NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP

SEPTEMBER 2026

DIOCESE of WINCHESTER



THURSDAYS TOGETHER COMBATS POVERTY, LONELINESS & ISOLATION

What began as an emergency food project has grown into something bigger at St Albans Church, Swaythling. Thursdays Together is a place where people can find food, friendship, practical support and a listening ear. Organiser Sarah Dockree said, “We're very much a community project, but we don't hide the fact that we do this because we're a church and we believe that everyone has a unique and inherent value in God's eyes. Some people just need to hear that they matter, to build friendships, to be listened to.”



A FORMER DETECTIVE INSPECTOR AND A CHILDREN’S NURSE – MEET SOME OF OUR NEW ORDINANDS!

Thirteen new ordinands from across the diocese of begin their training this month, and last week came together for welcome drinks at Old Alresford Place. They come from many different backgrounds, but all share a sense of calling from God to ordained ministry.



CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE DIOCESE MARK 150 YEARS OF MOTHERS’ UNION

Mothers’ Union members across our diocese have been celebrating the organisation’s 150th anniversary with special services, bellringing tributes, community events, as well as a garden of blue and yellow crochet flowers!



ALL SAINTS TOWER PROJECT BRINGS COMMUNITY CLOSER TO CHURCH

Last Sunday, the church bells rang out at All Saints in Milford on Sea for the first time since February, as the village came together to celebrate the completion of major repairs to the church tower. But the restoration has been about more than repairing a building. Revd Tasha Anderson said, “It's never been about fundraising. It's always been about a missional opportunity to reach out into the community and for the community to be part of their church."



OVER 60 STUDENTS WELCOMED TO LICENSED MINISTRY TRAINING

The start of the new academic year for students embarking on Licensed Ministry Training was recently celebrated at Old Alresford Place. Bishop Rhiannon said, “To see this many people from across the diocese is a joy. It's wonderful that people are stepping up and offering their time and their skills for the Kingdom.”

COMMUNITY HUB AIMS TO BE A BEACON OF HOPE AND LIGHT

St Andrew’s Boscombe has created a ‘Living Room’ for its community, a place where people can feel at home, build relationships and find a warm welcome. The community hub aims to get to know its neighbours and develop friendships beyond the church walls.





HOW OUR CHURCHES MARKED THE GLOBAL WEEK OF PRAYER

The Global Week of 24-7 Prayer was introduced last year to bring Christians around the world together in prayer, to acknowledge the love of God, to pray for others around the world, and to acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Across our diocese, churches marked the week in a variety of ways, from prayer rooms and online gatherings to prayer walks in heavy rain!



THE SEASIDE COMES TO SWAYTHLING CHURCH!

Beach life came to St Alban’s in Swaythling over the summer - an artificial beach set up outside the church gave local families a chance to enjoy a day at the seaside while in the centre of the city. Organiser Sarah Dockree said, “It was such a joy to be outside the church, chatting with passers-by and to welcome many families we hadn't met before."

THE JOY OF SERVING GOD THROUGH THE CLERICAL REGISTRY

For more than a century, our Clerical Registry has helped ensure worship continues across our churches whenever clergy cover is needed. We spoke with three of our clergy, who explained why continuing in service brings them joy and why they would encourage others to join.