

The Chapter Letter

The Sunday after Ascension Day

Sunday 17 May 2026



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Sunday after Ascension Day begin on page 146 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Reverend Canon Tim Stevens, *Precentor*, is presiding and preaching at St Lawrence Church, Westbury-sub-Mendip today. We pray that both he and the congregation will be blessed by their time together.

Welcome: A very warm welcome to the Cathedral, particularly if you are a visitor or here for the first time. Do please make yourself known to one of the clergy after the service. Everybody is always welcome to stay and enjoy time together over tea and filter coffee after the Cathedral Eucharist, where there are Welcomers available - please do seek them out if you have questions or simply to chat.

New commission: We were delighted to hear the premier performance of *Missa Brevis* by the contemporary British composer, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, at the Cathedral Eucharist last week. This piece was commissioned by Cathedral Commissions. If you would like to find out more about commissions, please visit <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/worship-and-music/cathedral-commissions>

Recruitment to the Cathedral's Board of Trustees: The Cathedral is seeking to appoint two new non-executive lay members to Chapter (the Board of Trustees) who can bring strategic leadership skills or expertise in property management. Chapter wish to strengthen links with the worshipping community and also seek to improve diversity in the trustee body and encourage anyone with relevant skills to consider joining them. Further information can be found on the website, including contact details of Caroline Boddington (Senior Non-Executive Member of Chapter) and Nerys Watts (Chief Operating Officer), or you can speak to any member of Chapter about the role: <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/your-cathedral/vacancies>

Called to Pray: There has been considerable interest in the *Called to Pray* initiative. Following reflection, it has seemed wise to allow this ministry to develop in an organic and sustainable way, enabling both prayer and relationships to deepen over time. Rather than a single stand-alone event, the training is therefore proposed as a series of fortnightly sessions, offering a more spacious and reflective context in which a community of prayer may be formed.

The sessions are planned for **Thursday afternoons from 2.00–4.00 p.m. during May and June**, with the opportunity to attend **Choral Evensong at 5.15 p.m.** together. The dates for the sessions are: 28 May, 11 June and 25 June in the Lady Chapel.

Those who would like to explore further how this ministry might sit alongside their existing commitments are warmly invited to find out more from Caroline Bruce and The Reverend Prebendary Narinder Tegally.

Caroline Bruce – caroline.bruce@bathwells.anglican.org 07891 645034
Narinder Tegally – narinder.tegally@nhs.net 07940 580859

Ascension and Pentecost: Sharing and Reflection: You are warmly invited to join an Ascension and Pentecost Sharing and Reflection on **Monday 18 May from 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.** in the Education Room. This will be led by the Reverend Rosey Lunn, Priest Vicar, and will offer an opportunity to reflect on the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. Those who wish are invited to bring a poem or piece of artwork to share, relating to either or both festivals; artists within the congregation are particularly encouraged to share work of their own if they wish. However, there is no obligation to bring anything - all are welcome simply to come and listen. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival. Please email Jonathan Rodd if you wish to reserve a place: jonathan.rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk

Gala Organ Concert: On **Saturday 23 May** at 7.30 p.m., there will be a Gala Organ Concert at St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick, BA2 4EB. This will be given by Timothy Parsons, Director of Music at Wells Cathedral, and is in memory of Dr Anthony Crossland. Tickets, priced at £20 (£10 for under 25s) are available from Bathwick Parish Office (01225 447450) or Bath Box Office (01225 463362) www.bathboxoffice.org.uk

May Family Holiday Activities: Bugs, Bats and Butterflies

Investigate some of the winged wonders that visit Wells Cathedral and try fun-filled family activities that can help support biodiversity at home.

23 – 31 May: Bat Trail

Follow our bat trail and construct a bat to hang on a tree! Bat biscuits are available in The Loft Café.

Drop-in Creative Activity Sessions run from 10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. on: Tuesday 26 May: Beautiful Butterflies

Learn about pollinators and make a butterfly feeder or try paper butterfly crafts.

Wednesday 27 May: Brilliant Bats

Find out about the bats that visit the Cathedral with a fun, interactive talk, and make a flapping bat toy.

Thursday 28 May: Beds for Bugs

Help us give our bug hotel a makeover and make your own mini version to hang at home.

‘Teach us to pray’ – Week of Guided Prayer (Sunday 31 May – Sunday 7 June): Discover a joyful and refreshing way to deepen your life of prayer in the Cathedral, with daily (Monday to Friday) one-to-one support from trained accompaniers from around the country, at a time agreed during the week. This offers space for simple, personal reflection, exploring new ways of praying and noticing God’s presence woven through everyday life. Many pilgrims speak of renewed clarity, peace and companionship. **With only 4 places remaining**, this enriching spiritual journey is open to all, whatever your experience of prayer.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to either the Dean or Caroline Byrne.

Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage - Come and See Weekend – 11 and 12 July 2026: This weekend is open to anyone wishing to get a taste of Anglican Religious Life as part of their own vocational explorations. There will be time to pray, sing, eat and chat with members of the Community. More details can be found at: www.csmv.co.uk/community-life/vocation-events

Saint Decuman Pilgrimage: On **Thursday 27 August**, you are invited to make your own way to St Decuman's Church and Holy Well in Watchet, Somerset. Decuman was a seventh century Welsh saint and hermit who came to the well there. An outline of the pilgrimage is below, with approximate timings:

12.00 – 12.30 p.m. Arrive

12.30 p.m. Welcome and introduction to Saint Decuman, the Holy Well, and Benefice

1.00 p.m. Lunch (please bring your own picnic) The Parish will provide cakes.

1.45 p.m. Worship and Reflection, led by The Dean of Wells

2.30 – 3.00 p.m. Depart in peace

If you would like to join the pilgrimage, please email Jonathan Rodd: Jonathan.Rodd@wellscathedral.org.uk

'On New Roads' Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage 2026: As part of the 800th anniversary year of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, a Peace Pilgrimage is taking place in September and will be coming through Wells Cathedral **5-7 September**.

There are two invitations for the Cathedral community to participate:

1) You are warmly invited to join a leg of the pilgrimage walk either on 5 or 7 September or both. To sign up, go to www.spiritoffrancis.com

2) We are seeking seven people in Wells to host one of the core group of seven pilgrims for two nights (5 and 6 September) in their home. These are the pilgrims walking the full route over 70 days from the Franciscan communities at Alnmouth to Hilfield and then on to London.

If you are able to offer hospitality in this way, please contact Jonathan LLOYD of Wells TSSF canonjonathanlloyd@gmail.com by the end of May.

Pastoral Care: The Cathedral Pastoral Care team comprises: Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Care Coordinator), Caroline Byrne, Kate Day, Patricia Hellier, Reverend Rosey Lunn, Lissy Manners, William Newton Newey, Julian Tucker and Fran Wood. Members of the team visit individuals as needed including the provision of home communion. Visits are co-ordinated by Wendy Haslam.

If you have pastoral matters to raise or would like a visit, please contact Wendy on pastoralcare@wellscathedral.org.uk or 07815 309527. You can also call the Cathedral Office (01749 674483).

Safeguarding at Wells Cathedral: Wells Cathedral is committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details please visit:

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

You can report a concern using the same online link or by contacting either Jill Edmonds, Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor, 01749 674483, jill.edmonds@wellscathedral.org.uk or Joanne Austin, Diocesan and Safeguarding Case Worker,

01749 588905, joanne.austin@bathwells.anglican.org
or Ben Goodhind, Diocesan and Cathedral Safeguarding Manager,
01749 588917, ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org

This week at Wells Cathedral

Monday – Friday (inclusive)

The Morning Liturgy is celebrated at 8.00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel.

18 MONDAY

- 8.50 a.m. **Wells Cathedral School Service**
9.30 a.m. **Ascension and Pentecost: Sharing and Reflection** in the Education Room
1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Wells Cathedral School
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)

19 TUESDAY: Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 988

- 1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral)

20 WEDNESDAY: Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804

- 10.00 a.m. **Eucharist** (Common Worship Order I, Traditional)
5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

21 THURSDAY

- 11.30 a.m. **Mothers' Union Prayers** in the Lady Chapel
5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers)
7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Vicars Choral Commemoration Concert

22 FRIDAY

- 5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong:** (Vicars Choral)

23 SATURDAY

- 8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**
5.15 p.m. **Festal Evensong** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
7.30 p.m. **Concert:** Verity Standen presents 'Everything Slips'

24 SUNDAY: PENTECOST

- 8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion** (BCP), Quire/Presbytery
10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
Preacher: The Very Reverend Toby Wright, *Dean of Wells*
3.00 p.m. **Pentecost Celebration** (Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir)
A service of readings, hymns, and prayer, and featuring music by Cecilia McDowall, Palestrina, Timothy Parsons, and Philip Wilby to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost

CIDER AND CHEESE FESTIVAL 2026

Early bird tickets for this year's Cider and Cheese Festival on Saturday 26 September, priced £17.50 for adults and £12.50 for 5-18 year olds, are now available. Please visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cider-cheese-festival-2026-tickets-1982905387392?aff=erelexpmlt