CHILDREN AND FAMILIES @DORCHESTER ABBEY NOVEMBER 2026

Dear Families,

What a lovely October we have had at the Abbey! Throughout the month, we have enjoyed focusing on Harvest, taking time to celebrate God' s wonderful creation and to think about all the things we have to be thankful for. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Festival and so generously donated food for the local foodbank. Your kindness will make a real difference to people in our community.

We also had a wonderful time at our Festival of Lights and it was fantastic to see so many children and families joining us. We hope you enjoyed exploring some of the many things the Abbey has to offer children and families, and perhaps discovered something new to come along to!
A very special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to make the Festival of Lights such a special day. We simply couldn' t do these things without you!

As we look ahead to November, we' ll be thinking about the changing seasons and noticing the beauty of God' s creation as autumn moves towards winter. We will also take time to mark Remembrance, giving thanks for those who have served and remembering the importance of peace. And, of course, there is already a little Christmas excitement in the air! Our Nativity rehearsals will soon be underway, bringing lots of excitement and anticipation as we begin the countdown to Christmas and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

Upcoming Events

Forest Church

Forest Church is this Sunday (1st) at 3pm in the Cloister Gardens. This month we will be exploring the changing of the seasons by observing what is changing around us. We will also be stoking up the fire for marshmallows!

Family Service

Come and join us on Sunday 15th November at 10:30am. Please note it is a week later due to Remembrance Sunday. We will be thinking about the story of Noah and the Rainbow. Come along for crafts and fun.

Abbey Tots

We will be continuing with the theme of Changing seasons in Abbey tots this month, starting with the story of Jesus calming the story. Please join us at 9:30am on a Wednesday.

Junior Choir

Don' t forget Junior Choir is on a Friday at 6pm. For further information please visit https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/junior-choir/

Monthly Prayer

Loving God,
Thank you for the beauty of the changing seasons,
for colourful leaves, crisp autumn days
and the wonders of your creation.
As we remember those who served and sacrificed for others,
help us to be thankful, kind and caring.
We pray for peace in our world,
and ask you to help us be peacemakers too.
Amen.

Contact

If you have any questions about Children and Families Ministery at Dorchester Abbey, then please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Gladwin at families@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Spotlight on the Family Service

Our Family Service is a relaxed and informal way for children and their families to enjoy worship together. Held at the back of the Abbey in a welcoming café-style setting, there is no need to worry about sitting still or knowing exactly what to do. The service is always less than an hour and includes crafts and activities, plenty of audience participation and refreshments to enjoy together.

Children are very much part of the service rather than simply watching from the sidelines. There are opportunities for them to join in, answer and ask questions and explore the Christian faith in a way that feels accessible and fun. It is a friendly space where questions are encouraged, participation is welcomed and families can learn and worship together in a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a regular churchgoer or coming along for the very first time.

Remembrance @ Home

Make a poppy window

Cut poppies from red paper or colour in paper poppies and place them in a window. Children could write the word "Peace" in the centre of each one.

Create a peace wreath

Make a simple wreath from a paper plate or circle of card. Add paper poppies, leaves or handprints. On each one, write or draw something you hope for in the world, such as kindness, friendship, safety, love or peace.

Go on a peace walk

Take a family walk and look for things that make you feel peaceful. You might notice birdsong, autumn leaves, water, clouds or trees. Each time you spot something, quietly say, "Thank you, God."