

Girls to join new cathedral choir

GIRLS are to be given a new opportunity to sing as part of our cathedral's daily music-making.

The historic decision opens the way for teenage girls to add their voices to choral worship both in Portsmouth Cathedral and in concerts around our diocese.

The 12 to 18-year-old girls will join a new choir – 'Cantate!', which will also include teenage boys. The new recruits are expected to start singing Evensongs on Thursdays from September.

The choir will be an addition to the Cathedral Choir that features the voices of 14 gentlemen and 24 boys aged from eight to 13 years old.

Girls and women already sing as part of the cathedral's St Thomas Parish Choir, which performs mainly for parish services.

Our cathedral's Master of Choristers David Price said: "There is a demand among teenage girls to sing in a cathedral choir, and we thought this exciting new venture will provide unique opportunities.

"The group will be directed by Andrew Cleary from Portsmouth Grammar School. The choir will be open to teenagers from other schools too across the city and the diocese."

Anyone interested in joining should contact Sophie Lederer in the cathedral's music office on 023-9234 9430, sophie.lederer@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk, or by writ-

ing to the cathedral music office, St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth PO1 2HH. More information is also available on www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/music.htm.

Choral scholars from our cathedral have also completed a new CD of classical and pop songs, entitled *Heavenly Harmonies*, to raise cash for charity.

It includes tracks as diverse as the Bee Gees' *How Deep Is Your Love*, the carol *Away In A Manger* and David Price's settings of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. It follows on from their much-publicised efforts to raise

funds for charity by stripping to the waist for 'Heavenly Hunks' calendars over the past three years.

A total of £15,000 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Roberts Centre by the cheeky poses. The CD aims to raise thousands of pounds more.

The CD is available via the website – www.heavenlyhunks.co.uk – at the cathedral shop or by contacting Macmillan Cancer Relief on either 023-9278 8700 or kprice@macmillan.org.uk



Above: the Heavenly Hunks on the cover of their new CD; below: Sarah Lock, 18, models the new look for girls singing in the 'Cantate' choir



Mentors can help refugees to integrate

COULD you act as a mentor for refugees who may need help integrating into our local community?

The Portsmouth Area Refugee Service, which is based in All Saints' Parish Centre in Commercial Road, is looking for volunteers.

They would offer you full training and then pair you with a refugee. You would spend at

least five hours a month with that person, offering guidance in areas such as education, employment and general integration.

The project, which is called 'Time Together', was pioneered in three UK cities in 2002. It was started in three more in 2004 and Portsmouth is among six further cities added to the initiative in 2005.

Portsmouth project co-ordinator Vicky Halliday said:

"The project also aims to improve the image of refugees in the media by helping to break down the perceived barriers between cultures.

"A vital part of the project is to encourage refugee mentees to volunteer within the community, which aids the integration process. The mentors would

also gain insight into another culture."

Mentors should be over 18, and ideally – though not necessarily – British citizens. They should be fluent in English and have an understanding of the culture, customs, job market and public services.

Anyone interested can contact Vicky on 023-9281 8725 or timetogether@pars.org.uk.

Children offered sports coaching

CHILDREN between the ages of six and 11 years old are being urged to sign up for a Christian sports week.

Qualified coaches will teach them how to play football, tag rugby, short tennis, hockey and netball during the sports and games week during the May half-term.

The event is being organised by the sports team from St Jude's Church, Southsea, and will take place in the grounds of St Jude's Primary School, St Nicholas Street, in Old Portsmouth.



Organiser Chris Cox (pictured above) said: "It's the opportunity of being coached in a variety of different sports and to enjoy playing team games in a relaxed and friendly environment. The emphasis is on having a good time - everyone is welcome, whatever their level. And Christian leaders can help you find out more about Jesus too."

The sessions will happen daily from May 30 to June 2, from 9am to 12.30pm. It costs £20 per child. To book a place, contact Chris Cox on 023-9275 1150 or c.t.cox@btinternet.com.

Pupils flock to church for workshops

HUNDREDS of children from six schools will take part in a schools day at St Mary's Church in Fratton.

The Year 5 children from all the primary schools in inner-city Portsmouth will meet for workshops on music, art, crafts and other activities on March 23.

The day has been made possible by funding from the city council, but was originally inspired by the cluster of inner-city churches working together as part of the pilot scheme for the bishop's Kairos process.

Professional schools worker and storyteller Lucy Moore will help to lead the day, which happens between 9.45am and 2.30pm.