



## COLDEN COMMON CHOIR BRINGS FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FUNDS

Born from an idea during lockdown, the Colden Common Choir is now a community of around 50 people, coming together to sing and raise money for good causes, recently donating £1.1k to Mountbatten Hampshire hospice. Revd Damon Draisey said that the choir has meant that the church is "trying to live the gospel out and say to people: you've got a place to come and belong."



## CHAPLAINCIES OFFER SUPPORT, FRIENDSHIP AND A LISTENING EAR

Town and city centre chaplains are there for anyone who needs support - we spoke with the chaplaincies of Basingstoke and Winchester about their work. Alison Dolphin, lead chaplain of Winchester, said, "Chaplaincy is an expression of God's love and often that might be in practical ways and building trust and being there, but sometimes time, presence and prayer is what people need as well."



## SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS ENJOYED BY ALL AGES ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Across the diocese, many churches held holiday clubs over the summer, with activities from crafts to wood rolling! And while most of these holiday clubs were aimed at children, the club at St Mary's in Basingstoke was for people over the age of 60 - one participant said, "Normally you do these activities with your children and grandchildren, but you never get a chance to do it yourself, so it's fun!"

# NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

SEPTEMBER 2025



## WELCOMING THE NEXT BISHOP OF BASINGSTOKE!

Our next Bishop of Basingstoke, the Ven. Kelly Betteridge, spent Thursday 28 August travelling round the north of the diocese, meeting people from different communities. Kelly visited Burghclere community café at the Church of the Ascension, dropped in at 'Operation Back to School' at St John's Hartley Wintney, saw the newly refurbished St Michael's Church Basingstoke and toured the city centre with the chaplaincy team, before joining Evensong at Winchester Cathedral.

## UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR CHURCHES HONoured IN SOUTHAMPTON

'Unsung heroes' from churches across Southampton have been honoured in a special reception hosted by Bishop Rhiannon and the Lord Mayor of Southampton. Bishop Rhiannon said, "It was beautiful to be in a room with all these clergy who were over the moon to celebrate some of the people in their churches who have done wonderful things for many years."



## MILFORD ON SEA CHURCH GIVES BLESSINGS ON THE BEACH

All Saints in Milford on Sea took church onto the beach on a sunny Sunday morning to live out their vision of 'sharing the love and life of Jesus'. Revd Tasha Anderson said, "It's an opportunity to really live out our faith in a way that reaches out to our community."

## +RHIANNON VISITS SOUTHAMPTON CITY FARM TO SUPPORT AND PRAY FOR ITS COMMUNITY WORK

Southampton City Farm, run by the Christian charity Oasis, works with families, children, community groups, care homes and people with complex physical and emotional needs, offering experiences to increase skills and boost wellbeing. Bishop Rhiannon visited the farm to see the difference it is making in people's lives, and to pray for the work they're doing.



## SPECIAL SERVICE MARKS THE START OF TERM FOR MISSION & MINISTRY TRAINING

The start of a new term has been celebrated for people embarking or continuing their mission and ministry training in our diocese. Bishop Rhiannon said, "It is so exciting to be in this room with so many people just brimming full of faith, with so much hope and excitement as they are starting their courses ... It feels like God is very much here and there are exciting times ahead."