



NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP



MAY 2026

COMMUNITIES ASK GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR LAND AND SEA

Rogation Sunday marks an ancient Christian tradition of praying for God's blessing on the crops, fields and farms in anticipation of the harvest to come. Across our diocese, church communities have been coming together for rogation walks, breakfasts, and even a 'Rogation of the Seas' ceremony to celebrate new life and thank God for His blessings in creation.



LAY MINISTERS OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH STORIES OF FAITH

Last week, Lay Ministers from across the diocese gathered at St Paul's in Bursledon for a celebration day focused on encouragement, ministry and sharing faith in everyday life. Simon Day, Lay Minister at St Paul's Tadley, spoke about faith in the workplace: "It's allowing people to have a place where they can express their faith and be part of a community of others."



ST LUKE'S YOUTH CAFÉ PROVIDES FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND AN INTRODUCTION TO FAITH

A decade ago, St Luke's Church in Hedge End began opening its doors to secondary school students through a Youth Café. Today, more than 100 young people gather there each Thursday. Revd Ben Jones said, "It's that first step of being in a church where they feel welcomed and accepted that might help them take tentative steps to begin exploring the journey of faith."



SEE THE WONDERFUL PHOTOS FROM 'THE UPPER ROOM' SERVICE

Winchester Cathedral welcomed people from across the diocese for 'The Upper Room', a special service of prayer and worship marking the beginning of Thy Kingdom Come. Young people from St John's Hartley Wintney, Andover Parish Youth Church, Romsey Abbey, Basingstoke Church and St Peter's Yateley took a leading role in the service with prayers for their schools, for the world and for people to come to know Christ.



LORD'S HILL CHURCH SHOWS LOVE FOR ITS COMMUNITY

This year marked the third time Lord's Hill Church in Southampton has organised 'Love Lordshill', an initiative that aims to help increase pride in the area and show God's love to the local community. From litter picking and gardening to a free community barbecue, around 40 volunteers took part!



BAGS OF HOPE INSPIRES COMPASSION & UNDERSTANDING

Schools across the diocese are preparing to unveil a powerful art installation as part of their 'Bags of Hope' diocesan education project. This has explored the challenges faced by migrants, refugees and displaced people, and how we can live out the Gospel teachings of welcome and compassion for strangers.

CHURCHES ACROSS THE DIOCESE MARK CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week has been marked by churches around the diocese with bike rides, plant sales, special services, and much more! Revd Canon Dr Tess Kuin Lawton, Canon Missioner at Winchester Cathedral, said, "I think as Christians, we're called to talk about peace and loving our neighbour. Ultimately, that's what this is about."



MOTHERS' UNION CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Diocese of Winchester is the birthplace of the Mothers' Union, which this summer celebrates its 150th anniversary through various events and initiatives! Mary Sumner founded the organisation in the vicarage at Old Alresford with a vision to support families. Hedge End branch leader Sally Lloyds said, "Mothers' Union is still important today because it enables members to put faith into action whenever they can."



SAYING FAREWELL TO ARCHDEACON RICHARD BRAND

A farewell coffee morning was held at Old Alresford Place, to say goodbye to Archdeacon Richard Brand 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.