

Live the Mission



December 2017



Christmas is coming and with it some Fresh Expressions of the season, including Little Fishes in Lockerley. Turn to page 4. (Picture by Michelle Harden).

Christmas is coming and churches are planning carol services and celebrations. What happens if you are part of a Fresh Expressions church? The answer is as varied as Fresh Expressions themselves, but turn to pages 4-5 for some examples in this diocese.

The Diocese of Winchester is also varied in its make-up—from villages to cities, 12th century churches to congregations in modern halls. And across the whole is creativity and a determination to show the love of God to whatever communities people find themselves in.

This is reflected in the stories in *Live the Mission*—from a world-record attempt at sailing plastic bottle boats

which also taught children about care for the environment, to a scheme to help young people learn new skills, from using art to enter the gospels to finding a space for teenagers. Happy reading and a very merry Christmas to you and your family.

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News from across the Diocese

No bottling this record-breaking challenge

Children from **St. James' CE Primary Academy, Bournemouth**, have made a record-breaking attempt to complete 'the Plastic Bottle Boat Challenge'.

The idea was to engage the children in learning about plastic, pollution, recycling, conservation, the environment and the circular economy, while trying to break a Guinness World Record. The attempt also helped pupils to think about the ways they could make a positive difference to the world.

Three-hundred-and-forty children went to Poole Park to launch the boats in a carefully choreographed process to comply with the Guinness requirements. The outcome is yet to be ratified by the Guinness auditors, but staff and pupils at St.

James' are confident that 330 boats met the specifications and are keenly awaiting the official ratification from Guinness. After the record attempt, all of the plastic boats were recycled into the back of a Poole Council lorry, underpinning the messages the children had been learning.

The school has now launched a global Plastic Bottle Boat Challenge to give children and schools across the world the opportunity to take part and explore issues that are meaningful to their children and focussed on local as well as international learning. The date set for the multi-venue challenge is June 27, 2018, and a website is soon to be launched to announce this venture to the world. Watch this space.



Ready to launch in PoolePark

Missing, presumed dead...

Jesus Missing Presumed Dead' was the theme of the **Romsey Deanery** youth weekend which saw 27 young people and leaders in the New Forest playing games, cooking and sharing meals, worshipping and discovering where to find Jesus.

David Potterton, curate at Romsey Abbey, led four sessions, guiding those there to find Jesus in the gospels, in acts of kindness and service, and in themselves.

It was, said one participant: "the most amazing weekend spent discovering where to find Jesus, with the most



There were plenty of games as well as teaching at the weekend

incredible people", while the verdict of another was: "the best weekend ever" with people I love – best thing about my year so far!".

In Brief...

Clergy, Culture and Ministry: The dynamics of Roles and Relations in Church and Society, by the late Ian Tomlinson, edited by Martyn Percy, was published on October 31 by SCM Press. Ian was rector of Appleshaw, Kimpton, Thruxton, Fyfield and Shipton Bellinger until his death last year.

Churches are encouraged to get involved with the national Church of England Christmas campaign **#GodWithUs**. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/notes/church-of-england/how-can-your-church-get-involved-in-our-godwithus-christmas-campaign/10155303424523143/>

Fairtrade angels and chocolate

Angels from the realms of glory! This Christmas why not adorn your tree with a host of Fairtrade chocolate angels? And don't forget your Real Advent Calendar which features the true Christmas story. Both are available from www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk

gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Every Fairtrade gift you buy for someone you care for also tells the producer you care about them, and there are hundreds of Fairtrade certified gifts which add that prophetic touch to your Christmas giving. www.fairtrade.org

Christmas is the time we celebrate God's

David Hinks

Fresh Expressions of Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching and churches preparing to tell the story of the birth of Christ, there are those who will be trying to do so as ‘fresh expressions’ of church.

Fresh expressions — or FX for short — are, to quote the Fresh Expressions movement: “new forms of church that emerge within contemporary culture and engage primarily with those who don’t ‘go to church’.” They come in all shapes and sizes—Messy Church, Café Church, a church for skateboarders are but three — and it is reckoned that there are more than 3,000 examples across the world.

What then, does a fresh expression of church do at Christmas? There is no one answer, but here are a few examples from across the diocese.

In **Eastleigh**, Jono Harvey has been focusing on the health of the body and the soul with plenty of outdoor activity. He holds regular outdoor get-togethers and plans one for December 17 billed as ‘food for body and soul’ with— subject to the weather— a ‘Christmas campfire’ feel.

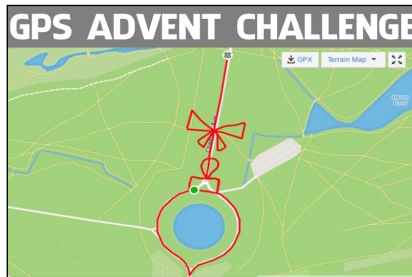
This follows hard on the heels of a carol service ‘of two halves’, with the first half taking place in St Nicolas Church, and the second half at Eastleigh Football Club. Jono explains: “It’s the first time we’ve tried it but we are gradually gathering momentum for it. The Mayor has agreed to take part, plus

a local school choir, and we also have several local charities coming along to be part of the event.”

There is also a ‘GPS Advent challenge’ in the pipeline. “Being active is one of the distinctives of our community,” says Jono, “So we are going to try and challenge people to create a Christmas-themed GPS picture and enter it into a competition. The idea is that people go out and walk/run/bike a route that creates a picture using the GPS tracker

in their smartphone or running watch.

“To get people started our team will create one GPS picture each day of Advent to encourage people to get involved.”



To Southampton now and **Monty's Hub** in Sholing. Monty's is a place where local people can meet, learn new things, drink tea, use laptops, mend bikes, hang out, do homework, eat, pray and generally have a good time. This December Monty's will be putting on some special Christmas activities.

Tammy Oliver, one of the organisers, says: “We will be running a Christmassy afternoon with tea and carols for Monty's Majors, the group for older people aged 60 plus. We will also have a day of creative prayer with an Advent theme with prayer installations and areas with led prayer and time slots aimed at different groups— young people for instance.”



Above: the Monty's Christmas Train. Below: Little Fishes (picture by Michelle Harden)

“Then we will have our community Christmas celebration with an instant nativity. Simply turn up in a Christmas outfit and we will create a retelling of the Christmas story with whatever characters are there.” Tammy promises that this will include any Christmas characters—Father Christmas, a Christmas octopus... “We will also have some spare outfits to lend.”

Angel costumes are more traditional than octopus ones at Christmas and look out for them on escalators this year, courtesy of that well-established FX **Messy Church**.

The national Messy Church team is calling on people to be ‘angels on escalators’, whereby Messy Church members dress as angels, go up and down a staircase or escalator and shoot a short film of themselves doing so.

The idea, says Lucy Moore from Messy Church, is to “flag up the fun of Christmas and the way the first Christmas brought God right into the heart of the busyness of the world”. The national Messy Church team will splice the films together in time for Christmas

and it can also be used for the story of Jacob’s dream of angels ascending and descending between heaven and earth.

The busyness of life is also a theme for **Little Fishes**, the FX group supported by Lockerley Church. It’s a singing and music-making group for babies, toddlers and their adults, and during Advent, as well as singing, they will be telling stories of waiting and preparation—the Annunciation, the visit of Mary to Elizabeth, the journey to Bethlehem.

Founder and organiser Jay Greene says: “The prayers, which are principally for the adults, will be about finding time of quiet in all the busyness and being strong when we get tired. Annie Tatnall, our leader, makes beautiful props to illustrate the songs which really bring it all alive. We will be singing a mixture of secular Christmas songs and Christmas carols and we encourage everyone to join us at Lockerley’s Christingle service on Christmas Eve which is hugely popular and is usually standing room only”

Have a joyful expression of Christmas!



‘We did it because we could’

“We did it because we could make it work and we should” – is the answer John Currin, Rector of Dibden gave to the question why did the churches of **All Saints’, Dibden,** and **St Andrew’s, Dibden Purlieu,** helped seven teenagers learn how to bring a car up to MOT standard.



The young mechanics show off the car

The project – known as Mechanix – was a community event involving the church, a local college, local businesses and even the National Motor Museum.

Haynes has organised Mechanix projects before and John Currin realised that the community had the necessary skills and facilities to run one in Dibden, including a church member who runs a garage.

They obtained a 1999 Ford Fiesta Ghia in need of work to enable it to pass its MOT and took it to Shawfix Autos, run by church member Reuben Shaw. There, using Haynes manuals and tools supplied at cost price by Draper Tools of Chandler’s Ford, and with support from a local company, Haynes and the Lions and Rotary Clubs, seven teens, aged between 14 and 17, learned mechanical skills and gained a qualification into the bargain. They were presented with their awards by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, who owns Beaulieu Palace and the National Motor Museum and who allowed the car to be displayed at the museum.

The result was not just a car that is now useable and seven teenagers each with an Entry Level Award in Personal and

Social Development for the Automotive Environment (Level 3) from the Institute of the Motor Industry. There are now seven young people who have been given a personal boost because of the way they were treated.

“We were very fortunate that we had a number of very committed adults and there was quickly a rapport between them and the young people,” said John Currin. “We wanted to create an environment where young people were given responsibility and respect.”

Another church member had a close connection with Totton College and the college guaranteed that any student who passed the course could have an interview for Higher Level mechanics courses which would set them on the path to being professional mechanics.

John Currin added: “It appears to me that at its heart Mechanix has a core value: Leaving things better than you find them. This is true of the vehicle which through the efforts of all involved now has an MOT and is therefore useable and useful. It is also true for the young people who have achieved a

qualification and benefited in other, perhaps less tangible but no less valuable, ways. Working with others to leave things better than you find them is an inspirational attitude that has the

capacity to unlock so much potential. I feel all concerned have much to be proud of and to celebrate.”

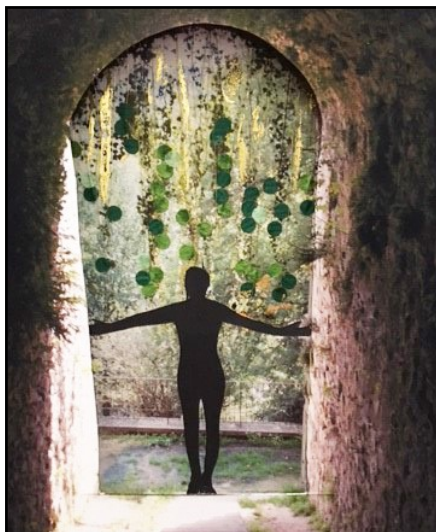
He concluded: “I hope we can do it again.”

A creative way into the story

Imaging the Story—an exhibition which emerged from a 10-week course of the same name at **St Mary’s, Old Basing**— was “A wonderful mix of media, skill and insight” according to one visitor.

Participants, who came from churches across the Basingstoke area, were invited to enter the biblical narrative in creative ways through poetry, art history, and conversation. Through the process of making and writing, a journey of discovered began which caused often-familiar episodes (the calling of Abraham, the Incarnation) to be seen with fresh eyes. In working alone and collaboratively they took creative risks and confidence grew to mine and express the treasures of the salvation story in new ways.

They then spent a few weeks going deeper still into an aspect of the story to which they had been particularly drawn, resulting in an exhibition.



For many, sharing in this way was a brave move. For two weeks Rev’d Kay Blackwell (herself a participant) offered Basingstoke United Reformed Church as an exhibition space, allowing the wider public to view the range of mixed media pieces produced.

The exhibition opened with a reception, hosted by the URC and St Mary’s, at which poetry was read and art shared. Many spoke movingly of ways in which they had encountered God afresh in the visual process and had rediscovered something dormant, and explained what they had learned about themselves and each other through contemplative and collaborative exercises.

The course was itself based on a book, again called *Imaging the Story*, by Gill Sakakini, an ordinand in Old Basing and Lychpit.

Mission in practice – Churches at work



Say OINK! and pray

When it's the holidays and there's nowhere to go, life can get pretty boring for teens. **St John's, Hartley Wintney** responded to this issue by opening a café every lunchtime at half-term, specifically for 11s-17s.

Called OINK!, the café offered games, waffles, milkshakes and other drinks, plus snacks and music, all in the St John's café which was kept open especially for the teens.

"We had 45 young people through the door, said Jenni Norman, youth worker (pictured above with members of the OINK! team). "And 23 of them were not connected with the church. They were mostly younger teens but we had a few students who came in to do some college work.

"It feels like a real start and that God is saying we must gather a team and pray. Unless God designs it, it won't be right."

Christingles for all

Planning for the season ahead and want something intergenerational? Take a leaf out of **Pokesdown St James'** book. They got the tables out, arranged the church chairs around them and had café-style church at the Family Service to celebrate Epiphany/Christingle. They asked everyone – young, old and in-between – to make Christingles during the service, though not everyone could have an orange each: "All the materials were donated by local businesses and



we ran out of oranges, only expecting 100 people when about 160 turned up!" said Ruth Crosland, LLM at St James'." Nothing daunted, they are planning the next one for January.

Contact us:

Please let us know your news. Email Stella Wiseman, the Marketing and Content Editor, stella.wiseman@winchester.anglican.org or call **01962 737325**.