

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP



JANUARY 2025



CELEBRATING ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIPS IN OUR DIOCESE

As we approached the Week of Christian Unity (18-25 Jan), we spoke to several churches in our diocese who are collaborating with other denominations of the Christian faith including the Martin Luther, Roman Catholic and Ethiopian Orthodox churches, which has led to strong relationships being formed and further opportunities to love and serve God.

BISHOP RHIANNON'S INSTALLATION SERVICE AT WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

On 11 January, Bishop Rhiannon was installed as Honorary Canon at Winchester Cathedral, completing the formal process of welcoming her as the 17th Bishop of Southampton!



+PHILIP CO-HOSTS PARLIAMENTARY LAUNCH OF OPEN DOORS WORLD WATCH LIST

On 15 January, alongside the Rt Hon. Sir Stephen Timms MP, Bishop Philip hosted parliamentarians and other leaders who heard first-hand accounts of persecution from Christians from Nigeria, Bangladesh and East Africa, raising awareness of the 380 million Christians who face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.



CHURCHES MARK WARM WELCOME WEEK 2025

Warm Welcome Week (20-26 Jan), founded by Warm Welcome UK, lists spaces of warmth and community throughout winter. We've looked at churches in our diocese who are taking part, which include St Christopher's Thornhill, St Mary's Basingstoke, St James' West End, Holy Saviour Bitterne, and St John's Alresford.

CHURCH COMMUNITY RE-OPENS THE DOORS OF ST BARNABAS CHURCH

A new church community is growing in Southampton with exciting plans for the new year! Saint Mary's Southampton has begun worshipping in a second location in the city, and already they're forming a strong community and seeing God at work.



1,600 HAMPERS GIFTED THROUGH THE 'LOVE CHRISTMAS' PROJECT

The 'Love Christmas' project, run by St Mary's Church, is now in its fifth year, and has recently delivered 1600 gift hampers to individuals and families across Southampton. Watch the inspiring video below about how volunteers reached out to people in the local community whose need may often go unseen, showing them that they're seen and loved by God.



+RHIANNON VISITS SOUTHAMPTON WINTER BEDS PROJECT

+Rhiannon witnessed first-hand the incredible work of the Winter Beds Project this month, which provides safety, warmth and support for those experiencing homelessness during the coldest weeks of the year. She chatted to guests and volunteers at the project, which is a joint initiative between churches in Southampton, community groups and charitable organisations.



ST SAVIOUR'S BROCKENHURST CELEBRATES GOLD ECO CHURCH AWARD!

A huge congratulations to St Saviour's Church in Brockenhurst, which has become the 63rd church in the country, and the third in our diocese, to receive a Gold Eco Church Award!