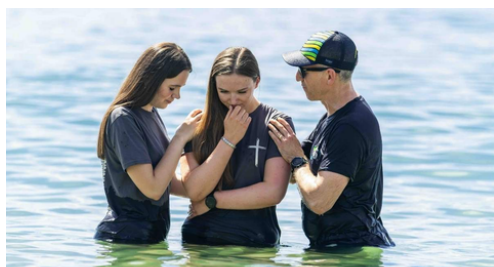




+PHILIP MEETS BAAA-BARA SHEEP AND THE PRAIZIN' HANDS TEAM

Bishop Philip recently went to meet the wonderful Praizin' Hands Puppet Group based at St Andrew's, Dibden Purlieu, and recorded a special message for children across the diocese as they mark the end of the school year. Do share with young people in your parish as they start their summer break! And look out for another video over the summer of Baaa-bara Sheep grilling Bishop Philip on some very important topics...



OVER 120 PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE SEA

There were joyful scenes on Boscombe Beach over the past two weekends as thousands gathered to witness more than 120 people being baptised in the sea. It was also a special Sunday in the Parish of Milton, where more than 70 people came to witness the baptism of Mirriam.



OUTDOOR SERVICES BRING WORSHIP INTO THE HEART OF COMMUNITIES

From village greens to pub gardens, churches across the diocese have been taking worship outdoors this summer, creating opportunities for people to encounter God in community spaces. By holding services alongside popular local events, churches have also been able to welcome regular worshippers and newcomers alike.

HOW GP CHAPLAINCY IS BRINGING HOPE AND LOVE TO PATIENTS

After spending her career as a GP, Katie Warner sensed God calling her into a new ministry. Katie, who worships at St Francis Valley Park, is now a volunteer GP Chaplain at a nearby surgery, offering a listening ear and pastoral support to patients who might be dealing with illness, bereavement, or loneliness. She shares more about her role and her hope that one day, every surgery will have access to a GP Chaplain!

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

JULY-AUGUST 2026



ORDINATIONS OF DEACONS AND PRIESTS

It was a joyful weekend celebrating with the 16 new deacons and 13 new priests in our diocese. The Bishop of Warrington, the Rt Revd Simon Robinson, who led the ordination retreats and preached at both services, encouraged the candidates to "Remember this: God danced for joy when you were born and continues to dance for joy at your 'yes' to his claim on your life! ... You are living proof of the glorious truth that God is real, Jesus is alive and the Holy Spirit is active."

A CHANCE TO RECOGNISE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

This week marks the Church of England's RECOGNISE campaign, a national week of appreciation for everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and their families. As part of this campaign, churches across the diocese were invited to nominate individuals to receive a special certificate of thanks and an invitation to a celebratory tea, representing just some of the many people who serve so faithfully in this vital ministry.



CHURCH GARDENS GROW COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP & FAITH

Churches in our diocese have created gardens that help them connect with their communities, offer places of peace, reflection and friendship, and for some, provide the first steps towards faith. St Mary's Church in Tadley and St Nicholas Church in Bournemouth share more about their community gardens, which have helped people experience God's love before they step through the church door.

SEA SUNDAY SERVICES GIVE THANKS FOR THE VITAL WORK OF SEAFARERS

This Sunday, churches across the diocese marked Sea Sunday, taking time to remember and give thanks for the men and women who work at sea, often facing danger, isolation and long periods away from home. The Parish of Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre welcomed Kate Powell, Southampton Port Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers, to their service at Buckler's Hard marina. St Denys Chilworth also marked Sea Sunday with its annual service, celebrating the contribution of seafarers around the world.



THE ROLE OF FAITH FOR LOCAL CHRISTIANS IN PUBLIC LIFE

For Christians, faith can play an important role in our workplace. For those in public office, it can shape the way they serve. We spoke to the Lord Mayor of Southampton, the Sheriff of Southampton, as well as the Mayor of Winchester and his chaplain, reflecting on how their faith sustains them and informs and inspires their leadership.

