



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.



The Bishop's Palace
WELLS · SOMERSET

The Roles of a Modern Bishop - *What do they actually do?*



Introductions

Kate Scott
Bishops Chaplain

Two Bishops...

- The Bishop of Bath and Wells



- The Bishop of Taunton



Bishop of Bath and Wells

- The Rt Reverend Michael Beasley
- Bishop of Bath and Wells since June 2022
- Previously Bishop of Hertford (St Albans)
- Installed in Wells Cathedral in Nov. 2022
- Lives in the Palace with Lizzie, Charlie and Connie.
- Was an epidemiologist
- Assisted at the Coronation of King Charles III
- Keen gardener, keeps bees!



Bishop of Taunton

The Rt Revd Fiona Gibson

- Bishop of Taunton since February 2026
- Formerly Archdeacon of Hereford
- Prior to ordination was a teacher
- Married to Dave, 2 adult children



What does a Bishop *do*?

- The Bishop of Bath and Wells has overall responsibility for the diocese of Bath and Wells, assisted by the Bishop of Taunton and 3 Archdeacons (in the Archdeaconries of Bath, Wells and Taunton)
- Bishops also have national responsibilities to represent the Church of England in specific areas of expertise



The Diocese of Bath and Wells

- broadly encompasses the historic county of Somerset, extending to include a small part of Dorset.
- diverse region with more than 500 settlements, 2/3rds of them small and rural.
- more than half the population of c.1m lives in urban areas.

Diocese of Bath and Wells

- A family of 466 parishes, 182 church schools and more than 170 chaplaincies
 - 158 full-time priests,
 - 42 self-supporting licensed clergy,
 - 136 licensed Readers,
 - 296 active retired clergy
 - a host of lay ministers – literally thousands of volunteers!

The Diocese of Bath and Wells

- works for the good of local communities in a range of practical and pastoral ways, caring for the vulnerable, supporting families and encouraging children and young people.
- seeks to live and tell the story of Jesus in Somerset and to transform our communities, with others, for good.

The Bishop does not...

- 'Run' the diocese
- Flourish House
- Diocesan Office/Diocesan Board of Finance
- Under Diocesan Secretary

- Run the Cathedral
- Dean and Chapter

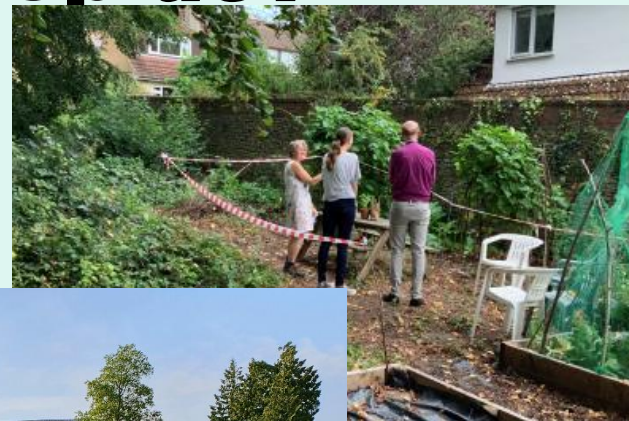
What do Bishops *do*?



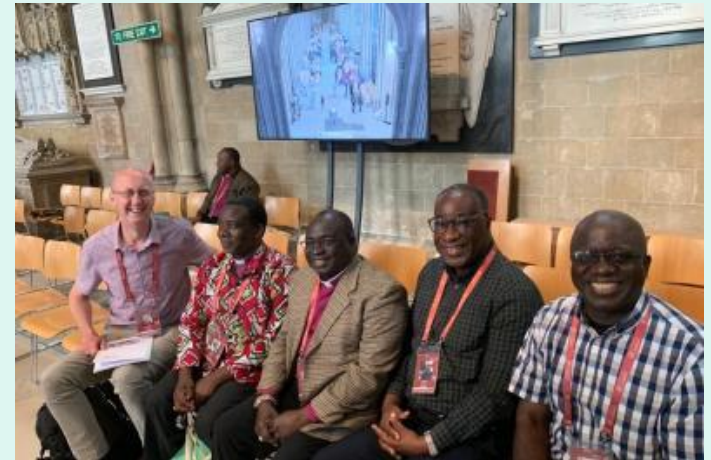
What do Bishops *do*?



What does a Bishop *do*?



What *do* Bishops do?



What do Bishops do...



The Bishop's Chapel



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The Bishop's Chapel

- Beautiful
- Prayerful
- Inspirational
- Used for regular prayer



Who else works with the Bishops on this site?

Anna Chaplains,
Fran & Gill



- Office team
Sarah Minns
Penny Gibbs

An office – and a home – and a visitor attraction

- Families live here
- A busy working Bishops' Office
- Respecting privacy
- No public access down the 'Bishop's side'



Evolving Bishops...

- An oasis of old-world calm
 - but a fast-changing world
- A fast-changing Church
- Leading and encouraging the church for tomorrow



That's all Folks!

What does a Bishop *do*?

Any
Questions?



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