

October 2016



*How green is your church? Find out about Eco Church on pages 4-5.*

**W**elcome to the October edition of *Live the Mission*, the Diocesan newsletter which shares news and stories from across the Diocese.

As autumn arrive, it is time to give thanks for the abundance that we have and to share with those who have less. It is time to focus on being stewards of the earth's resources and on our responsibility to care for our planet.

Winchester Cathedral is holding three lectures on the environment in September and October in the Wessex Learning Centre on 19 and 28 September and 6 October, all at 7pm. For details, visit [www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk). You can also read more about the church's response on pages 4-5 of *Live the Mission*.

Don't forget to send in your own news – contact details are on the back.

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## *Writing on the wall*

Graffiti artists from Solent Showcase ran three Cellograff workshops for one of the youth clubs at **Monty's Community Hub** in **Sholing** this summer.

Cellograff uses cling film to wrap between trees or posts to make a temporary wall; the cling film then creates a surface fit for spray-painting.



*The Cellograff workshop.*

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Hub team leader Polly Allen said: "These sessions were hugely popular, and helped us to connect with some young people we don't know so well, and got them thinking about positive street art and designs. They got lots of people talking about community art and positive action in our neighbourhood."

## *Neighbourly acts*

The work done by volunteers over the past four decades was celebrated at **Winchester Cathedral** with the 40th birthday party of Hampshire's Good Neighbours Service, attended by Princess Alexandra.

Volunteers for Good Neighbours give help in the community, such as offering transport to appointments, running lunch clubs and offering social contact to reduce loneliness and isolation. They offer practical support in times of need.

Andrew Robinson, Diocesan Chief Executive and Chairman of Hampshire Good Neighbours Co-ordinating Committee, said: "The continued willingness of people to help others in their local communities is a message of hope and encouragement that we want to proclaim."



*Volunteers meet Princess Alexandra.*

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## *Puzzling it out*

**St Lawrence, Alton**, buzzed with activity over the six days from August 24-29 when the church held its fourth annual jigsaw festival, an event which brings people together from across the community.

Rev David Hinks, associate vicar in the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton, brought the idea from his previous parish on the Isle of Wight where the first jigsaw puzzle festival began more than 20 years ago. He launched Alton's jigsaw festival in 2013.

Peter Bell, one of the festival organisers, said: "It is a stunning



*David Hinks is feeling puzzled.*

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event and brings people from all over the town together, donating or doing puzzles. We have a number of people who make up the puzzles who find it hard to get out and are delighted to be able to contribute by doing the puzzles at home."

## *Scaling the heights of fundraising*



*Chris Steed, no stranger to mountains, pictured on Mount Kilimanjaro*

Rev'd Dr Chris Steed is about to trek to 6,000 meters up Everest at the launch of a fundraising campaign for the regeneration of **St Winfrid's Church, Totton**, transforming it into a community hub for all.

The hub will be a flexible space to address social needs in an imaginative, inter-generational way through creative arts. Activities are already starting, including support for those struggling with debt, counsellors, domestic violence awareness and cancer support. To donate, visit

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rectorwalkseverest](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rectorwalkseverest)

## *Churches urged to care for the planet*



*Getting stuck in to local conservation work.*

**As** Creationtide (September 1-October 4) reminds us, the church is called to look after our planet. One way that the Diocese of Winchester encourages parishes to do this is through Eco Church, a scheme run by the charity A Rocha UK to help congregations care for the earth.

Gordon Randall, the Diocesan stewardship adviser, says: "Eco Church has been based on a structure similar to the one used for the Diocesan Environmental Award Scheme and it made sense to adopt Eco Church to supersede our own scheme. It enables parishes to take advantage of a nationally recognised award via a more sophisticated web-based platform with access to a wider range of relevant resources."

Tony Hale from **All Saints, North Baddesley**, a Diocesan silver award-winner, is enthusiastic about the way the new scheme involves more people in a broader way than before. "We could already tick many of the boxes, but obvious action was required in others," he says. The church is focusing on the 'community and global engagement' and 'lifestyle' sections.

This is the experience of Claire Thompson from the parish of **Nursling with Rownhams**. The churches there had achieved the Diocesan gold award but when it came to the A Rocha one, Claire says: "Although we had a gold straight away in one of the sections

**ECO CHURCH**  
AN AROCHA UK PROJECT



*Raising money for toilet twinning*

we didn't even have a bronze in community and global engagement”.

Steps to rectify this include local conservation work, signing global and national environmental e-petitions, and 'twinning' the church's toilets with latrines to help improve sanitation in poorer areas. “Our young people and their leaders were interested in taking this on and have been selling toilet rolls after church at £5 per roll,” says Claire. “They

have now twinned the toilet in the church and two in the church hall.”

Bringing environmental awareness into everyday lives is vital, as Jay Green from Diocesan gold award-winner **St John's, Lockerley**, emphasises: “Many members of the congregation are involved in village community projects including the walking group, the gardening club, lift sharing and so forth. People reuse and recycle, buy fair-trade goods and are reducing the amount of energy they consume.”

Diocesan silver award-winner **St John's, Hartley Wintney**, has signed up to Eco Church because, as Ruth Jarman says: “we wanted to move to the next level in our discipleship.” For St John's so far, this has involved forming a 'creation care group', developing an 'ethical meat' policy for meals served, and putting pressure on the local MP to keep environmental issues high on the political agenda.

*For Creationtide church resources, visit: [www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/08/church-of-england-commends-creationtide-resources.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/08/church-of-england-commends-creationtide-resources.aspx)*



*Churches can go for Gold, Silver or Bronze awards, depending on the level reached in each of the five areas:* 🌍 *Worship and teaching.* 🌍 *Buildings.* 🌍 *Land.* 🌍 *Community and global engagement.* 🌍 *Lifestyle.*

## *Welcoming the foreigner in a strange land*

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**As a Syrian family settle into their new home in the grounds of Lambeth Palace, and the Archbishop of Canterbury calls on the Government to speed up reuniting children in the Calais 'Jungle' with family in the UK, we meet one minister from the Diocese of Winchester who is reaching out to refugees through the Bournemouth-based charity **International Care Network**.**

**Rev'd James Davies** is assistant curate at **St Andrew's, Bennett Road, Bournemouth**, but can also be found a mile away at 200 Holdenhurst Road, headquarters of the International Care Network (ICN), a charity welcoming refugees and migrants to the area.

"The mandate to care for the stranger is very prominent in the Old Testament," says James who is also inspired by his own experiences of "being a foreigner in a strange land" (Exodus 2:22) when living in Nigeria.

James is chair of the charity's trustees and a senior immigration adviser to the many refugees who arrive at the door of what he describes as "something of a one-stop shop". Here he and his colleagues offer advice and support on immigration, housing, employment, healthcare, language development, homework clubs for children, in fact almost any need, in liaison with other organisations.

"ICN began as a friendship organisation in response to the Kosovo crisis," says James, "and at its heart it still is, but we have to be experts too." He enjoys the combination of intellectual challenge and pastoral care that this that this entails.

There are challenges other than the intellectual ones, as James is quick to stress. "There is such a quantity of work and we need to discern what God is calling us to prioritise." A particular need at the moment is for supported lodgings for 16- and 17-year-old refugees, giving not just housing and food but friendship too.

ICN is always looking for more help and volunteers are welcome. "You don't have to be very technical to mug up on what benefits are available," he says reassuringly. They also need people trained in teaching English as a second language and people to help with homework clubs and to visit refugee women in their own homes.

***"We are all those who seek asylum – through baptism we flee from one country to another."***



*Pictured here is a scene from an ICN crèche, provided for younger children while other family members are learning.*

At the same time, ICN can help others respond to refugees. “If you have refugees in your parish and want to know how to go forward, ring us up and have a chat,” says James. He also urges us to “learn how to welcome the stranger where

you are,” and to consider that: “We are all those who seek asylum – through baptism we flee from one country to another.”

For more on ICN, call 01202 589395 or visit <http://icn.org.uk>

*The Diocese is running an appeal to help refugees from Syria and victims of flooding in Myanmar. Visit [www.justgiving.com/teams/winchesterdioceseappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/teams/winchesterdioceseappeal)*

## ***Homework clubs help more than just the children***

*A boy from Afghanistan was struggling with school. He could not read, he could scarcely hold a conversation and could not respond to questions. His parents, who were barely literate, struggled to comprehend the British education system and how to engage with the teachers.*

*He was taken to an ICN homework club where those running it were undaunted. They supported and encouraged him and he was delighted the day he made a model lighthouse and a paper chain to show at school.*

*Not only is he now learning to read and to add up, but alongside him is his mother who is also learning to read and helping him to sound out words. His younger brother is beginning to learn to read too.*

### *Small is beautiful*

**St Mary's Hale**, is a small church in the grounds of Hale House in the New Forest, but its size and remote location do not stop it running a thriving holiday club.



*The children read the story of the Prodigal Son and made masks.*

This year was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, and 26 children came each day for three days and were able to use both the church and the Hale House field.

“The children love it,” says assistant curate Rev’d Nicky Davies, who finds running the club “a real privilege and joy”.

She adds: “My hope is that the children learn about faith through connecting with some Bible stories and that they see that church, even in a very old building, is fun! When we do a prayer activity it is always very moving to read the children’s prayers.”

### *Who let the dogs in?*

“Pet services are a way of celebrating God’s creatures and also of bringing different people into our orbit,” says Catherine Brill of **St John, New Alresford**, which has been inviting the dogs, cats, rabbits and even a snake in for the past 10 years.

The services run for about 30 minutes, inside or out depending on the weather, and no-one minds if there is a bit of chaos. “The trick is to be very relaxed, welcoming and tolerant,” says Catherine. “A good recipe for life as well.”

They collect for charity at the end of the service, this year sending £75 to the Dogs’ Trust.

Other pet services include **St Stephen’s with Lainston, Sparsholt**, (11 September) and **St Peter and Holy Cross, Wherwell** (16 October).

Let us know your news and send us your photographs, preferably high resolution jpegs of around 1MB. Please email Stella Wiseman, Marketing and Content Editor, on [stella.wiseman@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:stella.wiseman@winchester.anglican.org) or call 01962 737325. [@CofEWinchester](http://www.winchester.anglican.org) [www.facebook.com/CofEWinchester](http://www.facebook.com/CofEWinchester)