

A formal, and not so formal, welcome

The final step of Bishop Michael becoming the 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells will take place when he is installed at a service at Wells Cathedral on Saturday, 12 November.

While Bishop Michael legally became Bishop of Bath and Wells in June, and has already been out and about visiting parishes and deaneries, the service in November marks his formal welcome to the diocese.

People from across Bath and Wells, many of whom have been involved in the selection and interview process, will have a role in the service. They include school children and young people, people from church communities across



The historic cope of the Bishop of Bath and Wells is being restored ahead of the installation

Bath and Wells, community and charity representatives, and local leaders of other faiths.

On the morning of the service, which will take place at 3pm, Bishop Michael will attend morning prayer at Bath Abbey and travel back to Wells using a range of forms of transport, meeting and

greeting the people of Bath and Wells along the way.

Bishop Michael says, "Before I was interviewed for the role of Bishop of Bath and Wells my wife Lizzie and I undertook a 60 mile walk around the diocese so it felt only fitting to undertake a similar pilgrimage on the morning of my installation. I hope to meet many people of Bath and Wells along the way as I travel by foot, electric bike, bus, tractor and lorry from Bath, through Peasedown St John, Chilcompton and back into Wells in time for the service."

The ticketed service will be livestreamed via [the Bath and Wells Facebook page](#) so individuals and churches across the diocese and beyond can share in the occasion ■

News in brief

Learning lessons of the past

The Church of England has published the findings of the national safeguarding [Past Cases Review 2 \(PCR2\)](#). The Diocese of Bath and Wells, along with dioceses across the country, has shared a [summary of its report](#). Bath and Wells has already started to action the recommendations in the report submitted by its independent reviewers and continues to strive to be a safer church for all ■



Church volunteers transform charity garden

Volunteers from St Francis' Church, Keynsham spent a day refurbishing the overgrown RICE Centre garden, to make it a more spacious and attractive relaxation space for patients, families and staff to enjoy. Local charity RICE (the Research Institute for the Care of Older People) has been providing support for the past six years to a member of St Francis' Church who has dementia ■

Follow the star this Christmas

The Church of England's 'Follow the Star – The Great Invitation' campaign for Christmas 2022 encourages all our churches and all our churchgoers to invite their neighbours and their communities to an in person gathering this Christmastime where they can hear the Christmas story and be welcomed into the love of Jesus.

There are resources for churches to use where they are, and also 12 daily reflections, available to access in a range of ways, from Christmas Eve.

Find out more at churchofengland.org/advent-and-christmas-resources ■



Called to walk the way of the cross

The Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

As I prepare to be installed as the 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells on 12 November, I have been reading and re-reading the charge given to me by the Archbishop of Canterbury when I was legally confirmed as bishop back in June. The charge can be found on the [diocesan website](#). Please do take a look at what it says.

The charge is terrifying. It calls me to walk the way of the cross. It urges me to rely not on my own strength, but on that provided by the Lord. The charge asks me to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' (Proverbs 3:18). It reminds me that I am to be the shepherd of the flock entrusted to me. It also includes calls to be

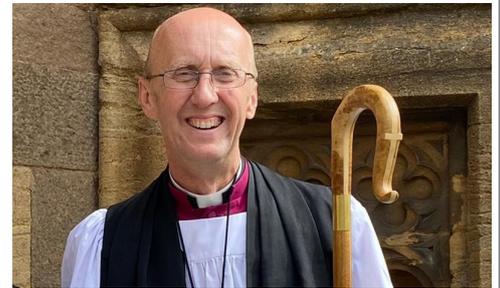
committed to the highest standards of safeguarding and care of the environment.

Reading my charge makes me wonder whether I have been invited to impersonate the Archangel Gabriel! Thankfully it also includes words which act to make the whole thing possible. Chief among these is this phrase: I am called to 'build a church where each stone is valued'. Drawing on the writings of the First Letter of Peter (see Chapter 2), the charge calls me to remember that I'm not doing this all alone. We are doing it all together.

I've already been discovering this as I've travelled around Somerset attending worship in different churches and meeting new clergy colleagues. The installation will

see people gather from across the county, committing together to our vision of 'Living and Telling the Story of Jesus'. Undertaking that task with authenticity and integrity is the greatest charge of all. It's one that I'm looking forward to sharing with you.

Every blessing
Bishop Michael



We heat, you eat

The Benefice of Street, Walton and Compton Dundon is one of the churches living out Bishop Michael's charge, offering a warm space and food to those in need. Rector Ana Lawrence explains.

How did 'We heat, you eat' come about?

We wanted to respond practically to the 'cost of living crisis' in our local community. 'We heat, you eat' is a great way of using our building to do just this.

What are you offering?

Every Saturday, from 11am to 3pm, we can offer a warm and comfortable building, free wifi and parking, disabled access and easy pedestrian routes from the centre of Street. There are comfy chairs and the space to spend time either chatting, playing games or simply to find a quiet corner to work or do homework.



A warm welcome awaits at The Mission Church, Street.

What about the 'eat' element?

We will also be offering a simple hot meal, with guests invited to pay what they can as a donation to cover costs, but there will be no obligation to pay.

Do you have to be a church-goer to

come along?

The invitation is open to everyone, not just those who go to church regularly. People can come as often as they want and are welcome to stay for as long they like; they can pop in for half an hour, or the whole afternoon if they wish.

How do you see 'We heat, you eat' developing?

In the future we hope to be able to offer other things our guests need and want including possibly craft activities or a Saturday film.

Many churches are opening their doors for those struggling with their heating bills. [Find out more at bathandwells.org.uk/warm-spaces](http://bathandwells.org.uk/warm-spaces)

Follow us on



@BathWells



bathandwells



churchofengland_somerset



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.