

A-Z of THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Confused by the jargon used in the Church? Want to know what some of the words your vicar uses actually mean? This month sees the start of our new Pompey Chimes feature that aims to take the mystery out of church life.

A is for...

ABSOLUTION: The bit in church after you confess that you've done wrong when the priest tells you that you're forgiven. Officially, you're only forgiven if you're "qualified by penitence". Sackcloth and ashes are not usually compulsory.

ACOLYTE: Walks in front of the priest in a procession carrying a candle. Unless it's an evening service, when he's called a "Nite-lyte". After the service, he or she may "De-lyte".

ADVENT: The month of December before Christmas. Originally from the Latin "adventus" meaning "coming". Confusingly we anticipate both Jesus' first and second coming at this time. Also a month to contemplate Christmas shopping which traditionally happens frantically in the last few hours of Advent on Christmas Eve.

AISLE: The space between the pews. People sit near it if they want to make a quick getaway after (or during) the service.

AMEN: A Hebrew word meaning "Verily". Traditionally you say it to indicate you agree with the prayer just prayed. The super-spiritual can say it very melodramatically, nod their heads and grimace meaningfully to show they really, really agree with it.

ANGLO-CATHOLIC: A wing of the Church of England that emphasises the sacramental aspects of the Christian faith. Often known as the "smells'n'bells" tendency because they tinkle bells at vital parts of the service and waft clouds of incense around the building. Some are more catholic than Roman Catholics, proving that the Church of England embraces a huge variety of styles.

ANGLICAN: Another word for Church of England. Can be used disparagingly, as in "another typical Anglican fudge over a crucial issue". Can be used non-disparagingly, as in...erm...oh, all right then, it's just a term of abuse.

ANTHEM: Scriptural words set to sacred vocal music. Usually sung by the choir, or recited by the congregation (not at the same time). Can be repeated indefinitely if the vicar can't think of what comes next in the service.

ARCHDEACONS: The three workhorses of the diocese, second in command to the bishop. Each of our three is responsible for a particular area of our diocese (Portsdown, the Meon or the Isle of Wight). Often to be seen dashing from one meeting to another, dispensing theological wisdom (Portsdown), Bible verses (the Meon) or ferry times (the Isle of Wight).

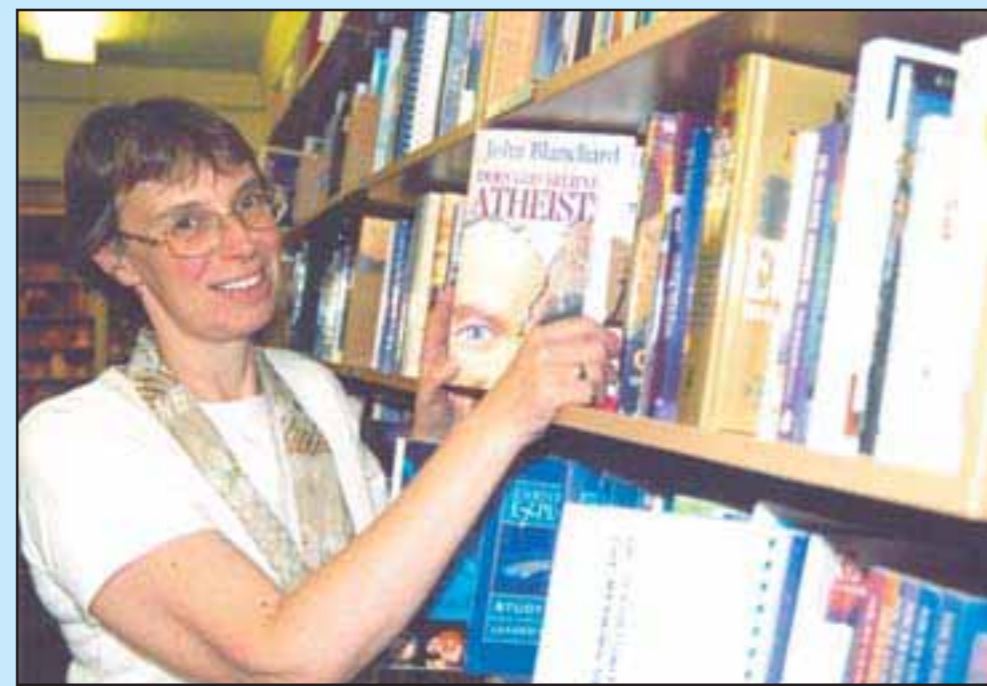
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: The head honcho. The main man. The boss. Oh, except for God. The current one is generally thought to be fantastically clever, but also humble and deeply spiritual - a remarkable combination.

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL: Institution set up by the last Archbishop of Canterbury to make the Church run more efficiently. In 2003, it will spend £20m.

ARMAGEDDON: What happens when Isle of Wight parishioners misjudge their ferry times and end up stuck on the mainland. Or the end of the world as we know it (delete as applicable).

• More A-Z next month.

Where to find books full of spiritual wisdom



Manager Sue Young in Castlebooks, Newport

Launch was prompted by a double vision

IT was the coming together of two parallel visions that prompted the opening of Castlebooks in Newport in 1976.

Because there was no Christian bookshop on the Isle of Wight, several people set up bookstalls using supplies from the mainland.

They prospered, prompting Christine Le Masurier to set up a Christian bookstall on Newport market in 1968.

But after eight years there was too much stock for the back of an estate car.

Meanwhile, God had prompted two successive ministers at Castlehold Baptist Church to work towards buying a shop on the High Street.

They offered to buy the two shops next to the church, mortgaging the manse to raise the money. Their offer was topped by a bookmaker, who later withdrew.

It meant the church leaders could ring Christine and offer her premises for a Christian bookshop.

It opened in 1976 under an inter-denomina-

tional committee, and quickly moved from voluntary to paid staff.

It expanded into the second shop and a second storey in 1987, and now stocks a wide range of Bibles, Christian books, Sunday School resources, cards, gifts, CDs, cassettes and videos.

It also supplies many church bookstalls on the island, and can supply items by mail order.

• **Castlebooks, 82-83 High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1BH (01983-525885). Open: Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm**

EVER found yourself desperate to buy the latest Christian book or resource, but unsure where to find it?

Or do you just enjoy a good browse through books and gifts with a spiritual flavour - most of which you would never find in a secular store? In that case, you'll need our special *Pompey Chimes* guide to Christian bookshops in our diocese.

Many were set up by local Christians of all denominations working together. Most are able to operate only because local volunteers man them. Some also offer refreshments, or the chance to pray about specific issues. But all of them promise a warm welcome and shelves heaving with a wealth of spiritual knowledge and insight.

Gosport's only Christian bookshop, **Cornerstone Books**, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. It originally opened elsewhere in Gosport, but now occupies a prime site just off the High Street.

Its trustees are all from the Logos Church, but the eight volunteers come from churches of all denominations. It stocks books, magazines, gifts, CDs, videos, DVDs, cassettes and cards.

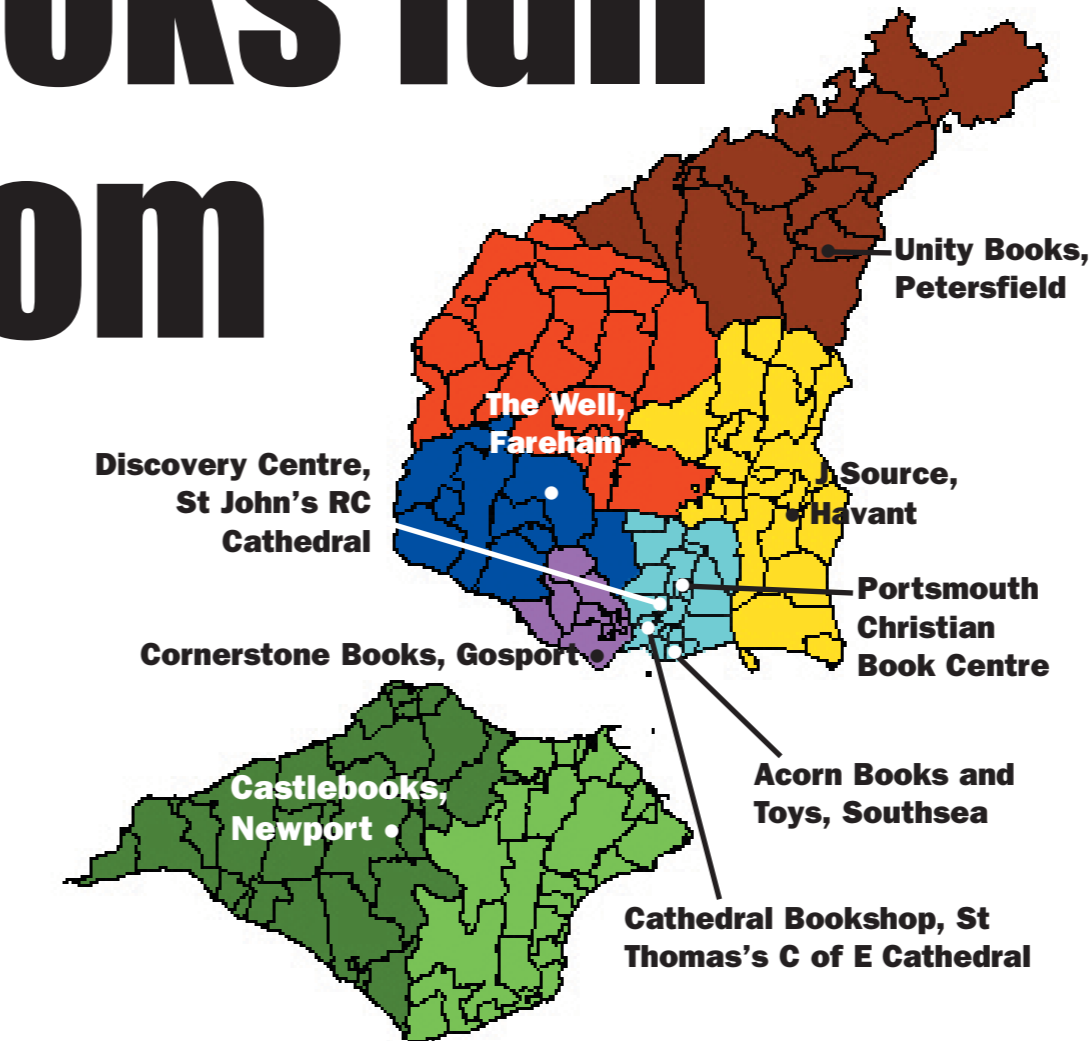
Manager Sylvia Atkinson said: "It is a warm, friendly shop, and we will always pray for customers if they would like us to. We have a wide selection. But if we haven't got it, we will do our best to get it for people."

• **Cornerstone Books, 9 Bemisters Lane, Gosport (023-9258 3824). Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 10am-4pm; Wed: 10am-1pm; Sat: 9am-5pm.**

The Well in Fareham was launched as a result of a 1997 ecumenical Lent course *Called To Be One*. It began with the raising of £200,000, and involved crossing many business hurdles, but finally opened in early 2000.

Involvement in **The Well** meant links between churches of all denominations in Fareham grew stronger. Its trustees are representatives from each church and meet regularly. They support a six-strong management team. And more than 80 volunteers help in both the coffee shop and bookshop.

It stocks books, videos, CDs, gifts and craft, as well as selling fresh coffee and Fairtrade goods. Among the volunteers are young people, those with disabilities and the disadvantaged, enabling them to move into full-time employment elsewhere.



• **The Well, 116-118 West Street, Fareham O1329 318731. Open: Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm. See also: www.thefarehamwell.co.uk**

The J Source in Havant's Meridian Centre is another recently-opened bookshop. Launched originally as a Fairtrade shop by Portsdown Community Church six years ago, it was then reborn as a shop selling second-hand baby clothes.

The church was then given a tiny handful of Christian books by Cornerstone Bookshop to sell and allowed to keep 10 per cent of each sale as commission. The current stock of books, cards and literature has come from that original commission plus a one-off £400 donation.

Former manager Lois Pendlebury said: "It's a miracle really that we went from 20-odd books scattered around the shop three-and-a-half years ago to what we have now."

Its voluntary staff talk and pray with customers with spiritual problems, offer jobs to youngsters who would otherwise find employment difficult, and last Christmas put on a Nativity play in the Meridian Centre.

• **J Source, 69-73 Meridian Centre, Havant. (023-9249 8998). Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat: 10am-4pm; Wed: 10am-1pm.**

Portsmouth Cathedral Bookshop was started by Canon Stephen Platten, now Bishop of Wakefield, in 1982. It has expanded greatly and

now stocks everything from postcards to jewellery, from tea towels to CDs. The books include those for adults and children, and there is a separate book room. They also accept book tokens.

It is the exclusive stockist for CDs of the cathedral choir or the cathedral organ. One of the first items the shop ever stocked - a tape of Advent and Christmas music - is now on sale as a CD after repeated requests. Plans are also in hand to reproduce a tape issued for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings - *Portsmouth Remembers* - as a CD for the 60th anniversary. The shop is staffed seven days a week by 36 loyal volunteers.

• **Portsmouth Cathedral Bookshop, St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth (023-9236 7747). Open: 10am-4pm daily.**

The Roman Catholic cathedral boasts **The Discovery Centre**, which includes a cafe, meeting centre and conference facilities as well as selling Christian books and gifts and cathedral souvenirs.

It started in the 1970s in Southampton, moved to Park Place Pastoral Centre near Wickham, and then came to the cathedral in 2000. The vision is for the centre to be ecumenical and open to the community, while retaining a core of books and resources with a more Catholic feel.

• **Cathedral Discovery Centre, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth (023-9287 0348). Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm; Sat-Sun: 9.30am-1pm. See also: www.cathedralsdiscovery.com.**

And **Acorn Book and Toy Shop** in Southsea is unusual in offering both a range of Christian books, Bibles and cards and traditional toys such as dolls, Lego bricks, puzzles and teddies.

It started more than 15 years ago, taking over from Foster's in Southsea. Until recently, it also ran a coffee shop downstairs, but that area now houses its supply of clerical shirts.

• **Acorn Book and Toy Shop, 109 Palmerston Road, Southsea (023-9282 3925) Open: Tues-Fri: 10am-5pm; Sat: 10am-4.30pm; Mon: closed.**

Shop on the move?

THE oldest surviving Christian book shop in our diocese may be about to move - and not for the first time.

Portsmouth Christian Book Centre started in a cupboard in the front room of founder Iris Morgan's parents. It was first registered in 1950 and had premises in Arundel Street and then Lake Road before moving to its present location in New Road, Fratton, in the mid-1980s. Now owner Terry Cawte is thinking of either selling the shop or re-locating to the Copnor or Hilslea area within the next three years.

"We get a lot of people coming from outside Portsmouth, so it might make more sense to be nearer the M27. At the moment we're praying about it."



Portsmouth Christian Book Centre

As well as the usual books, gifts and Bibles, the shop has a separate room devoted to a wide range of CDs, cassettes and music books as well as resources for work with children and young people. It is an official Alpha resource stockist.

And it runs a unique scheme that allows churches to present £100 or more of books to a school of their choice. The church raises the

money, the school selects the books it wants and presentations are then arranged. Around £5,000-worth of books has been given away through this scheme in 13 years.

• **Portsmouth Christian Book Centre, New Road, Fratton (023-9266 4647. Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9.30am-5pm; Wed: closed. See also: www.pmouth.fsnet.co.uk**

Earl Mountbatten Hospice

Halberry Lane
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 2ER
Tel: (01983) 529511
Email: chiefexec@wvhospice.demon.co.uk
Reg Charity No: 1039086



The Rowans Hospice

(formerly Portsmouth Area Hospice)
Purbrook Heath Road
Waterlooville, Hants PO7 5RU
Tel: (023) 9225 0001
Web-site: www.rowanshospice.co.uk
Reg Charity No: 299731



Between us, our two hospices provide specialist palliative care for some 800 adults with life-limiting illness throughout the Diocese every year. We also help to care for their families and friends.

Both hospices are heavily dependent upon voluntary giving in order to provide their services entirely free of charge. Our combined expenditure this year will be over £4 million. The largest single source of fundraising income for each of us is from legacies.

Please would you remember us in your Will?

Further advice on making a bequest to your local hospice is available from the Legacies Officer at either of the above addresses, or you can ask your solicitor to help you.



The hanging baskets brighten up Unity Bookshop in Petersfield

It's the prettiest shop in town

UNITY Bookshop in Petersfield draws many admiring glances - not just because of the quality of its books, but because of its pretty shop front.

The shop won the gold award for best retail frontage in the Petersfield in Bloom competition. It's hardly surprising when you see it festooned with hanging baskets

in an attractive walkway off the High Street.

Like many such shops, it was started by a group of Christians from all denominations who felt God was calling them to do so.

It is managed on a part-time basis by Carolyn Baker, supported by a team of 15 dedicated volunteers from different churches. The staff

meet regularly to pray together, and aim to maintain a prayerful atmosphere in the shops - so much so that customers comment on its peacefulness.

It stocks books, cards, Bibles, gifts, magazines and jewellery, and has recently extended its premises. A whole room is now devoted to books and resources for

children and young people, which teachers and children's workers appreciate.

It is also becoming an information centre - you can register there for summer holiday clubs and buy tickets for local Christian events.

• **Unity Bookshop, 15 Folly Lane, Petersfield (01730-262572). Open: Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm; Sat: 9am-4pm.**