



WELCOME TO ST. PHILIP'S

For over 70 years, St. Philip's has been at the heart of the West Howe community, a place of worship, welcome, and community life, often described as a light on the hill both spiritually and, since the 1990s, physically, with the illuminated cross on top of the building. From the very beginning, children and families have been central to Church life, and our heart for younger generations is as strong now as it was then.

Over the years, we've run a wide range of creative and welcoming activities, including parent and toddler groups, holiday and after school clubs, youth and cooking clubs. Church has got messy with Messy Church, we've got creative with our Kingdom Kids and our families have had fun with Family Funtime. These have created spaces where children and families can build friendships, have fun, and explore faith together.

Community is in our DNA, we've hosted everything from small groups and prayer gatherings to sewing and craft groups, men's and women's ministries, and fitness classes. Generations of local people have found friendship, support, and faith here and and we are committed to growing as a more tergenerational church, where all ages can flourish together.

Today, we continue to be a welcoming, down-to-earth church with a heart for Jesus and a passion for people, our church motto is **'sharing the love of Jesus'** and that's the foundation of all that we do. We meet in weekly small groups, gather regularly to pray, and create spaces spaces, like men's and women's breakfasts, where people can can connect and belong. Above all, we want everyone who walks through our doors to encounter Jesus and feel at home. We're committed to being a church where all ages belong and can flourish together, and we're entering an exciting new season where we can explore how to make that a reality.





ABOUT WEST HOWE

West Howe is a large housing estate on the edge of Bournemouth, home to around 7,500 people. It's a place with a strong sense of community, where relationships matter and many families have deep roots.



The area does face real challenges. Levels of income, education, and employment are lower than average, and many households experience some form of deprivation. National data places West Howe within the 10% most deprived areas, highlighting the significant challenges many local families face, often navigating pressures around finances, health, housing, and opportunities for their children. But that's only part of the story. West Howe is also full of resilience, warmth, community spirit. People look out for one another and there's a strong sense of belonging.

The estate has a library, local authority Families hub, small parade of local shops, and two community hubs the Howe Croft Community Centre, and the Henry Brown Centre which hosts a variety of groups, activities, and support for families across the estate, through West Howe Community Enterprises, which also runs a community shop. West Howe is also home to several schools that serve local children from early years through to secondary age. Heathlands Primary Academy and Elm Academy both support pupils from Early Years to Key Stage 2, while Oak Academy provides education for young people from Key Stages 3 through to 5. The estate is also home to the Springwood Campus of Linwood for School, offering specialist provision for children with a range of additional needs.

