



FOUR PEOPLE SHARE THEIR JOURNEYS TO LICENSED LAY MINISTRY!

26 April was Vocations Sunday, a dedicated day of prayer and reflection focusing on God's calling to us. We heard from four people from across our diocese, who shared their inspiring stories of how they were called to Licensed Lay Ministry and the paths they are following in their faith.



SHOWING COMPASSION AND THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO SEAFARERS

We caught up with Kate Powell, the Chaplaincy Team Leader at the Port of Southampton, and part of The Mission to Seafarers. She said, "We are the hands and feet of Jesus. We're demonstrating His love and because we've got chaplains all around the world, if we all play our part, like the body of Christ, they'll keep seeing the love of Christ."



BEAULIEU ABBEY CHURCH LEADS THE WAY IN SUSTAINABLE CHURCH FLOWERS

Sustainable church flowers are changing the way churches decorate their buildings, encouraging methods that are beautiful but mindful of the environment. Beaulieu Abbey Church recently hosted a Sustainable Church Flowers Symposium - a practical workshop for flower teams across the Lyndhurst Deanery. Revd Catherine Cowie said, "There was a real sense of permission in the room, to experiment, to play, and to let go of the idea that church flowers have to look a certain way."

SUPPORTING ESTATES MINISTRY WITHIN OUR DIOCESE

As part of his role as diocesan Estates Champion, Revd Ed Haycock wants to gather together clergy serving in our estates communities to share ideas and encouragement. The first event was held at Lord's Hill Church with a talk by Revd Cris Rogers, Vicar of All Hallows Bow, who said, "We should see our estates as a garden of Eden to tend and serve and love."

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

APRIL 2026



EASTER CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER

From quiet reflections to passion plays, Messy Church to sunrise services, Easter crafts to baptisms, churches across our diocese have been remembering Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. One of the people gathered with St Mark's Church at Highcliffe Beach said: "It was joyous to reflect on the risen Christ as the sun rose on Easter Sunday, praying and worshipping together on the clifftop. We were reminded of God's wonderful gifts to humanity, from the natural beauty of creation, to the greatest gift of all - Jesus' sacrifice on the cross."



PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

The start of Holy Week has been celebrated across our diocese with special services to mark Palm Sunday, remembering Jesus' triumphant journey into Jerusalem. Celebrations included walks of witness, processions with donkeys (and Noggin the dog), open air services, baptisms, and even a brass band!



MOVING TESTIMONIES SHARED AT SPECIAL CONFIRMATION SERVICE

There were tears of joy and emotion during a service of baptism and confirmation at St Luke's Church in Hedge End as eight people shared extraordinary and moving testimonies of their journeys with Christ. Among them were a number of young people who described how God was working in their lives. 18-year-old Evie said, "I've been struggling with a medical illness for a long time now, and He's really shown me that even though I'm suffering, He's still with me and I'm not alone. He's given me that strength to be able to get through it all."

CELEBRATING THE NEW PARISH OF SOUTHBOURNE-ON-SEA

On 12 April, the first joint service and bring-and-share lunch was held in the new parish of Southbourne-on-Sea in Bournemouth. Three churches have come together in a merger that has been more than five years in the planning. Revd Mike Powis said, "All parties bring their own gifts and abilities to the parish and this should enable a fresh chance to serve the people of Southbourne with God's love."