



GOD AT WORK IN OUR DIOCESE: SIGNS OF 'THE QUIET REVIVAL'

In our diocese, many churches are seeing signs of the Quiet Revival: evidence that the Church is growing across England and Wales. Most recent figures for our diocese show that our total worshipping community increased by 6.8% between 2023 and 2024, while the national average was a 1.2% increase. We spoke to a few churches who are seeing growth, particularly in young people!



CHURCH'S FREE TOY BONANZA HELPS PEOPLE RECYCLE AND RE-USE

The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton, have been holding toy bonanzas since 2022, initially in response to the cost of living crisis, and as a way to encourage people to think about reusing as well as recycling. Toys and books are donated, and families can then come and take what they'd like for free.



150 YOUNG PEOPLE GATHER FOR SOUTHAMPTON YOUTHFEST

Southampton YouthFest brought together young people from 9 churches across the city, and was a weekend of fun, worship and teaching. George, aged 16, said YouthFest helped him "connect with other people and connect with God on a different level."

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

JULY 2025



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER



LOVELY PHOTOS FROM THE ORDINATION WEEKEND!

A former nurse, a political speech writer, a classical musician and speech and language therapist were amongst 12 people who were ordained as deacons at a joyful service at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 29 June. On the previous evening, 15 people were also ordained priest at the Cathedral. And it was wonderful to see Abielle Inegbenbho, who was ordained deacon, featured on the front cover of Church Times, in a photo that captured a moment of pure joy!



HUNDREDS ATTEND BAPTISMS ON BOURNEMOUTH BEACH

Around 70 people were baptised in the sea at Bournemouth on Sunday 13 July as hundreds gathered on the beach to watch. LOVECHURCH Bournemouth joined with other local churches for an event which included live worship and testimonies.

RECOGNISING THE PHENOMENAL EFFORTS OF CYPF WORKERS

7-13 July was RECOGNISE week, where we celebrate the incredible work of children, young people, and their families (CYPF) ministers and volunteers in the CoFE. Bishop Rhiannon was joined by Sochi Ezeanowai and Mel Osborne at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday, who were recognised for their amazing support of children and young people.



RACIAL JUSTICE ENGAGEMENT EVENT AT OLD ALRESFORD PLACE

On 9 July, Revd Guy Hewitt, Director of the Church of England's Racial Justice Unit, visited our diocese, to encourage us in our Racial Justice Strategy.



ANNUAL REPORT & REVIEW 2024

The report and review of last year's diocesan activity have now been approved. Together they provide an overview of how the WDBF supported our parishes and worshipping communities in 2024, as well as introductory letters from Bishop Philip, Colin Harbidge and Chair of the WDBF Revd Ian Dighé.