



THREE CROWNS NEWS

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SPRING 2025 • STORIES FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF BRISTOL



Celebrating New Beginnings: Our First Young Preacher!

We are delighted to celebrate a joyful moment in the life of our diocese as Joanna becomes the first Young Preacher to be commissioned. Bishop Neil Warwick, Bishop of Swindon, officially granted her permission to preach, describing her as a life-giving presence in worship and a real inspiration to others. Joanna's journey has been supported every step of the way by her local church family, who have helped her grow in confidence and faith. Stephanie Hayton, Adviser for Lay Ministry, spoke of Joanna's deep calling to make a difference in the world. We give thanks and pray for all that lies ahead! To learn more about the Young Preacher programme, please contact: stephanie.hayton@bristoldioocese.org

St Barnabas Shines with Silver Eco Church Award



Congratulations to St Barnabas, Warmley for achieving the Silver Eco Church Award! Their Eco Team and PCC have been hard at work, with plans to install LED lighting and explore greener heating options. Now a registered Fair Trade Church, they also bulk-buy ethical cleaning products. Community links are thriving through clothes swaps, nature projects with Avon Wildlife Trust, and partnerships with local groups and schools. Worship is going greener too, with outdoor services and support for Tearfund's climate justice work. Could your church be next? Take the Eco Church survey: ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Joyful Transformations at St Mary's, Bitton



St Mary's Church in Bitton, just north of the River Avon, has been joyfully renewed! Thanks to generous support, two inspiring projects have enhanced this beautiful Saxon building. First, historic pews were expertly adapted to be movable, offering greater flexibility for worship, concerts, and community events. Then, a careful restoration of the interior stonework began, using gentle, innovative cleaning methods also used at Notre Dame. The result? Brighter, more welcoming walls that celebrate the church's ancient character. These works honour St Mary's past while opening exciting possibilities for its future. A shining example of heritage and hope, hand in hand.

Do you have a story to share? Contact: comms@bristoldioocese.org