

Thursday 2 March

NEWPORT, St Thomas's parish centre, Town Lane (7.30pm): Fairtrade open forum. Find out more about Fairtrade.

Friday 3 March

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.45am): Women's World Day of Prayer service. Theme: 'Signs of the Times'.

WICKHAM, Wickham church hall (12noon-1.30pm): Ecumenical Lent lunch. Churches Together in Bishop's Waltham. Includes soup, bread and cheese. Repeated each Wednesday lunchtime during Lent in a different church.

LEE-ON-SOLENT, St Faith's Church, Victoria Square (1.30pm); HAVANT, St Joseph's RC Church, West Street (2pm); HAMBLEDON, St Peter and St Paul's Church (2pm); and PORTSMOUTH, Copnor Methodist Church, Copnor Road (2.30pm): Women's World Day of Prayer services. Prepared by the Christian women of South Africa.

Saturday 4 March

LEE-ON-SOLENT, Methodist Church, High Street (10am-12noon): Women's World Day of Prayer coffee morning and bring and buy sale.

GREATHAM, Greatham Church Centre (10am-4pm): Lent quiet day. Led by the Rev Carolyn Headley. Includes bring-and-share lunch. Contact: 01730-829226.

FRESHWATER, Memorial Hall (10.30am-1.30pm): Lent brunches. Organised by Churches Together in West Wight. Morning coffee, tea, soup and light lunches. Proceeds to Christian Aid, Holiday Bible Club, Carisbrooke Priory and the Christian bus project. Also on March 11, 18 and 25, and April 1, 8 and 15.

Sunday 5 March

PORTSMOUTH, St Alban's Church, Copnor Road, Copnor (10.30am): Anniversary of the baptism of Charles Dickens. Includes short service at the font.

Friday 10 March

DENMEAD, All Saints' Church, Hambledon Road (7.30pm): Trumpet and organ recital. Featuring Paul Hart (trumpet) and Elizabeth Le Grove (organ). Tickets: £7 on 023-9224 1161 or 023-9226 6159.

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): Concert. Music in the Round - Sonnerie.

Saturday 11 March

WOOTTON, St Mark's church hall (10am-4pm): 18th century living day. Find out how people lived and try out common 18th century tasks. Adults: £2.50, children: £1. Refreshments available.

LIPHOOK, Liphook Church Centre, Portsmouth Road (10am-3pm): Working with children in small churches. CPAS training event for clergy, PCC members, and children's leaders. Contribution of £2.50 suggested. Contact: Carolyn Headley (01730-829226)

SOUTHSEA, Church of the Holy Spirit, Fawcett Road (7.30pm): Tranquility. Stress-busting music with the Renaissance Choir. Includes works from Tavener, Tallis and MacMillan. Tickets (£7/£5/£2) available on 023-9247 5259. See: www.renaissancechoir.org.uk for details.

Monday 13 March

SOUTHAMPTON, Chandler's Ford Methodist Church, Winchester Road, Eastleigh (10am-4pm): Living God's Covenant. Day for church leaders and resource personnel with reference to the Anglican-Methodist covenant. Cost: £12.50 including lunch. Contact: 0207-898 1479.

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (7.30pm-10pm): The Friendship Factor. Hear from Rob Parsons about how to make friends, why men find it difficult, and how to overcome friendship breakdown. Cost: £6. See: www.careforthefamily.org.uk/friends or

CATHEDRAL LENT LECTURES 2006

Lectures are given on Sunday evenings in Cathedral House at 7pm, following a shortened Evensong, on topics directly related to some of the complex issues facing Christians today. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers, and the event will finish by 8.30pm.

Sunday 5 March

PORTSMOUTH, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street (7pm): Sexuality and Unity: the threat to the Anglican Communion. By the dean of the cathedral, the Very Rev David Brindley (see also 'The Big Issue' on page 9).

Sunday 12 March

PORTSMOUTH, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street (7pm): Spirituality Out There. By our diocesan spirituality adviser, the Rev Dr Peter Lippiett.

Friday 17 March

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): Recital of instrumental music. By the cathedral choristers. Ticket: £3, from 023-9234 9430 or edmund.saddington@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

Saturday 18 March

PORTSMOUTH, St Nicholas's church hall, Battenburg Avenue (9am): Ladies' breakfast. Meet new friends, enjoy good food and hear an inspiring speaker.

SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany (10am-4pm): Quiet day.

Led by Sister Rita-Elizabeth. Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks and tea provided. Please let the Sisters know on 023-9283 3498 or ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk if you want to attend.

PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, George Street (11am): Spring fair.

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): Concert. Portsmouth Festival Choir.

Wednesday 22 March

NEWPORT, St Thomas' parish centre, Town Road (7.30pm): Training session for holiday club leaders. Led by Lucy Moore of the Bible Reading Fellowship and Neil Pugmire. Cost: £3 per person (£12 maximum per church). Contact: Eithne Nutt (01865-319704 or eithne.nutt@brf.org.uk).

Thursday 23 March

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (9.45am-2.30pm): Schools day. See page 3 for details.

Friday 24 March

PORTSMOUTH, Mountbatten Centre (7.30pm): Luv Esther. West End-style musical. Tickets (£9/£7) available on 023-9269 0011. See pages 6-7 for details.

Saturday 25 March -

Sunday 26 March PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (Saturday: 10am-4pm);

Sunday 19 March

PORTSMOUTH, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street (7pm): Necessary, distinctive, effective and worthwhile? - the Church of England's role in education. By our diocesan director of education, Canon David Isaac.

Sunday 26 March

PORTSMOUTH, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street (7pm): Mission and Society. By our diocesan social responsibility adviser, the Rev Nick Ralph.

Sunday: 1pm-5pm): Cathedral singing weekend. Directed by David Price of Portsmouth Cathedral and Andrew Atkins of Portsmouth Music Service. Open to singers of all ages and abilities. Includes workshops, games, and performance. Contact: 023-9231 5815 or 023-9234 9430.

Saturday 25 March

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (noon): Solemn choral mass to celebrate Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass setting: Schubert in G. Preacher: Rt Rev Christopher Chessun.

PORTSMOUTH, St Nicholas's church hall, Battenburg Avenue (1.30pm):

Overseas mission spring sale. Admission: 20p. Contact: 023-9261 2450.

LOCKS HEATH, St John's church centre (7.45pm): Concert. Featuring singer Martyn Joseph and poet Stewart Henderson. Tickets: 01489-582631. See page 4 for details.

PORTSMOUTH, St James' Church, Milton (7.30pm): Music for Lent and the Assumption. Seasonal music by Allegri, Sheppard and Poulenc. By Cantores Sanctae Insolitae Artis, 10-voice ensemble championing sacred music from the 15th and 16th centuries. Tickets and info: 023 9229 8708.

Tuesday 28 March

FAREHAM, Holy Trinity Church, West Street (8pm): Concert. Wyndcliffe Voices, conducted by Philip Drew, sing music for Lent. Free admission.

Wednesday 29 March -

Saturday 1 April PORTSMOUTH, Third Floor Arts Centre, above Central Library, Guildhall Square (7.30pm): What's So Amazing About Grace? Top Cat Theatre Company present their adaptation of the best-selling book by Philip Yancey. Tickets (£6/£5) on 023-9268 8070. See page 6 for details.

● Would you like your church's events for April listed here and on our website? Send details to: Pompey Chimes, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street, Portsmouth, or communications@portsmouth.anglican.org by March 6.

ring 029-2081 0800 to book.



Rob Parsons (March 13)

readers' letter

Dear Neil,

I read Dean Brindley's 'Last Word' (Pompey Chimes, Feb 2006) with interest and amusement. What indeed is a vicar to a Goth? May I suggest he contacts the Rev Alex Gowing-Cumber - a young priest who is a Goth. In August 2004, he was scheduled to celebrate a 'Gothic Eucharist' at Greenbelt. He wanted to use the Book of Common Prayer, so contacted the Prayer Book Society for help. The service that resulted, faithful to the Prayer Book rite, was utterly amazing.

The congregation numbered over 200, for a service starting at half past midnight. The choir (the all-women group nChant) was dressed entirely in black. The singing throughout was often in Latin, sometimes with a gentle drum beat or other instrumental accompaniment sounding through the fog of incense.

Possibly the most unusual liturgical moment was the Gospel sung in Latin to a very intricate chant, prior to reading it (AV) in English. Alex preached on the theme that the most worthwhile things in life cannot be achieved by 'quick fixes' or instant gratification. He said worship could often be self indulgent; and though he acknowledged some people might find the BCP hard work, he felt it was something truly valuable that had been passed down to

us by previous generations, and worth the effort. As required by canon law, the clergy wore albs and stoles.

I applaud Dean Brindley for wearing his clerical cloak in Portsmouth city centre. I assume he was also wearing black shirt and dog collar underneath.

It is essential that our bishops, priests, and deacons do roam our streets, drink in pubs, borrow books from libraries, and visit their parishioners; but it is imperative that they do all of these things whilst dressed in the 'uniform' (black shirt, white dog collar) that the majority of the non-churchgoing public either recognises from dim and distant memory, or who can be taught to recognise it as being Church of England. Never leave the dog collar at home. Save the coloured shirts for church meetings - and never dress in unidentifiable mufti when shopping at Sainsbury's (as I saw one vicar do last week).

Then, when accosted by Goths, clergy who are properly attired (especially when wearing long black woollen cloaks) can confidently say in a conspiratorial voice: "Come to St Morwenna's next Friday on the hoot of the owl, and the beat of the raven's wing, at midnight."

kind regards, Nikki M Sales
St Mary's Church, Hook-with-Warsash

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announcements

Appointments:

The Rev Len Fox, priest-in-charge, All Saints', Portsmouth, to be vicar, All Saints', Portsmouth. He will be collated and instituted by the Archdeacon of Portsdown on March 15.

The Rev Graham Morris, priest-in-charge, St Catherine, Ventnor, with Holy Trinity, Ventnor, and Bonchurch, and rural dean of East Wight, to become vicar, St Catherine, Ventnor, with Holy Trinity, Ventnor, and Bonchurch, and rural dean

of East Wight. He was collated and instituted by the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight on February 15.

Departure:

The Rev Richard Brand, diocesan director of ordinands and priest-in-charge, St Peter and St Paul, Hambledon, to be team rector, Market Harbour - Little Bowden with Lubenham (Leicester diocese). He will be licensed on May 10.