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Parish news from Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

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OF ENGLAND

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# NEW ARCHDEACON FOR ISLE OF WIGHT

**THE Rev Dr Trevor Reader  
has been appointed as  
the new Archdeacon of  
the Isle of Wight.**

He will succeed the Ven Mervyn Banting, who will be retiring this summer.

Dr Reader, 56, will become the most senior Anglican clergyman on the island from September, responsible for supporting clergy and congregations in the 50 Church of England parishes on the Isle of Wight.

Bishop Kenneth will also recommend him as the new chairman of the diocese's Board of Education, which advises and supports 49 Church of England schools, youth and children's work in parishes and adult education around the Portsmouth diocese.

Dr Reader will move from his current post as priest-in-charge of three parishes on the mainland and director of non-stipendiary ministry across the Diocese of Portsmouth.

He was born in Wales, but originally came to Portsmouth to study at the polytechnic. After securing a zoology degree and a PhD in parasitic diseases, he continued as a lecturer and research worker there for 14 years.

He started training for ordination in 1986, and worked as a curate at St Mary's, Alverstoke, in Gosport, for two-and-a-half years and as vicar of St Mary's, Hook-with-Warsash for nine years.

In 1998, he took up his current dual post as priest-in-charge of Blendworth, Chalton, and Idsworth, and diocesan director of non-stipendiary ministry. He is married to Lesley, who teaches at Hook-with-Warsash Primary School, and they have six daughters between the ages



*Dr Trevor Reader*

of 17 and 26.

Dr Reader said: "We're excited about the prospect of becoming islanders, making many new friends, and some good surfing.

"I'm keen to build on the achievements of the past, but I also look forward with great hope and confidence. These are challenging times for the Church but there are also immense opportunities."

He will be licensed as Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight by Bishop Kenneth during a service in St Thomas's Church, Newport, at 4pm on Saturday 27 September. On the following day, he will be formally collated at Portsmouth's Anglican Cathedral at 6pm.

Mervyn Banting will retire in July after seven years as archdeacon. There will be a farewell Evensong for him on July 9 at the cathedral and a leaving service at St Thomas's Church, Newport, on July 13.

He was formerly vicar at St Cuthbert's Church, Copnor, and served as a curate in Leigh Park. He was also acting dean of the cathedral for several months during 2002.



*The photo of worshippers at St John's Church, Locks Heath, which was sent to the Gulf*

## Hi! We're praying for you!

IT was a way of sending their love and prayers to those serving in the Gulf - using the latest technology.

Worshippers at St John's Church in Locks Heath e-mailed this virtual 'hello' to three members of the British military in the Gulf with whom they have links.

The first was Surgeon Lieutenant Rachael Ambrose, who is serving with the Royal Navy aboard HMS Chatham, lives in the parish and has been worshipping at the

church for around 12 months.

Then there was Captain Ollie Dodd, 29, who is serving as a doctor with the 3rd Parachute regiment in Basra. He is the son of Rita and Jim Dodd, long-time members of the congregation - Rita is also a choir member.

And the photo was also sent to Senior Aircraft Man Carlos Maline, 25, who was stationed with the RAF at Ali Al Salem in Kuwait, but has now returned. He is engaged to Emmeline Dugmore, 21, the

daughter of Suzanne and Barry Dugmore - Barry is the curate at St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain. They will be married at St John's in August.

Each received their own personalised photograph, in which clergy held a banner bearing their name.

Administrator Julie Pritchard said: "It was the vicar's idea to send them all a virtual hello while they were serving in the Gulf. It's such a good photo that we've also put it up outside the church."