



FAWLEY CHURCH INVITES CHURCHES TO CREATE NATURE TRAILS OF FAITH & WELLBEING

All Saints, Fawley has a large churchyard brimming with plants and wildlife but just a few years ago it was overgrown and in need of care. As part of a larger initiative, a wellbeing and nature trail has been created, giving information on the different species in the churchyard and encouraging a time of thought and reflection - and your church could do the same!



WEEKEND OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S DISCIPLESHIP

Over 200 young people from Southampton recently gathered for two faith-filled events, WinterFest and a student weekend away on the Isle of Wight. Student Worker Ed Davey said, "having an entire weekend that is based around spending time with God is just so powerful, not letting time with God be dictated by the stresses or anxieties of life."



CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF OLDER PEOPLE THIS CANDLEMAS

As well as celebrating Jesus as the 'Light of the World', Candlemas is an opportunity to celebrate the role of older people in our communities, following the biblical example of Simeon and Anna. Holy Epiphany Bournemouth and the Thorngate & Blackwater Benefice celebrated the ministry of and to older people this Candlemas, from an intergenerational interview to the commissioning of a new Anna Chaplain!

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

FEBRUARY 2026



CATHEDRAL SERVICE CELEBRATES CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Anna Chaplains in the Diocese of Winchester were celebrated at a special evensong service at Winchester Cathedral. The service also marked the start of a new partnership with BRF Ministries. Frances Attwood, the first Anna Chaplain commissioned under the new umbrella licensing agreement, said, "It is indeed fitting that Winchester Diocese, having given birth to Anna Chaplaincy, takes on this as one of its priorities."



TADLEY CHURCH RAISES MONEY THROUGH BREAKFAST!

Nearly £6000 was raised last year by St Mary's Church in Tadley, all from fried breakfasts! While this might not be the healthiest way to raise money, it certainly has been the tastiest, benefiting 11 local and national charities and involving all of the local community. The St Mary's team joke that they are probably the only church in the diocese with food in its strapline (Faith, Food, Family), and that it is known locally as the 'cake church'. Revd Steve McKay said, "It is church as it should be: welcoming, warm, honest, inclusive, and generous."

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT SCHOOLS TO ENCOURAGE WELCOMING CHILDREN SEEKING SANCTUARY

Student-teachers from the University of Winchester spent time in local CofE primary schools this month, using some of the activities from the Bags of Hope booklet produced by our diocesan Education Team to engage Year 6 classes on the theme of 'children seeking sanctuary'. The Bags of Hope project looks at the biblical values and imperatives around welcoming and standing up for strangers and refugees.



DEVER BENEFICE CELEBRATES LINKS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Dever Benefice recently held its first 'Prayer Space Day' in Micheldever School on the theme of 'the water of life'. It's part of the benefice's growing engagement with its two local primary schools which includes a lunchtime 'Church Club'. The church is also offering a new Messy Church service and youth club, all of which has been supported through the Growing Rural Parishes programme.

RESOURCES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2026

Four wonderful members of our Racial Justice Advisory Group filmed a video for Racial Justice Sunday, telling the parable of the Good Samaritan and challenging our communities to cross the road to heal and love our neighbours.

12 NEW CANONS TO BE INSTALLED AT WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Congratulations to twelve new canons who will be installed at Winchester Cathedral! Honorary Canons are appointed in recognition of their service to the cathedral, the diocese and wider church. Please join us in praying for the new Canons as they start their role.