

# NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP



MAY 2024



## CHURCH INVITES LOCALS TO THE PUB IN 'YEAR OF REACHING OUT'

Revd Tim Storey and the community of St Peter's Church, Yateley have invited local residents to join them at the pub and chat over a pint. This community engagement gives people the opportunity to talk through questions about faith, life and death.

## THY KINGDOM COME ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Churches across the diocese have been joining the global wave of prayer that takes place between Ascension and Pentecost. Many initiatives have taken place in local churches such as prayer walks, prayer stations and creative outreach ideas.



## WESTON MARKETPLACE HELPS CHURCH REACH OUT TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

Weston Marketplace is a food scheme run by Holy Trinity Church Weston and Southampton City Mission. The Marketplace has provided a new way for the church to serve and engage with its local community and is even bringing people to faith.



## LORD'S HILL CHURCH SHARES STORY OF REVITALISATION

The community at Lord's Hill Church in Southampton is rejoicing at seeing their congregation of less than 30 grow to 130 in 6 months. This is the result of a revitalisation project led by nearby church Saint Mary's in Southampton. New initiatives at Lord's Hill have included an Easter Holiday Club, a new toddler group, an Alpha Course, and a Live Nativity service!

## BISHOP PHILIP BLESSES THE QUEEN ANNE CRUISE SHIP

Bishop Philip was delighted to lead a blessing ceremony on the new Queen Anne cruise ship at Southampton docks, asking for God's protection on all who work and sail on her, following a long-standing tradition for a new ship to be blessed and for prayers to be offered for the safety of crew and passengers.

## LOCAL VOCALS CHURCH CHOIR IS A 'LIFELINE' FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Local Vocals Choir, set up by a pioneer priest at St Luke's Church Bournemouth, is not just a singing group - it's a community that brings together children with additional needs as well as their parents, grandparents and carers. The choir offers the chance to sing and dance, and also provides invaluable support for families, as a demonstration of God's love and presence for people often at the margins of church and society.



## BUBBLE CHURCH LAUNCHED AT ST PAUL'S

Bubble Church is a service designed especially for babies, toddlers, and young families, a format originally launched at Ascension Church Balham. St Paul's, Winchester, have recently begun their own Bubble Church service to inject new life into their youth ministry, with great initial success!



## ROGATION WALKS IN OUR DIOCESE

Rogationtide is the three days between the last Sunday of Easter and Ascension Day, when many churches ask God's blessing on the land and the community who work it, the crops and animals. It is often marked with a service followed by a Rogation walk, when a parish might literally 'beat the bounds' with sticks. Bishop Philip joined one of these traditional walks to celebrate Rogation Sunday.