



JOY AND FELLOWSHIP AT WINDY CALSHOT BEACH BAPTISMS

About 150 people gathered at Calshot Beach to witness some dramatic and memorable sea baptisms. It was a time of great joy as St Andrew's Dibden Purlieu joined with St Win's Totton to worship together and celebrate lives transformed by Jesus. Four young people shared powerful and emotional testimonies of how they came to faith and have been welcomed by the church family.



COFFEE MORNING SHOWS CARE FOR CARERS IN THE COMMUNITY

8-14 June is Carers Week, and we heard from St Peter's Church, Goodworth Clatford, whose Carers Coffee Morning is making a difference to people caring for a loved one, offering a safe space to 'offload, to laugh, to cry, to share'.



INSPIRING STORIES FOR FAITH AND GENEROSITY WEEK

We celebrated stories of generosity across the diocese, which had been demonstrated in all sorts of ways! These included sharing time and financial resources with local church communities, chaplaincy work, setting up and running community and craft cafés, as well as generosity in prayer.

MEET THE NEW ECUMENICAL CANONS AT WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Congratulations to Paul Woodman, Leader at City Life Church in Southampton, and Fr Mark Hogan, Parish Priest at St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs Catholic Church, who will be installed as Ecumenical Canons at Winchester Cathedral this Saturday. These roles are intended to strengthen relationships across the wider Christian community, as well as encourage churches to work together serving their local communities.

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

JUNE 2026



YEAR 6 LEAVERS CELEBRATE WITH 'BAGS OF HOPE' AT WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

This week, 2,500 Year 6 pupils enjoyed workshops, worship, and a wonderful installation at Winchester Cathedral at their Leavers' Service. The Education Team's project this year, 'Bags of Hope', has focused on displaced children and refugees, and the response and engagement of schools has been amazing. Paddington Bear, a refugee, crystallised the project, and Paddington backpacks and soft toys will be distributed to displaced children soon.

40-FOOT WATERFALL INSTALLATION TRANSFORMS CHURCHYARD

A dramatic 40-foot waterfall made from recycled plastic is drawing visitors to the churchyard of St John the Baptist in Boldre. Project designer Steph Glen said, "We wanted themes of water and renewal, reflecting what baptism achieves and bringing new life from old. We've used as many old, unwanted and recyclable materials as possible and given them new life."



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION MARKS LANDMARK MOMENT IN CHURCH'S REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

St Bartholomew's Church in Hyde has celebrated its first major refurbishment since Victorian times with the completion of phase one of its 'Giving for Living' project, which aims to make the church greener, more accessible and more flexible for use by the community, while preserving its historic character. Revd Karen Kousseff said, "It's an exciting project that will make the church much more fit for modern and future use."

MISSION ON THE NUMBER 20 BUS ROUTE

The number 20 bus passes the front door of St Denys Church, carrying a steady flow of people through the community. Many of those travelling the route have found a welcome and safe space at St Denys through the church's range of ministries and projects to support its local community. The church has recently received national church funding as part of the Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP) and Revd Sera Rumble said the church is embracing more "opportunity to step out and grow and build on what God is already doing in St Denys."



A STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP OF SOUTHAMPTON

Following the tragic death of Henry Nowak and subsequent violent protest, Bishop Rhiannon spent time in the community in St Denys Southampton and has issued a statement. She said, "The terrible manner of Henry's death raises questions that as a society we need to talk about. These conversations need to happen with calm, openness, compassion and understanding. Responding to violence with violence, whether in action or speech, is never the answer - only love drives out fear."