

The Chapter Letter

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 3 May 2026



8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP): The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the Fourth Sunday After Easter begin on page 141 of the Book of Common Prayer.

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.

The Archdeacon of Wells departs: As you know Archdeacon Anne is stepping down from her roles in Bath and Wells. A date for your diary! Anne will be presiding for the last time as Archdeacon at the Cathedral Eucharist on **Sunday 10 May**, and also preaching at Choral Evensong that day. There will be a drinks reception for Anne after Evensong to which you are all warmly invited. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Anne, this can be done in either of the following ways:

- **A BACS transfer (Account: 52164330 Sort code: 60-23-06) ref: Anne Gell**
- **A cheque made out to 'Wells Cathedral', addressed to the Accounts Department ref: Anne Gell**

Please can all contributions be sent by Monday 4 May.

Acting Archdeacon of Wells: During the coming months, the Venerable Jonathan Lloyd will be the Acting Archdeacon of Wells. Interviews for the next Archdeacon of Wells will take place in May and it is hoped the new appointment will begin in September. A longstanding commitment means that Jonathan will not be with us during the month of June. During this time, support for the Archdeaconry of Wells will be provided by the Archdeacons of Taunton and Bath.

SWEDA Firewalk: On Friday 17 April, The Dean, Ruth Clacee-Rowe, Jill Edmonds and Luke Parmenter participated in a Firewalk for the South West Eating Disorder Association. The grand total, before expenses, is just over £10,000 which is a fantastic result. SWEDA would like to thank all those who embraced the event, took part, donated and came along to cheer the firewalkers. The funds will go directly towards supporting people of all ages affected by eating disorders across the South West.

Sound of Wells Festival 2026: Wednesday 6 – Sunday 10 May: Over the course of five inspiring days, we invite you to celebrate the rich and vibrant musical life of Wells Cathedral. There will be performances from the Cathedral's choirs and musicians, as well as our many associated ensembles. We warmly invite you to join us in this celebration of music, heritage and community. All the events are listed on the back page.

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 venue will be confirmed shortly. The proposed dates for the sessions are: 14 May, 28 May, 11 June and 25 June.

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

Pilgrimage: As part of the year of prayer, we are offering opportunities to experience pilgrimage in different settings. We are looking forward to launching a pilgrim trail around the Cathedral, which can be self-led, but which the Reverend Edward Day will lead on **Friday 15 May at 2.30 p.m.** The Precentor will lead a Forest Pilgrimage on **Thursday 25 June** (or **Wednesday 8 July** if the weather defeats us in June) at **1.00 p.m.** All are welcome to join the Cathedral Pilgrimage, but if you would like to join the Forest Pilgrimage, please email office@wellscathedral.org.uk, so that if we do need to change the date, we can be in touch with you.

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 Mary Lewis, 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

‘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 8 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.

Year of Prayer Retreat at Ty Mawr Convent (Wales): Step away from the busyness of everyday life and join the Dean for a quiet and prayerful Retreat to the Sisters at Ty Mawr Convent in Wales <https://tymawrconvent.org/about-us/> from **Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 October**. This retreat offers unhurried space for shared reflection and renewal in a beautiful and prayer-filled setting. Places are very limited – just 6 spaces available (with the possibility of one or two additional places for couples). The cost is £150. To find out more, please speak to the Dean, or to reserve a place, please email office@wellscathedral.org.uk

Wells Cathedral Gardening Team are looking for volunteers willing to help maintain the Camery, Palm Church Yard and Mary Mitchell Gardens. Commitment is season dependent and your hours can be flexible, as little as two hours a week. Because the role involves active maintenance across the Cathedral grounds, we are looking for individuals who are physically fit and comfortable in roles such as digging, planting, watering, weeding etc. If you would like to know more about the role and commitment required, please contact the Volunteer Services Department. 01749 832217 volunteers@wellscathedral.org.uk

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

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.

4 MONDAY: English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Chapel Choir of King's School, Bruton)

5 TUESDAY

5.15 p.m. **Evening Prayer** (Bishop's Palace Chapel)

6 WEDNESDAY

10.00 a.m. **Eucharist** (Common Worship Order I, Traditional)

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Wells Cathedral School Composers

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Vicars Choral with Wells Cathedral Youth Choir)

8.00 p.m. **Concert:** *The General (1926)* Silent Film accompanied by David Bednall,
Organ

7 THURSDAY

11.30 a.m. **Concert:** Phoebe Wakefield, Herbert Zielinski and Luke Parmenter, *Wells Cathedral Choral Scholars*

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Girl Choristers and Vicars Choral with Wells Cathedral Song Squad)

7.00 p.m. **Concert:** Wells Cathedral Chamber Choir presents Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610*

8 FRIDAY: Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c. 1417

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Primary Music Outreach, *'Springs and Fountains'*

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong:** (Boy Choristers and Vicars Choral)

6.30 p.m. **An Evening of Concertos** in Cedars Hall

9 SATURDAY

8.00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**

1.05 p.m. **Lunchtime Concert:** Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society presents Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* with William Drakett, *baritone*

5.15 p.m. **Choral Evensong** (Great Choir, with alumni of the Choir, and Wells Cathedral School Chapel Choir and instrumentalists) attended by Wells Cathedral Choir Association

10 SUNDAY: THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion** (BCP), Quire/Presbytery

10.30 a.m. **Cathedral Eucharist** celebrating Somerset Day, featuring a new Commission

Preacher: The Right Reverend David Stancliffe, *former Bishop of Salisbury*

1.05 p.m. **Composers' Masterclass** in Cedars Hall

3.00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** and farewell to The Venerable Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells (Senior Choristers and Vicars Choral)

Preacher: The Venerable Anne Gell, *Archdeacon of Wells*