



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH: STORIES OF FAITH FROM SOUTHAMPTON'S HISTORY

As part of Black History Month, we spoke to Don John, Race Development Officer for Southampton City Council, who has compiled a fascinating history of 'Black Stories from Southampton', including several of people with strong Christian faith who were connected to churches in our diocese.

## A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP ON LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AND THE COMMON MISSION FUND

Bishop Philip recorded a message for our diocese, which speaks about how the Common Mission Fund is essential to our collaborative ministry. With this in mind, we encourage you to watch the video (found on YouTube) and reflect thoughtfully and prayerfully on its message.

## WHY TAKE PART IN SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY THIS YEAR?

Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity for congregations to use their regular Sunday service to listen and talk together about how spaces can be created that are safer for everyone and thank those working behind the scenes to make our churches safer for all.

We spoke to John Kidney, Safeguarding Officer for All Saints Southbourne, and Carol Kidd, Safeguarding Officer for St James West End, who shared their thoughts on why their communities got involved in Safeguarding Sunday!



# NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 2024



## PHOTOS FROM BISHOP RHIANNON'S CONSECRATION!

On 18 October, Bishop Rhiannon was consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral, where Archbishop Justin Welby prayed for God to 'send down the Holy Spirit on your servant Rhiannon for the office and work of a bishop in your Church'. Let us share in this prayer and come together to welcome the new Bishop of Southampton to our diocese!



## CELEBRATING THE LICENSING OF OVER 70 LAY MINISTERS!

On Saturday 12 October, hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the licensing of over 70 lay ministers at Winchester Cathedral, and heard inspiring testimonies from people who had completed their training. "It was a very special moment," said Christina Cutler from All Saints in Mudeford, "the culmination of serving the Lord with all my heart and it meant so much to me to receive the blessing and commissioning, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit."



## PHOTOS FROM ++JUSTIN'S VISIT

Archbishop Justin Welby visited our diocese over the weekend, meeting individuals and church communities across the diocese, encouraging us to share our stories of faith and God's faithfulness.

## JOYFUL RIVER BAPTISM IN THE THORNGATE AND BLACKWATER BENEFICE

Friday 27th September saw the first full immersion baptism in the newly formed Benefice of Thorngate and Blackwater! Taking place in the River Dun, Freya was welcomed into the church community, quickly followed by a hot drink to warm up!

