

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP AND BISHOP RHIANNON

This Easter our bishops invite us all to come back to the foot of the cross, the heart of our Christian witness and worship, a place of repentance and change. The video features photos of crosses from around the diocese, and stories of these crosses in their context were also shared.



CHURCHES ACROSS THE DIOCESE MARK LENT IN BEAUTIFUL WAYS

Churches across the our diocese have been marking Lent - a time for reflection, study, and preparation for Easter - in a variety of ways. We spoke to several churches about their Lenten activities.



RURAL COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR THE BLESSING OF THE LAMBS

Around 50 people gathered at a lambing shed in Vernham Dean on Palm Sunday to give thanks to God for all His creation, and ask for His blessing on the lambs, calves and the crops! The service offered a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the gift of new life at Easter.

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION FOR LICENSED MINISTRY TRAINING

Congratulations to those who graduated from the diocesan Licensed Ministry Training and collected their awards at a special service at St Paul's Church in Winchester in March! Graduates, friends and families from across the diocese came together to celebrate the completion of training in various ministries.



NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

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EASTER CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

We spoke to communities around the diocese about their Easter celebrations, which included baptisms, sunrise services, Easter trails, prayer stations, walks of witness and even a giant Easter bunny!

BISHOP DAVID'S FINAL WEEK AS BISHOP OF BASINGSTOKE

At a service in London on 28 March, Bishop David was legally made the Bishop of Truro, bringing to an end his time as Bishop of Basingstoke after 24 years in our diocese. Then, at his final service ministering at a parish church, +David was presented with a unique gift of a wooden cross made from the old church tower, dating back to 1525.



CHURCHES FIND NEW WAYS TO OFFER MINISTRY TO MEN



Many of our churches are finding new ways to offer friendship, support and opportunities to men, helping them grow in faith - including 'Walking Church', Men's Sheds and a father-child church initiative called 'Who Let the Dads Out'! We spoke with the Parish of the Resurrection Alton, St Leonard's Oakley, St Francis Valley Park, Bursledon Parish, and Holy Saviour Bitterne to find out more.

ST JOHN'S CELEBRATE PALM SUNDAY AND A YEAR OF BUBBLE CHURCH

Alongside the celebration of Palm Sunday, where Bishop Rhiannon joined Coco the donkey in the procession, St John's Hythe celebrated their first anniversary of Bubble Church!



PHOTOS FROM DEAN CATHERINE'S FAREWELL EVENSONG, AND THE DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS - BISHOP DAVID'S FINAL SERVICE

On Palm Sunday, a large congregation gathered at Winchester Cathedral to mark the final service of Dean Catherine Ogle. Following this, the annual Chrism Mass was a wonderful opportunity for our diocesan family to come together to recommit to Christian ministry, and also to say goodbye to Bishop David.