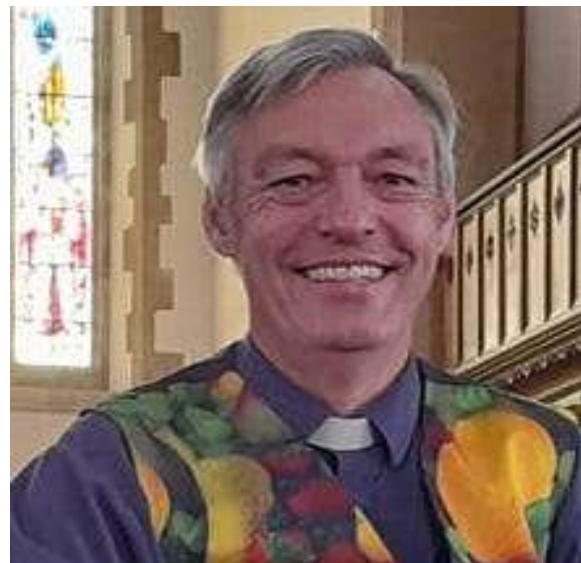




# Newsletter



## NEW YEAR!

Richard Osman, in one of his retirement community novels, has them seeing in the New Year on a live feed from Chile or somewhere and all being in bed by 10 o'clock, sounds good to me! I don't mind the 'festival' but it doesn't especially 'float my boat', so if I happened to be awake, I would say Happy New Year to one and all but, the reality is, I might be saying that in my sleep. I am the same with resolutions, it's no bad thing to improve ones behaviour but why now especially?

I recently resolved to get a little more engaged with the local community. By a happy accident I found myself at the Southbourne Forum meeting at All

Saints and whilst no mountains were moved it felt good to be there. At the next meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January we are joined by our MP Tom Hayes, what a great opportunity to spend some time with somebody who can make a real difference.

I intend to be there why not join me.

All the best  
Mike



## FELLOWSHIP CLUB

In November we went to the Regent Centre to see the film "The Choral" which was set in 1916. The Choral Society had lost many of their regular members to fight in the war and so recruited young local lads who would not normally take part. The music and the singing was uplifting and the story told of the choirmaster who had just returned from Germany and was treated with suspicion.

In December we had our Christmas lunch at Deidre's house, which was a lovely change from a pub or restaurant. The

delicious lasagne was made by Deidre's daughter, Debbie, and the large selection of amazing desserts by some of our group. The whole meal was special and ended with chocolates and coffee. Very many thanks to Deidre for her hospitality and her hard work.

Our next lunch on Wednesday 21st January will be at The Iford at 12.30 pm.

Rose

## CRAFTY SUNDAY & SmAll SAINTS



In SmAll Saints this December, each week we have been comfortably full with lovely families. Families are inviting their friends and toddlers to come along ... this is wonderful to see. The children love the sensory playdough and kinetic sand. Music time is much enjoyed and story time too.



We have decorated the Christmas tree with our handmade ornaments, had fun making Christmas cards for mummies, daddies and grandparents and had great fun at our Christmas party at the end of term. The children had a story from Mike, sang Away in a Manger and even met Father Christmas who had a big sack of presents for all! We sang Happy Birthday to those having birthdays during the holiday.

Our Crafty Sunday in December fell on our Children's Christmas Service so we had been busy getting the props ready for that! What a lovely service this was and enjoyed by many who came along.

A special thank you to Catharine who puts so much work into this, everyone agreed it was one of the best stories about Christmas that we had experienced from our young people. Thank you also to Ruth for her help in putting this all together with Catherine and to Sarah for the wonderful ideas for the props! Last, but not least, a 'BIG' thank you to all our young people for the giving of their time to put this on for us ... you are all stars!



Guides & Rangers enjoyed a visit from our MP Tom Hayes as part of UK Parliament Week. Tom updated the girls on progress since his last visit and listened to their concerns.



We had our gingerbread house decorating competition and our Christmas party. Wishing you all a wonderful 2026.



# 'PUSS IN BOOTS'

## Fun Family Pantomime!



Thursday 8th January 2026 - 7:30pm  
Friday 9th January 2026 - 7:30pm  
Saturday 10th January 2026 - 11am & 4pm

We hope you all had a very merry Christmas and Happy New year. With the celebrations now behind us, the Cast and Crew of 'Puss In Boots' are getting into full swing with preparations for our Panto, adding sparkle to all the songs and dances as well as finalising the colourful sets, props, setting up lighting and sound and last minute alterations to costumes.

The excitement is building and we are really looking forward to welcoming you to the Life Centre in Moordown to combat the January blues with a few hours of fun and colourful family entertainment.

Tickets now on sale online at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk\asds](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/asds)  
or  
Call the box office on: 07548 100 770

Tickets are only £15 for Adults,  
£12 Concessions and £8 for Children

(automatic 10% discounts available for group bookings of 10+) so why not get a group of friends and family together and prepare to Boo and Hiss the baddie while cheering on Jack in his quest to win the hand of the princess.

FREE PARKING available at:

1. St Johns Church car park (off Vicarage Rd)
2. Moordown St Johns School playground (off Victoria Park Rd)
3. On Street Parking

## Pokesdown Community Primary School Christmas Carol Concert



On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, which may go down as the wettest day in a long time, we were blessed to welcome the children, staff, parents and grandparents of Pokesdown School for their Christmas Carol Concert. Everyone braved the weather, and the church was more than full, so full that many parents had to stand. What a joy it was to be a part of this lovely occasion. As in past years, the children in Year 5 led the service, re-telling the Christmas Story, which was beautifully enacted and very clearly narrated.

The service began with a beautiful solo rendition of 'Oh Holy Night.' Then, as the story unfolded, each section was followed by a song from a different year group. The Year 4, 5 and 6 Choir sang 'Jesus, What a Wonderful Child' and the Teacher Choir sang 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.'

There were two carols for everyone to join in, 'Away in a Manger' and, at the end, 'O Come All Ye faithful.'

What a wonderful way to begin the Christmas Celebration.

# All Saints' Reverse Advent Calendar



The challenge was to support Bournemouth Food Bank by donating one item each day during Advent. As a church, we certainly rose to the challenge, and we have donated over 300 items.

**Thank you everyone. Well done.**

**But the Bournemouth Food Bank is not just for Christmas.**

They do need our support throughout the year. It would be really great if we could continue to donate something each week. The box for regular donations is at the back of church.

Below is Bournemouth Food Bank's vision.

Bournemouth Foodbank's vision is to see a fairer, hunger-free society where everyone has enough money to put food on their plate and a network of community support. We are looking to address the underlying causes of the crisis, to challenge injustice and to bring communities across BCP together through compassionate and practical help. We are committed to empowering individuals and families by addressing the root causes of poverty and working collaboratively with local partners to build a more equitable society. Through our dedicated efforts, we aim to uplift our community and ensure that no one is left behind.

## Services at All Saints' over Christmas



What a wonderful Christmas we have had at All Saints. A big 'thank you' to Ian Carter and our Choir for all the wonderful music they have given us over this period, especially at our Lessons and Carols and the Carols by Candlelight Service. These were beautiful services when our Church was full of friends and visitors from around the area. Also, thank you Ellen for the wonderful cello playing especially during our Reflection time ..... you are a real star and your beautiful playing has been commented on by many.



We finished with our Crib Service on Christmas Eve when the children had fun finding the figures for our Nativity Scene (even Wallace from Wallace & Gromit joined them!), a story read by Mike about The Grumpy Owl and lots of modern tunes that our children could join in with.

It has been a truly magical Christmas at All Saints in 2025!



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

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Vicar: Rev Canon Mike Powis



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