prayer with us as part of our Year of Prayer.



Diocese of Bath and Wells

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