

Diocesan Events

The Diocesan Team provides support and training for individuals and churches to help us live the mission of Jesus in everyday life and make a difference in the world.

A list of upcoming events is below.

- **16th January 2016 – Archdeaconry vocations event, Bursledon.** For people to explore their vocation to lay and ordained ministry
- **23rd January 2016 – Archdeaconry vocations event, Christ Church Winchester.** For people to explore their vocation to lay and ordained ministry
- **26th January 2016 – Encouraging generosity day.** To help and equip parishes to achieve their potential in generosity
- **1st March 2015 – Bishop of Winchester Lent Lectures, St Paul's, Bursledon.** During these 2 lectures, we will consider what it means to evangelise and to contextualise the gospel in our place and space.

For further information please contact Siobahn Cole on **01962 737324** or siobahn.cole@winchester.anglican.org

Contact details

If you have a story for the newsletter, please email details to the team at dioceseofwinchester@luther.co.uk or call **0207 618 9197**

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Lent course 2016

Christmas may be just around the corner, but preparation for next year's Lent course is already underway! Rooted in the Acts of the Apostles and Luke's Gospel, the Lent course will help us to explore how living the mission of Jesus in the power of his Holy Spirit means we are people and communities which: steward faithfully, act justly, serve sacrificially, teach effectively and proclaim boldly.

Ahead of the course launching on 15th February 2016, a series of resourcing events will be held across the Diocese in January.

Details of these events and further information about the Lent Course may be found on www.winchester.anglican.org/lent or by emailing lent@winchester.anglican.org



DIOCESAN NEWS CHRISTMAS 2015



Christmas message from the Bishop of Winchester

At the centre of the Christmas story is a baby: Jesus, utterly dependent, lying in a borrowed manger. My own children are now young adults, but the arrival of a new life in a family is not quickly forgotten. It is a moment of having and hoping: a new life, held in our hands, and the hope of all that is to come.



Jesus is the gift God wants us to have. It's the miracle of God giving himself to us; in a sense, inviting us to hold him in our hands and to discover the joy that living with him brings. And in the having, we are led to hoping: what are God's plans for this world? But the hope of the baby in the arms of Mary quickly turns to a story of fear and violence. Matthew tells us that Mary, Joseph and their young baby ran for their lives to Egypt shortly after Jesus's birth.

Like many refugees today, the Holy Family were left in fear of their lives, and unable to return home until a very real threat to them had passed. It was with this story in mind that I launched the Diocese of Winchester's dual appeal to support refugees from Syria and victims of flooding in Myanmar earlier this year. As you celebrate Christmas with your loved ones this year, please pray for those less fortunate and consider making a donation to the Diocesan appeal.

I wish you and all of your families a very merry Christmas.

The Right Reverend Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester

Report from Myanmar

Bishop Tim, Bishop Jonathan and Andrew Robinson, the Diocesan Chief Executive, recently visited the province of Myanmar to meet with its Archbishop. The Diocese has a long established link with Myanmar and has provided support to the Church there for more than 130 years. The country recently held its first ever democratic elections after years of Military rule. But the year has been tinged with tragedy – with floods causing devastation to towns and villages.



During the visit it was announced that the Diocese will provide a range of new support to Myanmar:

- Financial support for clergy and lay workers
- English language acquisition skills for teachers in pre-schools
- Support for Holy Cross theological college

This work will make a real difference and we are delighted to be able to provide assistance during this difficult time.

Diocesan Appeal

A huge thank you to those who have already supported the Diocesan Appeal, to assist refugees from Syria and victims of flooding in Myanmar. The appeal has so far raised over £11,000.

The money is helping to fund the important work that Refugee Action is doing to help Syrian refugees who have arrived in Britain by offering them safe places to stay, warm clothing and hot meals. Meanwhile, donations are also being used to help the good work that the Anglican Relief and Development Fund is doing to support the victims of the recent floods in Myanmar.



If you would like to donate money to the appeal, please visit www.justgiving.com/teams/winchesterdioceseappeal

Parish Mission Action Plan service

A service was held at Winchester Cathedral on 21st November to celebrate our joint mission, embodied by the Parish Mission Action Plans. The exciting plans already underway reach out to all sections of our communities. Examples of how parishes are working to engage people in Jesus's mission include free meals for children during school holidays at St Luke's Hedge End, and care and support for people living with dementia at Christchurch Westbourne.

Pupils serve up a treat at Priory Primary School

Last term, children at The Priory Primary School, Christchurch, transformed the school into a traditional English café, bistro, and finally a Chinese restaurant over a week.

Pupils developed their communication and negotiation skills, and learnt about persuasion, PR and marketing. They successfully pitched to local businesses including Waitrose and their hard work resulted in a huge success.

Bishop Tim's thoughts following the Paris Climate Change Conference

Bishop Tim recently voiced his support for Winchester Action on Climate Change, who last month organised a march to show support for a strong legally binding agreement at the Paris Climate Conference. Bishop Tim said: "As Christians, we believe that being good stewards of God's creation is an important part of our mission and so, as a Diocese, we are continually working to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint. For example, we are currently working to install solar panels on as many of our vicarages as possible".

Sherfield church moves Christingle and toy services to local community centre

In Sherfield new housing has brought hundreds of young families into the area. The team at St Leonard have been working hard to welcome these people into the community, holding a Messy Church service in the new community centre every month. The church also held their Christingle and Toy services there. Richard Elphick, a local parishioner, said "I was delighted that the approach paid off – over 100 attended including lots of new faces".