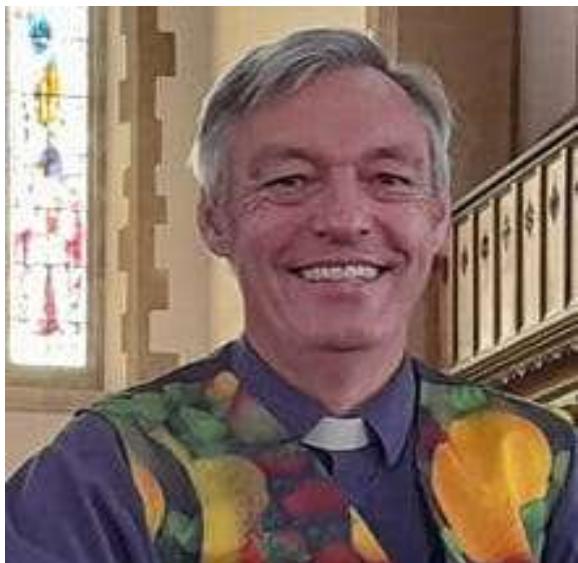




Newsletter



Growing!

For 3 days in January the majority of the clergy of Winchester Diocese, myself included, attended a Diocesan conference in Hertfordshire. The theme of the conference was becoming more Christ centred as a church. The Bishop of Winchester said these words in his final sermon,

Over the years I've been so helped by Lesslie Newbigin's oft-repeated words that the Church of God is to be 'a sign, instrument and foretaste of the Kingdom of God'. The high calling of the Church is to point to the Kingdom that is to come; to work for the coming of that Kingdom; and in the here and now to give a flavour and a savour of just what that coming Kingdom is.

This really must be who we are as a church, otherwise

we're at best a social club and sometimes not even a very good one of those.

The conference was a great chance to grow together and hear a range of excellent speakers and I even danced the night away at a silent disco, 'dance as if no-one is watching'.

The afternoon before we went I attended online the annual Hopeweavers renewal of promises. Hopeweavers is a scattered recognised Anglican community which I belong to. Our aim is to create sanctuary space for people to grow into and meet God. Every member has a rule of life that leads you toward simplicity and creativity and engages with other members of the community in a variety of ways.

This year we focussed on the concept of 'Refugia' which is about the phenomenon of growth in barren places and we were all sent 10 wildflower seed-balls which you simply drop onto a patch of earth which, when they are naturally watered, root and sprout. I haven't decided yet where to do my bit of guerilla gardening but I'm looking for the right spot.

It's great for the church to bring good news and there is plenty of evidence both nationally and locally of a quiet revival of people coming unexpectedly to church particularly those in their 20's and 30's and especially young men, perhaps our own little bit of refugia.

All the best
Mike

SCONES OF PRAISE



Our next Scones of Praise is on Sunday 15th February 2026 at 3.00 pm. Come to this free event for a hearty sing of some of your favourite hymns, followed by tea and scones. Pick up some flyers at the back of church to invite your friends and family and spread the word! If there is a favourite hymn or song that you would like to sing in the future, please complete one of the small forms at the back of church and give to John Kidney or Clare in the office. Alternatively, email John at johnkidney@hotmail.co.uk



FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Our first lunch of the New Year was held at The Iford and next month we will be making a return visit on the 18th February to the Brew Cafe.



CRAFTY SUNDAY & SmAll SAINTS

We welcomed our children back in January with a few new ones joining them! Our



planned weekly themes for the month were Calendars, Owl Babies, Polar Bears & Snow Penguins, so the children have had lots of fun making the different craft ideas on offer, together with a story about the particular theme for that week.

We were also pleased to welcome a few new faces to Crafty Sunday, with the theme for the month being Epiphany. We have been looking at ways to improve these events and have now introduced a story and action song to finish the morning which proved very popular and something we can build on. The children enjoyed showing what they had made in church to Mike and the parishioners.



We have had a busy start to the term. Our weekly meetings have mainly focused on our badge work for our Scouting awards although the Beavers did have an enjoyable evening wearing their PJ's and watching a film with popcorn!

The Scouts also had an evening at Rock Reef on the climbing walls.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of getting out and about including lots of camping and night hikes.

Gary, Alex, Sophia and the team of Leaders



WANTED!!

Thespians, singers, costume makers and set designers!

The parish of St Katharine with St Nicholas is working with the parish of All Saints to bring you an Easter play.

Written by our own Margaret Whiting (St Nicholas') many years ago, we are delighted that Douglas Eyre (All Saints) has agreed to produce and direct the play.

To be staged in St. Nicholas' on Sunday 19th April at 3 pm with refreshments served after.

Please express your interest in how you can help be part of this event by emailing Natalie Greenfield – natalie_greenfield@yahoo.co.uk

Further details to follow by mid February.

OPEN THE BOOK



Open the Book members presented 10 Bible sessions to years 3-6 at Pokesdown School last term.

The sessions included an introduction, followed by a Bible Story (presented as a drama) and concluded with a short period of quiet reflection and a prayer.

We presented:-

1. Mark 4 v 35-41 Storm at Sea
2. Mark 10 v 13-16 Jesus blesses the children
Mark 17 v 17-27 What must a rich man do to receive eternal life
3. Luke 15 v 1-6 The lost sheep
Luke 19 v 1-9 Zacchaeus
4. Matthew 5 v 43-48 The Good Samaritan
Luke 10 v 25 – 37 Love your neighbour as yourself
5. Matthew 18 21-35 Parable of the unforgiving servant
6. Matthew 8 v 5-13 – Jesus heals a Roman Officer's servant
7. Luke 1 v 5-25 Zachariah
8. Luke 1 v 26-38 The Annunciation
9. Luke 2 v 1-7 The birth of Jesus
10. Luke 2 v 8-20 Shepherds

The pupils and staff at the school showed appreciation of the Bible presentations.

Gerry Davern

London Marathon 2026

Dily Ruffer is running the 2026 London Marathon to raise funds for Kidney Research UK. If you would like to support Dily, please donate at <https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/dily-ruffer>.



Used Stamps

This is a plea to everyone to please keep your used postage stamps coming.

During the past couple of years, we have supported a small charity - The East Sheen Chengannur Trust – who have helped to improve the lives of people in the Chengannur region of India. Sadly, the current CEO, Russell Mattin, finds himself without a succession plan and so the charity will wind up at the end of 2026. Russell dearly wants us to continue to send our stamps to them during the current year however, and so I will continue to send whatever you donate.

From 2027 we will re-establish our previous links with RNIB, having found a new address to send them, and having spoken to one of their fundraisers who tells me that used stamps are raising about £33,000 for them annually or £20 for every kilogram. So Please keep your used stamps coming – there is a collection point in each church.

Mission without financial cost.

Many thanks, Liz Hann



Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent

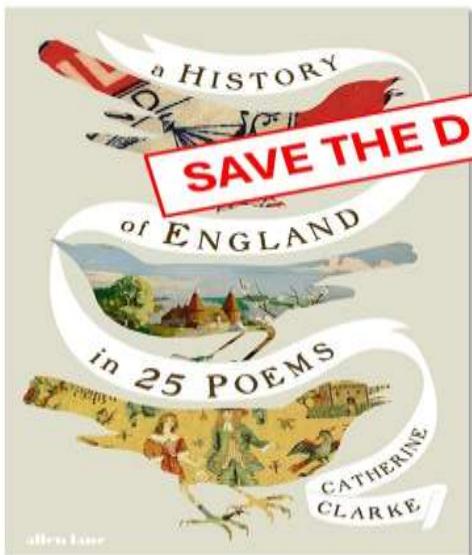
Throughout Lent 2026 we will be following the Church of England's theme **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**. This year's resources will help us to think about a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter. The Lent Course will begin on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, and will run for seven weeks during the whole of Lent. Look out for more information about groups and resources in the notice sheet and sign-up sheets in church.

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Events coming to All Saints'....get your tickets now!

DORSET POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR

We are looking forward to a Spring Concert performed by Dorset Police Male Voice Choir at our church on **Saturday 14th March 2026 at 7.30pm**. Tickets £10 per person available in church or online here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-southbourne/t-oeiykgk>. Flyers at the back of church, so please invite your friends and family to a wonderful evening.



A History of England in 25 Poems

Saturday 25 April 2026, 7pm
All Saints Church, Southbourne

**An evening of words and music,
journeying into 1300 years of
England's history**

with local writer **Catherine Clarke**
author of
A History of England in 25 Poems

and musical interludes together with
Rebecca Newton (soprano, piano) and
Ellen Davis (cello)

A Times History Book of the Year, a
Financial Times Book of the Year, a
BBC History Extra Book of the Year.
A BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week.

'A marvellous idea, quite brilliantly realised' – Dominic Sandbrook
'A charming mix of history, travel & literature' – Alice Loxton
'I couldn't put it down' – Cerys Matthews

Tickets on sale soon

Ash Wednesday service

This year Ash Wednesday takes place on Wednesday 18th February. Everyone is welcome to our Holy Communion service at 10.00am to mark Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

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Parish Office open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am -12.30pm

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