

November 2022



50p

Life



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LIFE MAGAZINE EDITOR

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Articles for the December edition are due by **Sun 13th November**

Editorial Notes

I believe I am always singing the praises of the Bishop's Palace, especially when they display their hundreds of poppies around the grounds. I wonder where they will be this year? In 2019 some were placed around the 'Long life Swan' on the southside of the moat, and makes the November cover picture.

The top picture on the back cover shows Kevin Lawrence, David Hatrey, Andy Savage, and our rector Ana Lawrence standing at the front of Wells Cathedral. The group of pictures (bottom left) includes Hilda Grint whose article appears on page 7, Suzie Williams with Diana Greenfield and David Hatrey(again)! who appears to have a hole in his bucket. The remaining picture features the three Franciscans, Hilary, Lindy, and Ben in St Andrews Compton Dundon (see pages 8 and 9). Roger.

Is there anybody out there?

We would love to know who is reading Life and what you think of it. Why not contact the editor or myself and let me know which articles you particularly enjoy or what else you would like to see in Life? Go on, encourage us! Ana Lawrence

I would love to include some anonymous comments or suggestions in the December edition and there will be news of the New Year magazine price. Roger.

Rector's Letter

'We remember'

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when we traditionally look back and remember. Our annual memorial services when we remember with thanksgiving loved ones lost, have recently taken place and we look ahead to our Remembrance services to be held in three of our churches (see details of these elsewhere in this magazine). I am excited that this year, in addition to our church services, we will also be taking part in the Remembrance Parade (13th November 2pm) and service in the Merriman Park in Street – a great opportunity to gather with people from across our community, the British Legion, uniformed organisations, together with church, civic and community leaders.

We may also look back over the past year and recall with gratitude the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, followed a few months later by the sadness of the Queen's death and the outpouring of gratitude to her late majesty before and during the state funeral.

As a society, holding a time of silence is becoming more widespread to remember all sorts of things. We see this at the start of football matches, at public events and elsewhere. We need to remember.

As Christians, we are also called to remember all that God has done for us in the sending of Jesus his only son into a broken and fractured world, to offer a gospel of peace, hope, joy and salvation.

Remembrance Sunday means many different things to those involved. In that silence we hold together some will be grieving

for relatives, friends and comrades in arms who paid the ultimate price during conflict; others will be giving thanks for the freedoms and certainties the sacrifice of many in war have given us. Perhaps yet others will be reflecting on the wars still being fought in Ukraine, Yemen, Syria and elsewhere. Alongside all these let's also take time, as Christians, to continue to remember all that God sacrificed for us.

With my love & prayers, Ana

What on earth is an Area Dean?

By now, most of you will have seen the news that the Bishop has invited me to become the next Area Dean of the Glastonbury Jurisdiction with my commissioning service to take place on Saturday 19th November 4pm in the Mission Church.

Whilst my primary commitment will remain to you, this role involves me working with clergy and lay colleagues across other local churches and representing those churches to the Diocese at various meetings and events. There are also specific roles I will need to undertake especially around annual 'visitations' and in the event a vacancy in any of the parishes in the deanery.

For those who are interested, there are full details of what an Area Dean is and does on the Diocese of Bath and Wells website. Do take a look.

Meanwhile, you would be more than welcome to come to my commissioning service. I'd love to see you there.

Ana Lawrence

Walton Matters

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever. Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His love endures for ever. To him who alone does great wonders. His love endures forever. Who by his understanding made the heavens. His love endures forever.

Psalm 136. Vs 1-5. N.I.V.

Andy Savages licensing.

It was such a wonderful service at the cathedral to see Andy among those licensed by Bishop Ruth and to see so many from our Churches there to support him. Well done Andy and we look forward to you ministering to us in the future around the benefice.

Harvest.

Our Church looked beautiful for our harvest service and a big thank you to the many who spent time decorating.

Our Church service was lovely and a reminder of all we should be thankful for, plus an opportunity to remember those who struggle with day to day living.

It was a joy to attend Walton schools harvest service and see and hear the children singing and reading so clearly and joyfully.

Thank you to them all and to the parents who supplied a host of gifts that added to ours, made a wonderful donation to the food bank. So much that it took 2 car loads with the seats down.

Amazing.

Harvest concluded with our supper and again a host of thanks to all who prepared, shopped, laid out the hall, entertained us and fed us so well, we are all so grateful and thankful. You did an amazing job and the evening was enjoyed by us all. What a talented benefice we are.

Samaritans Purse.

Shoe boxes should be in all our Churches now and this year's collection date is 14th-21st November. We all aware of changing circumstances and it is harder for us to do what we would love to do, but if you feel you could fill a box, or half fill a box between a friend that would be wonderful. Even a £5 donation towards a box's delivery would help so much to be able to light up a child's eyes this Christmas. I also have been given individual items and I shall be using them to make up boxes. We will still be able to help this wonderful charity but maybe in different ways this year. Bless you.

Flower rota

12th November. Jane Doyle.

29th November. Sandra Gristock.

St Andrew's Compton Dundon Bell Appeal

The Open Day/Launch in September.

Thank you to everyone who came along to St Andrew's to see the displays and plans for The Bell Appeal. We were really encouraged by the enthusiasm you showed for the Appeal, welcomed the suggestions you made for fundraising events and enjoyed listening to anecdotes about the village and the bells in the past. Your support is really appreciated by us all.

The main purpose of the evening was to give information, chat about the Appeal and answer any questions, and we hoped to raise a little money from donations for refreshments etc. But we are delighted to report that over £2,000 was raised over the four-hour event. The generosity of everyone who donated and the positive buzz that the event created gives us encouragement for future Appeal activities and confidence that we have the support

of many people, both in Compton Dundon and beyond. Thank you so much.

If you were unable to join us and would like to know about The St Andrew's Compton Dundon Bell Appeal, then please get in touch. We have information sheets available and anyone on the committee will be delighted to talk to you.

Fundraising Events.

Would you like to help run an event? Here are some of the fundraising ideas which we are currently considering.

Appeal Ball

Gymkhana

Open Village Gardens

Concerts and musical Events

Sponsored events, i.e., bike ride

Village Brocante

Auction

Have you any other suggestions for raising money for the Appeal?

If so, please contact us at

comptondundonbellappeal@outlook.com We'd love to hear from you.

JudySkelding

WALTON CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER

During October Walton Church held their Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

A varied programme was presented to a large audience of Church and Village people. The 'Rough Around the Edges' Group opened the evening with some folk songs. After a hearty ploughman's followed by homemade fruit crumble, the entertainment continued with a mixture of sketches, in one of which David Hatrey was bereft that he had a hole in his bucket and Pauline telling him what to do! To maintain the folk song theme there was an alternative version of the Soldier Will You Marry Me song There were also items of poetry reading and musical duets, including a duet between Suzie, playing her flute and Diana playing the oboe. The evening finished with a rousing rendition of the Pirate Song with 'Pirates' demonstrating how dangerous their lives are.

Thanks must go to those who put in the hard work to arrange the hall and prepare the food, as well as to the entertainers. But the enthusiastic audience also helped to make it a most enjoyable and memorable evening. Hila Grint

The vast display of all the Harvest gifts donated at Walton to go to the food Bank.

Sandra Gristock



Three Franciscans

St Andrew's was both delighted and intrigued to welcome three Franciscans of the Third Order to spend the night in the church on 6th October.

Hilary, Lindy and Ben were on pilgrimage from their priory in Dorset, Hilfield, to take part in a special service in Wells cathedral to celebrate 800 years of the founding of the Franciscan Third Order.

They arrived at St Andrew's somewhat weary having walked from Yeovil but their morale was soon boosted by a much needed cup of tea and the arrival of a simple soup supper for which Ana joined them.

Despite the autumn chill of a medieval church Hilary, Lindy and Ben were looking forward to spending the night in a building that had welcomed worshippers for many hundreds of years. The peace and spiritual sanctity of St Andrew's obviously meant a great deal to them and they posted a beautiful photograph of themselves saying night prayer under the ancient yew tree to the accompaniment of the tawny owls later that evening.

We bid them farewell after breakfast the following morning as they set off for North Wootton, their final stop before Wells.

For those of us from the congregation who met the Franciscans it was a real privilege to meet people of such faith, warmth and with a genuine desire to help those "on the fringes of society". We were left wanting to know far more about the Franciscans and their work. Helen Thomas

Following the Pilgrim's visit to St Andrew's, we received this letter of thanks from the group.

"Dear Ana

Thank you so much for the hospitably and company provided by you and the lovely ladies who were at Compton Dundon to meet us on the second night of our pilgrimage. (Please pass on our thanks to them.) We were so blessed by the feast and strange as it might sound - particularly by the gift of fruit from your harvest festival - we reflected long and hard about the fact the usually as part of church we are on the giving end of harvest festival and were very touched to find ourselves on the receiving end.

Last night we reported back on the pilgrimage to our Franciscan group and showed pictures of our supper, the "camp" at the foot of the altar, and night prayer which we said sat under the yew tree.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone who was involved.

The rest of the journey also went well and we arrived in Wells with time for breakfast in the cafe on the Saturday morning.

Thank you again for being part of our journey.

Peace and all good

Hilary"

I am delighted that we were able to host the group and look forward to doing so again in the future.

Ana Lawrence

FOCUS ON BENEFICE CHARITY PARTNERS

OPEN DOORS, SUPPORTED BY STREET

Last month, the Christian press marked the death of another remarkable octogenarian 'Brother Andrew', the inspirational founder of Christian charity 'Open Doors, which offers support to persecuted Christians worldwide.

In marking the death of its founder, the charity shared part of his story:

In 1955, a young Dutch missionary went to a Communist youth congress in Poland, at that time a part of the Soviet bloc. But he wasn't a communist: he was a Christian. His suitcase contained his Bible, a change of clothes and hundreds of tracts entitled The Way of Salvation, which he intended to give away.

The trip was to change his life. Behind the Iron Curtain, he discovered churches desperately in need of Bibles, support and prayer. Above all, he found a group of Christians who felt isolated and alone and who thought the rest of the world had forgotten them.

One evening during that first visit, he went to a Baptist church in Warsaw where he was invited to speak. He tells the story in his best-selling book God's Smuggler: "At the end of my little talk the pastor said the most interesting thing of all, 'We want to thank you,' he said, 'for being here. Even if you had not said a word, just seeing you would have meant so much. We feel at times as if we are all alone in our struggle."

That young man became known as Brother Andrew. And his trip changed the world.

At the end of the trip, watching many thousands of delegates to the Youth Congress marching in a parade, Brother Andrew prayed about what God wanted him to do. He opened his Bible and found the passage which he came to see as a mission: "Wake Up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die." Revelation 3:2

In subsequent years he was to travel many times behind the Iron Curtain, courageously putting his life on the line to smuggle Bibles at the height of the Cold War. His work went on to span many decades and geographic locations. In God's Smuggler, Brother Andrew's autobiography chronicling those early years, he details dangerous border crossings in his blue VW Beetle – which became known as 'the miracle car', for its ability to miraculously keep going. He developed a trademark prayer to say as he snuck Bibles and Christian literature across the border:

“Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to Your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see.”

In subsequent years., the situation in Eastern Europe has changed, but persecution of Christians continues in many countries and ‘Open Doors’ offers support in a number of ways, from Bibles to advocacy. You can find out more at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/about/how-we-help/>

Kevin Lawrence

For the benefice charitable giving group

A reminder to be considering what charity(ies) you might consider recommending for your church to support in 2023 as we will be requesting nominations nearer the end of the year.

More from Compton Dundon

BIG BREAKFAST

The ever-popular Big Breakfast is returning on

Saturday, November 26th

So, save the date! If you would be interested in running a

Christmas themed stall on the day, the

table hire charge is £10. Please contact Trish Cox (01458 447075) for further information and to reserve your space. Hope to see you there.

Susie Robertson

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Following the success of the Christmas Market at The Old

Farmhouse in 2020, we are this year holding our Christmas Market in St Andrew's Church on **Saturday, December 10th.**

Details to follow, but if you would like to contribute Christmas themed items for sale, please contact Celia Thomas on

07949 241818 (free calls to her mobile.) Susie Robertson

New Curate for SWCD Churches

I am delighted to announce that a new curate will be joining the team here at SWCD Churches next Summer.

Rachel Pengelly, who is currently in the final year of her ordination training at Sarum College, Salisbury will be serving her curacy in the benefice. Rachel, with her husband Jon and their family will be moving here on completion of her training and we look forward to giving her a warm welcome to the church family.

More details, including what a curate is and does to follow in due course.

Please be praying for Rachel and her family as they prepare for this new phase of her ministry.

Ana Lawrence

Remembrance Services

We will be holding Remembrance services in three of our churches (13th November) and please note the different times to allow for the 2 minutes silence. In addition, there will be a Remembrance parade in Street followed by an Act of Remembrance in the Merriman Park, Street to which you would be most welcome. I am delighted that this year, we as the Anglican churches in Street will be playing a full part in this.

Ana Lawrence

Remembrance Day Services

Sunday 13th November

Street Parish Church 10-30am

St Andrews Compton Dundon 10-30am

Walton 10-50am

Parade from The Royal British Legion Hall at

2pm

**To Merriman Park for
Service**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Music & Merriment

(SWCD CHURCHES SOCIAL EVENING)

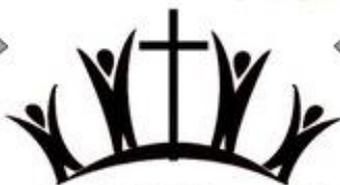
Saturday 3rd December
7.00pm

The Mission Church,
Street



Admission Free

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine
Tea/Coffee



SWCD Churches – Street, Walton and Compton Dundon

From Coat Hangers to Christmas Decorations

Twelve of us braved the October weather and made our way to the Mission Church for Afternoon Tea. Diana provided scraps of material from The Scrap Store. The scraps had been cut to just the right size for our Christmas creations. After manoeuvring wire coat hangers into a circular shape we tied the scraps to the coat hangers. We made some impressive Christmas decorations, while talking with each other. Towards the end of the afternoon we had tea, cake and even more conversations. A good way to spend a wet, blustery afternoon.

Pam Harmsworth

Afternoon Tea

Friday 18th November

2-30pm

Mission Church Street

All are Welcome

Jane Tompsett will be giving an
illustrated, interactive talk about
'Wild Scotland'

MORE FREE MONEY FOR YOUR CHURCH! – AN ARTICLE ABOUT GIFT AID

A recent survey calculated that charities and churches are losing out on up to £600m a year because people who could gift aid their donation are not doing so. That prompted the obvious question, are you one of those people?

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows charities and churches like ours to reclaim the tax you have paid on any donations you make, providing you are a UK taxpayer. There is absolutely no cost to you, all you need to do is to sign and return a simple 'gift aid declaration' to your Church Treasurer and they do the rest. Then the government gives the church 'free' money!

Some common 'myths' about Gift Aid, (taken from <https://www.swiftaid.co.uk/blog/defeating-the-myths-about-gift-aid/>)

“It’s just not worth the trouble for small donations.”

But tiny amounts matter, remember, in total £600 million in Gift Aid is lost by charities each year.

“Why would I want to tell HMRC more about me? This is just a way for them to keep tabs on me!”

The Gift Aid Declaration form merely confirms that you are a UK taxpayer along with your name and address (information HMRC will already have if you are a UK taxpayer). So unless you don't pay tax (in which case you are not eligible for Gift Aid anyway) HMRC already knows everything on the Gift Aid Declaration Form and plenty more besides!

“I can't give Gift Aid because I'm retired.”

Even if they have technically stopped work, many pensioners continue to pay tax (for instance on investments or property) and are therefore eligible for Gift Aid if they donate to UK charities.

“I’m frightened of receiving a tax bill for Gift Aid.”

Provided you ensure you never claim more Gift Aid than the amount of tax you pay, this will not happen.

“I don’t want to be committed to further donations.”

Gift Aid entirely relates to donations you have already made. This allows a charity to claim back the tax you have paid on the donation — thus boosting the income they get by 25% without costing you a penny more.

The form in no way entitles charities to take, or even to ask you for additional donations.

” I can’t do Gift Aid because I don’t fill in a Self-Assessment tax form.”

Even if you pay tax through other methods, such as PAYE, provided you do pay tax, you can still add Gift Aid to your donations. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, there is an advantage to filling in a self-assessment form, because this is how you can reclaim tax relief on your gross donations at 20%.

In the context of ongoing deficits in our church budgets, increasing the number of church family members who Gift Aid their donations is another way we can raise more income, and at no cost to you.

If you have not gift aided yet and can do so, why not get a form from your Church Treasurer (details elsewhere in the magazine) today?

Kevin Lawrence

On behalf of the benefice Stewardship group

Open the Book

Open the Book is a fantastic national initiative that brings bible stories and the Christian message into primary schools using lively and engaging material. Led by Pauline Hatrey and including people from both our churches and Street Baptist Church, we have a team going into a number of our local primary schools to deliver assemblies based on Open the Book.

After a Covid19 enforced delay, this work is now fully back up and running but Pauline and the team could do with a few new members to allow them to reach all the schools across our benefice. You need no special skills and no-one is too old or too young. If you have a heart for children and having fun sharing Good News, please contact Pauline to find out more.

Ana Lawrence

Messy Church

Did you know that we now run regular Messy Church events for Primary School aged children and their families in Holy Trinity, Walton and in the Mission Church? Open to all but perhaps particularly aimed at those who may not come to church on Sundays, Messy Church offers craft, songs, worship, games and food.

When you called me to be your rector, you asked me to help you look outwards and reach families. Messy Church is a great way of doing just this. Please be praying for the next Messy Churches which will have a Christmas theme and take place in early December. As well as praying, why not find out who is on the team and send them a card or email to encourage them.

Ana Lawrence

Advent Winter Warmer

This year, to mark the Advent weeks, we will be meeting each Thursday lunchtime in the Mission Church (12noon – 1pm) for a simple bread and soup lunch followed by a seasonal reflection with the overall title of 'Advent Journeys'. We would love to see you and if you'd like to come, please book your place with the office so that we know the numbers for catering. Full details will appear in Lifeline and on our website nearer the time but please be putting December Thursday lunchtimes in your diaries now!

Ana Lawrence

Christmas at SWCD Churches

It may only be November, but planning is well underway for our Christmas services, events and outreach. Keep an eye on Lifeline or our website to find out more and consider how you can get involved.

Ana Lawrence

Licensing of Andy Savage

It was great to be part of Andy Savage's (Walton) licensing to Reader ministry in Wells Cathedral in early October. We welcome Andy to our growing team of Readers across the benefice as they minister to us both in leading, preaching and in other ways in the life and witness of our churches. Congratulations to Andy and please see photo on the back cover of this magazine. Ana Lawrence

Eco Church Update and Concerns

Street Litter Pick

As part of September's Great Big Green Week church members and others took part in a litter pick. We gathered several bags of litter leaving one area of Street better than when we found it. Tea and cake at the Mission Church followed with a viewing of our solar panels for those who had not already seen them. The venture provided us with an opportunity to work with the Parish Council and to demonstrate, as other SWCD initiatives are doing, that Christians care about the local community. Thank you to Suzie Williams for coordinating this activity.

Hedge Planting at Walton

We are soon going to be planting a hedge in the new graveyard at Walton filling in the gaps along the fence between the graveyard and the adjoining field. This is thanks to a grant from Mendip District Council. The plants have been ordered and a plan is in place for the planting. At time of writing, we do not have an exact date for delivery of the plants but we are hoping this will be in November. Help with planting would be welcome; if you would like to assist, please speak to Sandra Gristock or Andy Savage.

Advance Notice

As part of our efforts to reduce waste we will be holding a clothes and unwanted Christmas present swap at the Afternoon Tea session at the Mission Church in January. This is advance notification to give you time to sort through your wardrobe for clothes to swap as well as a reminder to hold on to unwanted presents for the event. Presents given which were 'so kindly meant', as John Betjeman wrote, but which you do not wish to keep. These can be swapped for something else. A gift is exactly

that, once given and received, with appropriate thanks, it belongs to the recipient and is theirs to use or pass on as they wish.

Environmental Concerns

The autumn colours are currently giving pleasure to many people, they seem to be particularly bright this year. It reminds us of the importance of the natural world to our physical and mental health. I mentioned in September the importance of peat bogs as stores of carbon; on a recent guided walk to a restricted area of Shapwick Heath it was heartening to see that heather and sphagnum moss are beginning to grow showing that the area is beginning the process of return to bog. This is just one example of the contribution being made by conservation organisations to preserving habitats.

A number of such groups such as the RSPB and the National Trust are expressing concern that the UK government appears to be intent on overturning longstanding environmental protections. The natural world is not a just a pleasant sideline or added extra. Many people have been writing to their MPs about this issue. Perhaps you might consider doing the same if you have not already done so. A recent email from A Rocha who coordinate Eco Church states 'Now is the time for Christians and churches to be at the forefront of the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, showing the world that the Church cares about the state of the planet.'

Susan Ripley (Street Parish Church), SWCD Eco Church Group

Congratulations

To David & Sylvia Yemm (Street) on recently celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Ana Lawrence



manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩ November 2022

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 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



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

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 ■

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.

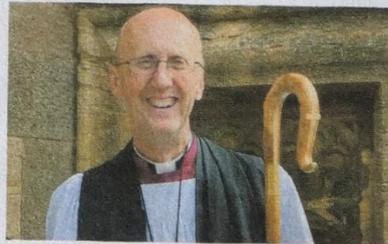
The charge is terrifying. It calls me to walk the way of the cross. It urges me to rely not on my own strength, but on that provided by the Lord. The charge asks me to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' (Proverbs 3:18). It reminds me that I am to be the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



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 ■

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.



A warm welcome awaits at The Mission Church, Street

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.

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](https://bathandwells.org.uk/warm-spaces)

Follow us on



@BathWells



bathandwells



churchofengland_somerset



DIocese OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

What's Your Vision?

'FOR THE VISION ... WILL SURELY COME ...' Habakkuk 2:3
KJV

Obstacles can't steal your dream without your permission. Winston Churchill rallied blitzed, beleaguered Britain from the edge of defeat with these memorable words: 'Never give up! Never give up! Never, never, never, give up!'

Obstacles are inevitable; quitting is optional! When you walk in faith and refuse to quit, God guarantees your obstacles won't prevent your vision from being fulfilled. Though they were enslaved, Israel received the strength to overcome Egypt's efforts to break them. The story of their survival and success reads: '... the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew ...' (Exodus 1:12NKJV).

Paul's dream of evangelising the world met roadblocks at every turn. Tightening his grip he declared, 'We are hard-pressed on all sides, but ... never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but ... never ... deserted: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!' (2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Phps).

Joseph's journey to the throne was a long one. It led him through betrayal, persecution and loneliness. His dream, still alive and unsundered, was put on hold for years. Now prime minister of Egypt, vindicated in the critic's eyes, his dream at last realised, he recalls the amazing way in which God accomplished it. "For" he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction" (Genesis 41:52 NAS). Joseph refused to surrender his dream; it's what kept him alive. He looked for opportunities in his obstacles, and God made him fruitful, not by exempting him from affliction but by promoting him right there, 'in the land of my affliction'.

Your obstacles can't stop God; don't let them stop you!

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