

LENT REFLECTIONS FROM THE MISSION AND MINISTRY TEAM COMMUNITY

Throughout Lent, we've been sharing reflections on the theme of 'Wilderness', offered by the Ministry and Mission community - including curates, those in training, and diocesan staff.



START OF LENT AROUND THE DIOCESE

Churches and communities around the diocese have been marking the start of Lent through pancake parties, school engagement and ashing services. Revd Garry Roberts, vicar of St Mary's Sholing, said Shrove Tuesday is the "perfect day" to follow "the model of the radical hospitality of Jesus." Hear hear!



CHURCHES ACROSS THE DIOCESE MARK WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians together to hold a common day of prayer each year. We spoke with four church communities who joined more than 1.5 million Christians who took part this year.

+PHILIP HOSTS PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION

Bishop Philip was delighted to host an event in Parliament showcasing the role of churches in tackling some of the UK's most pressing social challenges. From tackling poverty, to running mental health initiatives, the event demonstrated the power of churches and Christian organisations in supporting society's most vulnerable.



NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

MARCH 2025



COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE DIOCESE SAYING FAREWELL TO BISHOP DAVID

On 24 March, diocesan staff gathered for a goodbye tea for Bishop David before he goes on to become the Bishop of Truro, thanking him for all the wonderful work he has done across the diocese. The Parish of St Faith at St Cross Winchester also said farewell to Bishop David on 23 March, before his Confirmation of Election on 28 March.



PUPILS BECOME AMBASSADORS FOR GOD'S PLANET AT PARLIAMENT

School pupils from our New Forest schools have created artwork to raise awareness of climate justice, taking part in Christian Aid's 'Get Creative For Climate Justice' project. Representatives from the schools also had the exciting opportunity to visit Parliament where their artwork was on display.

BISHOPS' STUDY DAY ON LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

It was wonderful to welcome so many clergy to the Bishops' Study Day, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to both Revd Canon Professor Liz Stuart and Revd Dr Andrew Goddard for their insight, humility, and grace throughout the day.



SUPPORTING MINISTRY TO OLDER PEOPLE

Across our diocese there are many examples of wonderful ministry to older people, such as 'Omega Wednesdays' at Holy Saviour Bitterne and 'More to Give' ministry at St Peter's Yateley. We spoke to some of the people involved!

YOUNG PEOPLE EXPLORE THEIR CALLING IN MINISTRY

Our first Young Vocations event took place in March, to encourage and support young people who feel called to work in God's church. The young people came from towns and villages across the diocese, many already working within their churches. A big thanks to our Young Vocations Champions, Revd Helen May and Revd David Roberts, who hosted the event and shared their experiences.