

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP



JANUARY 2026



PARISHES INSPIRED AT NET ZERO CARBON CONFERENCE

On Saturday the Dioceses of Winchester, Guildford, Portsmouth, and Chichester gathered for a joint conference to strengthen collaboration in caring for God's creation. Archdeacon Richard, who spoke on the panel, said, "I would love Christians to see creation care as a joy to be shared rather than a burden to be carried; to celebrate the joy in safeguarding the beauty of what God has created."



WELCOMING THE NEW ARCHBISHOP!

28 January was an historic day in the Church of England as Dame Sarah Mulally was confirmed as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Speaking about her hopes and priorities for her ministry as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, she shared, "In this country and around the world, Anglican churches bring healing and hope to their communities. With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion."



MORE PEOPLE TURN TO CHURCHES FOR HELP WITH MONEY STRUGGLES

For the last 30 years, the organisation Christians Against Poverty has worked with local churches to help people struggling with debt and money worries. January is a particularly busy time for CAP volunteers! Read about the several churches in our diocese that run Money Coaching courses to offer support and guidance that makes a huge difference to people's lives.

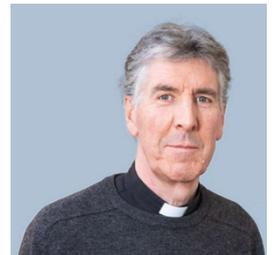


SEE THE PHOTOS FROM THE CLERGY CONFERENCE 2026!

Clergy from all over our diocese gathered together for a time of fellowship, learning, refreshment and worship. The overall theme was one of encouragement: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU TO RICHARD BRAND

Our long-serving Archdeacon of Winchester, Richard Brand, will be stepping down at the end of May from his role as he moves into a new season of coaching and training. Richard became Archdeacon in 2016 and has worked tirelessly to support parishes and communities through his ministry; he very much hopes to keep these strong links with the diocese.



ENCOURAGING RISE IN ATTENDANCE THIS CHRISTMAS

Churches across the diocese reported significant increases in the number of worshippers this Christmas, compared to previous years. One church even had to hold back-to-back carol services to meet the rise in numbers! Read the inspiring stories of how our churches welcomed people over Christmas.



+RHIANNON'S EPIPHANY TOUR INSPIRES BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOLS

Bishop Rhiannon visited three schools across Bournemouth on Tuesday to help them celebrate Epiphany. Special acts of collective worship were held involving all ages, and each child was given a paper crown to help them think about the journey of the wise men who followed the star to the stable where Jesus was born.

BASINGSTOKE'S SHELTER OFFERS A LIFELINE TO THE VULNERABLE

The Basingstoke Night Light Winter Shelter, run by volunteers from churches of all denominations, offers guests support including a hot meal and a bed for the night. Project Co-ordinator David Grant said, "We're doing it because we think that's what Jesus would do."

