

Parish marks 125 years of worship

CHRISTIANS will mark 125 years of faithful worship at All Saints', Denmead, with a bumper weekend of events.

A flower festival, mini-market and concert over the weekend of June 10-12 are just part of a series of activities during 2005 to celebrate the milestone.

The flower festival, entitled 'Winds of Change', will depict 125 years of Hampshire highlights with a feast of floral displays. The church will be open from 10am-6pm on both Friday and Saturday and from 12noon-5pm on Sunday. Refreshments will be available throughout.

Also on Saturday, there will be a mini-market of high-quality stalls selling home-baked goods, preserves, plants and books outside the church. And there'll also be lots of activities and games for children.

Then on the Saturday night, the Renaissance Choir and Kaleidoscope will join forces for a special concert. The Emsworth-based choir gave the first British performance of two works by the great Spanish master Rodrigo in his presence. And the piano and violin duo Kaleidoscope are returning by popular demand.

Organiser Gill Barge said: "What a wonderful evening this



(left): All Saints' Denmead, around the year 1900, looking east, before the rood screen was built; (above): the inside of the church today, looking north to the 1996 extension

will be, surrounded by beautiful flowers and enjoying delicious refreshments outside in the summer air!"

Tickets for the concert cost £7, including wine and buffet, and are available from Anne Cobbett on 023-9224 1161.

All Saints' Church was originally built in what was Barn Green in 1880. The village had a population of 600 and a small chapel for those unable to get to the church in Hambleton. But it could only hold 120 people, and was so well attended that many villagers had to stay away because they couldn't get in!

A local farmer gave half an acre of land so the church could be built,

and the foundation stone was laid on June 1, 1880. Building happened so quickly that the church was consecrated in November that year. Its font, which dates from the 14th or 15th century, was presented to All Saints' by the parishioners of Hambleton.

The new parish was re-named Denmead, and the first vicar was a 29-year-old, the Rev Frederick Green, who stayed there for 50 years. Among other achievements, he helped provide shelter in Denmead for children from Dr Barnardo's Home in London.

Among the seven other vicars of Denmead was Canon John Herklots (1972-97), whose vision to extend

the original church building to serve the growing village population was completed in 1996.

His successor, the Rev Andrew Ashdown, oversaw the completion of the extended and renovated church hall last year, so it could be used by the whole community.

There will be an exhibition of All Saints' church history on November 19-20, as well as a supper and a service to mark 125 years since the church's consecration.

Before then, there will also be a family disco on July 2, a Harvest festival supper on September 17, an art exhibition on September 24-25, and a cello and piano recital on October 22.

Choirs to combine for war requiem

TWO choirs from Portsmouth and two from Southampton will join forces to perform Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* to mark 60 years since the end of the Second World War.

The Portsmouth Festival Choir and Portsmouth Youth Choir, together with the Southampton Philharmonic Choir and Southampton University Phil will be accompanied by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

International soloists Victoria Savchuk (soprano), Justin Lavender (tenor) and Pavel Baransky (baritone) will also sing at the concert on June 26 at Portsmouth Guildhall.

The *War Requiem* is thought to be one of the greatest choral works of the 20th century and combines the words of the Latin Mass with poems by First World War poet Wilfred Owen.

David Gibson, musical director of Southampton Philharmonic Choir, who will be conducting the concert, said: "With 100 professional musicians in two separate orchestras, four choirs and two organs, this is certain to be an exhilarating sound and a truly memorable occasion - a fitting tribute to all those who fought on our behalf in the Second World War and a clear signal of our determination to promote peace and goodwill in the 21st century."

The concert is being presented in association with the Royal British Legion, who will make a collection for their work. It starts at the early time of 7pm.

Tickets, priced from £8 to £20 (concs available) are available on 023-9282 4355.

Rogationtide blessing on Butser Hill

MORE than 30 parishioners from East Meon and Langrish climbed Butser Hill for the annual blessing of the farms and fields in the two parishes.

The service has taken place annually for many years and is always held on the evening of Rogation. Butser Hill is within the parish of Langrish.

Two members of the farming community, Tom Luff and Frank Moffat, of East Meon, read the lessons, and the vicar, Canon Terry Loudon, prayed the traditional Rogationtide collects.

Bishop backs new chapel

BISHOP Kenneth has backed an appeal to raise £67,000 to build a new chapel at The Rowans Hospice.

The Purbrook hospice, which provides specialist care for patients and families affected by terminal illness, is now in its 10th anniversary year.

In that time, it has nearly doubled in size and now offers in-patient care to 19 people and day care for 16 patients a day.

Its existing chapel and chaplaincy service plays a vital role in hospice care, through listening, friendship, specific prayer, the chance to renew wedding vows, special blessings and weekly worship. The present chapel is unable to cope with this need, and chaplains often find themselves using a seminar room or day centre.

The perfect location for such a chapel already exists, as the roof, floor, and two of the walls are already in place. That means the project will be cost-effective. The chapel will be used

by patients, their families, visitors and staff of all faiths for worship and as a quiet area.

Bishop Kenneth, who is a patron to the hospice, said: "The chapel is an essential feature of the Rowans Hospice. It is part of our core service and aims to ensure personal consideration for religious and spiritual needs with privacy and dignity.

"It will provide a quiet haven in the centre of the hospice. Please support the Rowans Hospice if you can, and help to build our new chapel."

Loose change boxes are available for worshippers to use at home or in church to make donations. Ring the hospice on 023-9225 0001 for details.

Or you could make a direct contribution. Send your name, address, post-code and - if you are a taxpayer - an indication that you would like your donation to be gift-aided, to: The Rowans Hospice, Freepost (SCE 10614), Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 5BR.



Rowans Hospice chaplain Lance Blake illustrates where the proposed new chapel will be built