

# NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

MAY 2025



## SAINT MARY'S SOUTHAMPTON SHOWS GOD'S LOVE TO THE CITY

More than 100 people from Saint Mary's Church came together on 10 May to work on projects - from litter picking to gardening - across the city with the aim of sharing God's blessing and serving their community. The project, 'Saints in the City', has been running for 6 years and people of all ages get involved!

## VE DAY 80 YEARS ON – HOW THE DIOCESE REMEMBERED

Churches across the diocese marked VE day 80 years on with special services and acts of remembrance. It was a chance to come together with communities to reflect and give thanks for the peace that so many sacrificed their lives for during the Second World War.



## DOVES OF PEACE TAKE FLIGHT IN UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

1,000 paper Doves of Peace have been suspended from the ceiling of the University of Winchester chapel, in an art installation which aims to bring hope for the future. The doves were created by students, staff, and members of local churches, schools and community groups, with the hope that the movement will spread!



## CHURCHES ASK FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON ROGATION SUNDAY

Rogation is celebrated by many parishes, especially in rural areas, to seek God's blessing on the community, the land, the crops and animals. We heard from several churches, including St Andrew's Owslebury, St James' Church Beauworth, and St Mary's Church Sholing, who 'beat the bounds' on Rogation Sunday this year!

## OPEN THE BOOK STORYTELLERS HELP CHILDREN HEAR GOD'S WORD

Open the Book is a project introduced by the Bible Society, where trained volunteers from local churches take God's message into primary schools using stories, drama and songs. The team at St Mark's Church in Highcliffe visit their local primary school once a week, presenting stories to around 150 children, bringing them a deeper understanding of the Bible.



## BURSLEDON PARISH BLESSES COMMUNITY THROUGH LUNCH GROUP

During school holidays Bursledon Parish commits to a day providing a hot meal for families and others in the community, especially those who are facing challenges such as loneliness and bereavement. Their aim is to "reach out to people and to show that we are all loved by God."



## LAY MINISTRY CELEBRATION DAY

This annual event is a day to celebrate and bless the work of lay ministers across our diocese, people who use their gifts and callings to serve others. Charlotte Ryton, LLM in the Arle Valley Benefice, said, "God wanted me to be an LMM. I thought I'd just sit quietly in a pew and God said, 'No, you're going to do some work'."

## CHATTING FAITH GOES NATIONAL!

After two years of running Chatting Faith, with over two hundred families benefitting from resources and conversations, we're delighted to announce that the national church is going to roll-out Chatting Faith for all dioceses to use! This autumn, Jeff, our Director of Education and Jane, our RE & Children's Spirituality Lead, will be leading a series of national webinars and workshops - what encouraging news!