ALL SAINTS
HAMPRESTON

BEACON
ST MARY'S FERNDOWN

Winter 2026



Dear Church Member,

As always, there are so many good things going on, spread over the two sites in Ferndown and Hampreston.

Thank you to everyone who gives to the church – whether it's through your time, money, energy, words or prayers – it is all of the individual contributions that make these places what they are.

Please take the time to read and absorb the things included – for information and encouragement, and also inspiration and your prayers. It includes information from a few different members of the team. And is not trying to share everything that is going on (which would make it far too long) but some of the key points.

Further into the next year, we will be partnering with **Light-Up Dorset** for an exciting mission to the whole of Dorset. More information on that will come out nearer the time but you may want to check out their website now ***www.lightupdorset.com*** and download their prayer app ***www.lightupdorset.com/prayer-for-dorset***.

In the lead-up to Christmas, and beyond, there are a number of areas which rely on teams to run smoothly and safely. So please do **think about how you might want to get involved and bless others**. At the end of this newsletter is a weblink with a couple of different forms to let us know any areas you might offer your help (or alternatively you can contact either church office).

Finally, I hope that this Advent, Christmas, and Winter you may know Gods richest blessings.

Every blessing
Dom
Rector

OVERFLOW

HARVEST GIFT DAY

We are humbled and encouraged, in equal measure, that our recent gift day raised around **£77,000** (including gift aid) across both sites. Worshipping God with our finances, as well as our time, energy, and words is all part of the call to seek to put Jesus as first and all in our lives.

As always, the first ten percent will be given away to external mission – supporting projects locally, nationally, and oversees. And a portion will be made available for the care fund – which is available to give immediate pastoral support as the need arises.

Beyond that, the PCC will consider how to allocate the rest. Some of the money is likely to be used for capital improvements in the Beacon site – such as improvements to the toilets, and outside signage.

A huge thank you to all of your who have contributed to this amount, and to everyone who gives regulalry through the year. As well as it being an act of worship - it is only through your giving that we are able to pay the team, heat the sites, and run all the ministries that we do.

Buildings, Faculty & Facilities

We are in the initial stages of consultation with the diocese about developments to the All Saints Church site. An initial faculty application has been submitted, outlining the context and the need for an internal toilet, servery for hot drinks, desire for improved, heating and lighting, and so on.

Later this month, a team from the diocese will be meeting with clergy and church wardens to develop the conversation. Due to the building being Grade II* listed, this will inevitably be a slower process, but we will keep you updated as the project progresses.

At the Beacon site, plans for improved signage will be considered by an upcoming PCC meeting, and we also recognised that it may be time for work on improving the toilets as well.



Governance Matters

Thank you to all of you who gathered for the recent unification Q&A sessions. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Work on merging the two parishes into one single entity is moving ahead smoothly. Most of what will happen will stay in the background, and not have any immediate impact on services, and ministry; but instead, will improve our systems of compliance and governance that we rely on.

Perhaps the most important impact is a spiritual one. This is us saying that we are serious about working together across two sites of worship, sharing resources and joining as one people, for God's one kingdom.

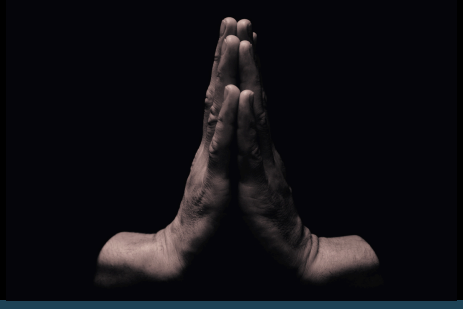
The diocese has approved our preferred approach, which from our perspective will allow the most straightforward way of merging the two parishes into one; and a proposal has been sent centrally to the Church Commissioners for their consideration.

We expect that the formal merge will happen at some point in Spring 2027.

Thank you also to those of you have offered feedback about the new PA system in St Mary's building.

The system is a definite upgrade, significantly improving the quality and options for the quality of sound from the band and for music tracks being played. When it comes to spoken word, we are aware that there is still some work to do to improve clarity. This is an ongoing project, and over time we expect to see this continue to improve.

Prayer



It has been a real joy to launch our trial of the Deeper service at All Saints. This is part of a sense of call to be a people of prayer and blessing, who are seeking to host the presence of God, in a building which has been a place of worship and prayer for around 800 years.

Linked to this, we plan to soon be opening All Saints building more often for prayer

- **Saturday 5th December 11am til 1pm:** On the first Saturday o each month, from 11am til 1pm,, the church will be open for prayer for anyone - whether its those who tend the graves or use the local public rights of way to pause and pray in the building, and for liturgical prayer time, or a chance for you to go and pary in a holy place.

- **Wednesday 2nd December at 10am:** This will be the first of a short and simple time of prayer, using some beautful liturgy and seeking Gods favour and blessing on our local community.

Looking ahead to next spring, there is a sense of wanting to be even more intentional about prayer. Final plans are yet to be decided (as you can image, much attention is now on our preparation for Advent and Christmas), but one likely option might be that this is a time for us to gather all the connect groups, home groups, and in fact the whole church community for times of worship and prayer lent. Watch this space for more information.

Continuing every first Sunday of the month

Deeper @ ALL SAINTS

HAMPRESTON CHURCH

Alpha

Next year we hope to run three different Alpha courses: Two in the Spring, including an Alpha course for adults of any age, and Alpha course for Youth. And a further Alpha in the Autumn.

This coming Advent, we will have contact with many hundreds of people across Ferndown, who may not have a faith in Jesus of their own. The gospel will be spoken and demonstrated, but what then ….?

Each new guest that comes to an Alpha course could be the next person to experience the love of Jesus and enter his kingdom for eternity. Each one, a new life transformed. Offering a free, hot meal is a key part of the hospitality and is an essential part of creating the right environment for the conversations to take place.

We are delighted that Dee Fairfield and Eddie Tong have kindly offered to oversee the catering for the adult courses. They will plan the menu's, source the ingredients, and oversee the cooking. They will need some help with chopping, serving, or washing up - could that be you?

We will be able to cater for up to 40 adults each week. To allow this to happen we will need 5 volunteers each week, for only an hour and half each week: One person as a kitchen hand, two people to help set-up and serve, and two people to help tidy away.

Please would each of you consider whether you could help serve in this way. Your involvement could make all the difference.

Everyday Evangelism

An opportunity for anyone who wants to deepen their own personal evangelism

You're invited to an informal conversation and Q&A with Andy Bannister (of Solas) the evening of Thursday 3rd December at the Beacon.

Andy and Dom will kick things off with an informal conversation around personal and church-led evangelism, before opening things up for discussion in small groups and open Q&A with Andy.

Andy will also share some details about an opportunity for 8 members of St Mary's to pilot an evangelism mentoring programme currently being developed by Solas, provisionally titled the Everyday Evangelism Programme. The pilot group will meet monthly January-June 2027, for six online 1.5hr sessions led by Andy.

Find out more about the work of Solas here www.solas-cpc.org

Persuasively communicating Christ into today's culture

Resources, training and inspiration for sharing the good news of Jesus practically and persuasively.





Gathered Worship with the whole church

What is the role of whole church in all-age worship services?

I wonder what comes to mind when you hear the term ‘all age worship’? What feelings are induced and what memories are evoked? Perhaps you have a funny/horror story to tell!

We all have varied experiences of all age worship – we’ve all probably experienced it done really well… and equally badly! So why is all age worship important and why should we value it?

Firstly, it’s biblical and it’s part of God’s design for worship. In 2 Chronicles 20 we get an insight into what it means to be The Big Family of God. King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah are facing imminent onslaught from three enemy armies surrounding them.

Do take a moment to read that account to get the full picture for yourself. This passage is often cited as great example of the power of musical worship to transform earthly situations and shift our perspectives on to God. But it’s easy to miss something hugely significant – the presence of children. Verse 13 says, ‘All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.’

The big prayer gathering where the king and the people sought the Lord's help was a moment when all ages were together. You can imagine the melee of everyone together as the king prayer – babies crying to be fed, children fidgeting. But it's in that atmosphere of the united big family of God that the Holy Spirit moves and is at work filling Jahaziel to speak and lead the moment.

All the generations will have seen and experienced first-hand the dynamic interaction between heaven and earth, the Lord and the people. It's not something that happened to the adults and then was told to the kids when they were picked up from their groups. The children were right at the heart of the action, right in the middle of the moment. They saw the king bow with his face to the ground in humble submission to God, saw their parents and others do the same and followed suit. They watched as the Levites – the worship band – go out at the front of the army with harps, lyres and trumpets played in celebration. They would never forget seeing God at work.

Throughout the Old Testament, children would be present at special assemblies of God's people for significant moments as well as the standard feast events. There were no children's groups when the Red Sea parted. And we can't ignore the way Jesus elevates children in his ministry and teaching. Children are central to teaching about the Kingdom and its values.

We love gathering for our monthly Beacon all age worship services. They are special times when we get to be together as The Big Family of God. We get to learn from each other, build each other up. Children get to see worship and prayer modelled by the adults. The adults get to see first-hand the child-like faith that Jesus calls us to have.

For some, all age worship might be sacrificial. It's not the flavour they would choose for their worship. But worship was never meant to be 'for us'. And so they choose to put God first and bless and honour others in the room – a true act of worship.

So as the balloons fly over their head in one of Miriam's games might you be one of those who are interceding for the younger generation? As children race down the aisles will it be your prayers going up - that they would grow up to be people who fix their eyes on Jesus and run with perseverance the race marked out before them, taking the gospel to the ends of the earth? As we sing more 'child-friendly' worship songs, might it be you worshipping God with all of your might - setting the atmosphere to bless the younger members of the church - and discovering a deep blessing for yourself in the midst of it?

Our all-age worship is a 'work in progress'. We're all on a journey, figuring out what works and what doesn't. We'll make lots of mistakes – and have lots of fun along the way! And there is power and blessing when God's people are united.

HOLIDAY CLUB 2027

BEACON Kids

Save the dates: Tuesday 3rd - Sunday 8th August 2027

Beacon Cafe

Our church café continues to grow as a place of genuine welcome and joy in Ferndown. New volunteers have joined the team, and local students have gained work experience over the summer months. There is a real sense of community among those who give their time and skills.



Alongside coffee and conversation, pastoral chats and local community groups regularly take place in the space.

We are always looking out for new team members. If you'd like to be part of serving others, building friendships and providing hospitality, we would love you to join the team.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

As well as Christmas being an important time for us to celebrate and remember the amazing truth of Jesus coming to earth to be with us, it is of course, a wonderful opportunity to tell the truth of his love for us to those who don't yet know him. We love to welcome church family and guests along to our Christmas Services happening throughout December at both Beacon, St Mary's and All Saints, Hampreston.

We need helpers to ensure these services run smoothly, so if you are able, we'd really appreciate your help with services and also offering a Christmas Day meal to those who would otherwise be on their own.

If you'd like to offer to help with any of the mintries mentioned in this newsletter then please get in touch and sign up: either using the forms on this website or by contacting the church office
www.stmarys-ferndown.org.uk/getinvolved