

'So will I' - celebrating lay ministries

On Saturday, July 2, we will be gathering in Wells Cathedral for a celebration of the gifts of all those who play a part in the life of the church and the community. The Lay Ministries Celebration also recognises those marking a milestone in their personal journey of faith and have completed one of our lay ministries courses.

Jill Perrett, Developing Ministries Adviser says, "We are delighted to be able to host this celebration of gifts and lay ministry in Wells Cathedral. It promises to be a joyous occasion. All our gifts will be reflected in this wonderfully creative service. There will be



The Weston-super-Mare dance worship group will be performing.

different styles of music and worship, the Weston-super-Mare dance worship group will perform to the worship song 'So Will I', and we'll also create our own 'meadow of hope'."

There will also be testimonies from people who have completed a course, from those who have explored their personal faith on

'Exploring Spirituality', to those looking to move on to a more defined role, like being Lay Worship Assistants, Lay Pastoral Assistants, or Chaplains.

Alan Cook, one of the speakers, says, "You never stop learning and the courses offered by the diocese are well prepared and exciting. They help you to have more understanding of how you feel to be a Christian. You don't need a degree or anything like that, you just need to be the person God made you to be."

Why not say 'So will I!' and join us at the celebration of Lay Ministries or find out more about the lay courses on offer? bathandwells.org.uk/lmc

News in brief

Platinum celebrations

Church communities across Bath and Wells came together over the weekend to celebrate HRH The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were cakes galore, bouncy castle, royal-themed crafts, creative flower displays and much more.

St Paul's, Weston-super-Mare was one of the churches who came together to watch the service of celebration - at the other St Paul's. There was also much fun to be had in their weekend of celebrations which was attended by 100s, raising £1,400 for Tearfund's Ukraine Appeal in the process.



Pray for young people

You are invited to join us as we hold a 'Week of Prayer for Young People' from 3 to 9 July.

Churches, groups and individuals are encouraged to pray for children and young people, their families and their schools using a simple Prayer Guide with themes and prayer prompts for each day. Download it at bathandwells.org.uk/week-prayer.

There will also be daily prayer videos on our social media channels with young people and youth leaders giving voice to prayers for young people and the issues they face in the 2020s.

Examining our history

Following over a year of detailed research, The Bath & Colonialism Archive Project, a joint initiative by Bath Abbey, Bath Record Office and Bath Preservation Trust, has launched a website containing information on the city's links to the transatlantic slave trade.

Guy Bridgewater, Rector of Bath Abbey said: "The Abbey is committed to striving for justice and the practical steps taken by the Bath & Colonialism Archive project enable the Abbey, the City of Bath, and the wider Church to examine our history with honesty and care." Find out more about the project at bathandcolonialism.org

A wealth of ministries

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

Half-way through the year already! Midsummer's day past. It hardly seems possible. We have now had Bishop Michael's election as our new Diocesan Bishop confirmed and we have joined together in a Day of Prayer to mark this new chapter in the life of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Praying with hope and joy as we look forward to the next part of the journey together, and with realism as we recognise the challenges we face especially with our limited financial resources.

However, we are rich in other ways. The missional and ministerial resources amongst us are strong. We continue to see people drawn to exploring ordained ministry

and yet an even greater number seeking new lay ministerial opportunities. Reader training is beginning to increase once more. Chaplaincies of all shapes and sizes are developing. Recently we introduced chaplaincy to the courts in Taunton, and Weston-Super-Mare is following after. Churchwardens in this past month have demonstrated their commitment to service at the annual Visitation services.

And there are loads more ways in which the wealth of the Church is seen, through pastoral care, worship leading, and children and youth work, to name but a few. Our deaneries are working together on plans for local shared ministry focussing on the

particular needs, context and gifts of each place and community. It is an opportunity for us to note God's abundant goodness to us and the gift of the people with whom we gather.

I am looking forward to sharing in our celebration of all the lay ministries across the diocese. It is an opportunity to hear the stories of one another, to reflect on creative possibilities and ways you can join in. Please respond to the invitation to come along!

Bishop Ruth



Streets paved with prayer

One of the speakers at the Celebration of Lay Ministries is Dave Knight, Chairman of Taunton Street Pastors. We talk to him about his ministry.

What are Street Pastors?

Street Pastors are trained volunteers who care about their community and patrol their local area on weekend evenings. Taunton team's 75 volunteers cover Taunton, Bridgwater and Wellington.

What do you do?

Most of the time it is simply a case of being present, talking to those who want to talk. We are not there to preach but we do talk about Jesus a lot – it's just that we let the other person lead the conversation rather than us pushing it.

What about the other times?

Every night there is a potential for challenging situations, which may or not be realised. We know that we save about two or three lives a year



Taunton Street Pastors on duty and prevent a similar number of rapes, but you can never be totally sure. Our priority is looking after those who are alone. Perhaps after becoming isolated from friends, who are in a potentially vulnerable position.

Is it safe for you?

We take safety very seriously and our training is very thorough. We know what to do, and always stay

together. When I first heard of Street Pastors I was reluctant to get involved as I felt it wasn't safe, but it really is. Three years later I heard a talk on Street Pastors at my church and responded - 10 years on I'm still doing it.

Why do you do it?

It is amazing ministry! It may sound serious but we really do have a ball out there. You are in this hotspot of activity, the front line, and where street pastors have been going for some time, those streets have been paved with prayer. You are taking all that power and presence of God with you. It has to be seen to be believed. Read more at bathandwells.org.uk/street-pastors & streetpastors.org

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