



NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 2025



CLERGY GATHER TO SHARE IDEAS FOR ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

The 'Growing Younger Day' at St Boniface Church welcomed clergy, lay ministers, school chaplains, youth, children and family workers for a day of learning and encouraging, to build relationships, to share ideas, to listen to one another and to God. Martha Lloyd, Kids Pastor at Lords Hill Church in Southampton, said, "I think that kids and youth are so important to the future of the church and it's really important to see what other people are doing but also spur one another on."



INTRODUCING THE NEW CHAPLAIN OF BASINGSTOKE TOWN FC

Nicola Ford, curate at Basingstoke Church, is a long-time football fan, so when Basingstoke Town FC was looking for a new chaplain, she was the obvious choice! Nicola said, "My role is to be a presence and a pastoral support, to cheer on the team and I'm here if anyone wants to chat about Jesus or if anyone wants prayer."



CELEBRATING THE CONSECRATION OF OUR NEW BISHOP OF BASINGSTOKE

On 15 October, Kelly Betteridge was ordained and consecrated as Bishop of Basingstoke in a joyful service at Southwark Cathedral! Bishop Kelly said, "I think one of the messages that I'll take from today is about travelling light and being there to support those who are most in need of care, most in need of encouragement and most in need of knowing the love of God." Please join us in praying for Bishop Kelly as she begins her episcopal ministry amongst us.

OVER 30 PEOPLE COMMISSIONED FOR LAY MINISTRY IN OUR DIOCESE

There were cheers and applause in Winchester Cathedral as more than 30 people were licensed as lay ministers on 11 October. A wonderful service was led by Bishop Philip, with people commissioned to work in various roles including worship, pastoral care, and Licensed Lay Ministry. Hear testimonies from several of those licensed about their vocational journeys.



CHURCHES GIVING THANKS FOR THE HARVEST!

We have enjoyed hearing how different parishes have been celebrating God's good gifts at harvest time. From harvest lunches, to Messy Harvest Church, to pet services, all of the initiatives and events have celebrated the generosity of God and encouraged us to share His gifts with those in need.

POWERFUL TESTIMONIES SHARED AT SPECIAL CONFIRMATION SERVICE

In October, Bishop Rhiannon confirmed ten candidates at Christchurch Priory. Inspiring testimonies were given by a few of those confirmed, including Zack Bowers, who reflected, "For quite some time now, I've felt a growing pull toward something deeper - something more meaningful. I'm being confirmed today to commit my life to Christ".



POIGNANT BABY LOSS SERVICES HELD ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Churches across the diocese have offered people affected by pregnancy loss or the death of a baby a space to reflect, to gather to pray and light candles in memory of their little ones. Special services were held during Baby Loss Awareness Week at Beaulieu Abbey, St Michael's Andover, All Hallows Whitchurch and others. Revd Catherine Cowie explained: "It was a chance to come together and to give to God that pain and that grief, whether it was a recent or historical loss."

WATCH VIDEOS EXPLORING HERITAGE AND RACIAL JUSTICE

In Black History Month, we shared two videos exploring racial justice. Hear from Stephen Bennett, a member of our Racial Justice Advisory Group, who reflects on his heritage and the Church's responsibility to engage with racial justice today, as well as Revd Sam Waako, Associate Vicar in Andover Parish, who spoke candidly about his vocation, his heritage and his experience as a black priest in the Church of England.

