

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩ April 2025

## A time to celebrate

Easter is a time of renewal, when the suffering and death of Jesus give way to the joy of his resurrection, reminding us that God brings light from darkness and life out of death. It is a time of deep joy inviting us all to live in the hope it offers and to trust in the promise it brings.

This Easter, churches across Radstock are coming together to create an Easter Trail that takes people on a journey through the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Designed as a walking trail with interactive elements, it will offer reflection, discovery, and engagement for everyone.

Nathanael Worsley, Curate at St



Pick up a map at Radstock Hub and Radstock churches

Nicholas Church in Radstock has worked alongside Radstock Baptist Church to help deliver the trail. He says, "We hope the trail helps people connect with the Easter story in a way that feels accessible and meaningful.

"The trail is about the joy that Easter brings. We begin with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and finish with the hope that his resurrection brings. Along the way creating opportunities for

people to engage with the heart of what Easter is all about."

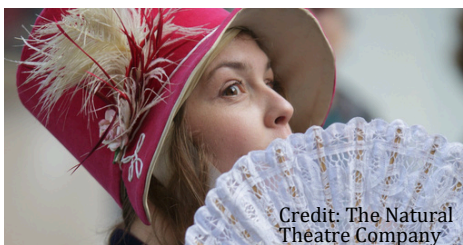
The trail is supported by several local churches, bringing people from across the community together to make Easter visible throughout the town, and provide moments for reflection and spiritual connection.

Nathanael concludes, "For many in Radstock, there's already a deep link with the church, it has long been part of their lives—whether through childhood experiences or school connections. Our hope is that the Easter trail will reignite that connection and invite people to rediscover the message of Easter in a fresh way."

## News in brief

### Jane Austen's 250th Birthday

Bath Abbey presents 'Austens at the Abbey', a unique celebration of Jane Austen's life and legacy, running from 5 April to 27 September 2025. This special program includes an exhibition exploring Austen's connections to the Abbey, interactive family fun days, and exclusive after-hours tours featuring costumed guides bringing 18th-century Bath to life. Visit [bathabbey.org/austen](https://bathabbey.org/austen) for details and tickets.



Credit: The Natural Theatre Company

### Caring for creation

A Snowdrop Extravaganza at Keinton Mandeville Church brought visitors from around the area to learn all about this tiny popular flower. Mickey Little, a well-regarded snowdrop specialist, shared his knowledge with visitors who were invited to stay and enjoy a hot meal in the church. The day also provided an opportunity to share information about the eco initiatives undertaken and the work carried out to improve natural habitats in the churchyard.



### Offering comfort and support

A bereavement support course hosted by St Mary's Church in Frome is helping people in their community to navigate their grief by providing a supportive space for sharing and reflection. The group, which meets at St Mary's, follows the six-week facilitated programme, 'The Bereavement Journey'. The course is for anyone bereaved at any time and is led by volunteer facilitators many of whom have experienced grief themselves. Philip, one of the participants, reflected, "It's about serving the whole community and the individuals within it in things that matter most."

Find out more on these and other news stories at [bathandwells.org.uk/news](https://bathandwells.org.uk/news)

# 'God is good... all the time!'

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

When I was a priest in Nottingham, I remember thinking that as a parish we seemed to reflect more of the story of the crucifixion of Christ rather than His resurrection. Ours was a parish which had many personal stories of loss and suffering, of challenge and trial, and sometimes this made it difficult to lift our faces to the horizon to see the triumph and glory beyond the grave.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage us to take time to 'walk the way of the cross', to notice God's grace as we do so, even in the painful moments as well as keeping our eyes fixed on the coming glory.

As I write this, I am catching glimpses of the kingfisher on its perch outside my study window. Always a delight! It sits on the branch across the moat in stillness, watching for the sign of a fish before it suddenly dives and then crests the water with its prize. A splash of colour rarely seen by many. It fills me with hope and joy, two gifts which I think Easter inspires.

Walking through Lent we are continually called to become conscious of our mortality and are reminded of the price Jesus paid on our behalf. Giving himself in death that we might have life.

And we have that life because his death was not the end but the beginning of a new chapter, of life in all its fullness.

So, whatever the circumstances of your life this Easter, allow yourself to fully recognise and experience the challenges but never lose the prospect of the glory to come! 'God is good... all the time!'

Bishop Ruth



## A time to reflect

Revd Tobie Osmond talks about the specially commissioned artwork that will form part of the reflection at Taunton Minster during Easter.

### What's planned for Good Friday at the Minster?

A three-hour meditation from 12-3 pm, marking the time Jesus was on the cross. There will be hymns, silence, and reflections. This year, we've commissioned artwork by Jenny Keogh from Go Create in Taunton, to help us reflect on grief and the meaning of the cross.

### What do you hope people take away from this?

My hope is that by exploring these emotions, we will better understand what Jesus went through and be more attuned to what Easter truly means.



The artwork has been created by local artist Jenny Keogh

### What themes will the artwork explore?

The pieces reflect different stages of grief – such as anger, denial, guilt, and sorrow—helping us to explore what Jesus and those around Him experienced. The final stage, acceptance, leads to hope.

### Why is it important to focus on Good Friday?

Good Friday reminds us of the loss of Jesus. By sitting with that grief,

we prepare to fully celebrate His resurrection. After journeying through grief, we come to the joy of knowing the victory has been won, and we are all invited back to be with God again.

### What is planned for the Minster's Easter Sunday service?

Bishop Michael is joining us for this. We will begin at sunrise with a Holy Fire, outside and will bring the light into the Minster. This year, we will also have a confirmation when people are asked to renew their baptismal vows, it will be a truly amazing moment.

Find out more from Tobie at: [bathandwells.org.uk/Good-Friday-Taunton-Minster](https://bathandwells.org.uk/Good-Friday-Taunton-Minster)

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