



## Quick! Hide behind the sofa as Dr Who materialises in Biblical times

Holiday clubs around the diocese: pages 8-9

## School link strengthens ties with Catholics

OUR diocese's links with our Roman Catholic counterparts have been strengthened by proposals to link two Isle of Wight schools.

Plans have been drawn up for Pat Goodhead, headteacher at Trinity C of E Middle School in Newport, to also become acting head at the neighbouring Archbishop King RC Middle School from September.

The proposal was made to solve the problem of the vacant post of headteacher at the RC school after the death of the former head, Alan Johns, last year. Parents at both schools are now being asked for their views.

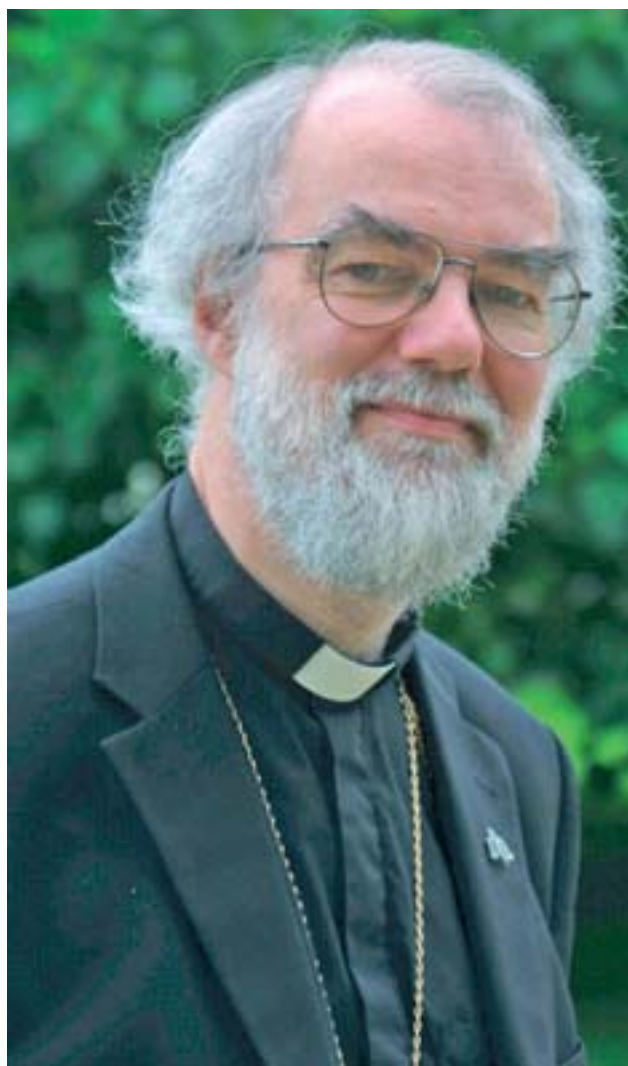
If this goes ahead, it will be the first time that our diocese and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth have worked together in this way. The governors of both schools, both dioceses and the Isle of Wight Council are all convinced it could work.

Canon David Isaac, our diocesan director of education, said: "Our Board of Education is committed to collaboration between Roman Catholics and Anglicans, and the schools' proposal was a welcome manifestation of several years' working with Roman Catholic colleagues.

"They are both strong schools, and having two schools working together, sharing resources, expertise and the vision of the staff has to be good because it enhances the resources available to pupils."

The proposal is for the arrangement to last for one or two years initially.

## Archbishop helps us to consider big question:



The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Rowan Williams, who will join us on November 17

**IT will be a chance to discuss how we create communities with the Church of England's spiritual leader.**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Rowan Williams, will visit our diocese in November for a day-long conference on 'Seeking the Soul of Community'.

The day was originally designed to be for clergy, but Bishop Kenneth has invited them to bring community leaders from their own parishes to hear what the archbishop has to say, ask questions and make their own contributions. Around 400 people

will be invited overall.

Representatives from other denominations, other faiths, the police, legal system, education, health service, politics, business, the military, the media and the voluntary sector from across our diocese will also be invited, as well as the headteachers of all our diocese's 49 church schools.

It will be the archbishop's first formal visit to our diocese since he was enthroned in 2003. His predecessor, Lord Carey, made a three-day visit to our diocese during its 75th anniversary year in 2002.

The day of reflection is on November 17 and takes place at our cathedral between 9.45am and 4.15pm. The archbishop will

give two keynote addresses, receive feedback and answer questions.

There will also be time for community leaders to talk in groups, and a final panel discussion that will feature the archbishop alongside local community leaders.

It is hoped that the group discussion and the reflections of the specially-invited panel will result in practical steps that can be taken to create or encourage more effective community living in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The day echoes the thinking behind the bishop's Kairos initiative, which aimed to help us re-think the Church's mission and

ministry - with meeting the physical, social and spiritual needs of our local communities the top priority.

Bishop Kenneth said: "The event will appeal to all who are concerned about the wellbeing of our local society.

"I believe the archbishop's visit provides us with an excellent and much-needed opportunity to reflect on the life of our local community."

The day is free, though participants are encouraged to bring their own packed lunches. Clergy and their guests are invited to contact Alex Hughes at Bishopsgrange on 01329-280247 or bishports@portsmouth.anglican.org to confirm their attendance.

# HOW CAN WE MAKE PEOPLE'S LIVES BETTER?



Jean Maslin

## Goodbye after 15 years working for bishops

THE bishop has appointed a new secretary to replace Jean Maslin, who has retired after 15 years in the job. Judy Couzens started work at Bishops Grove last month.

Jean retired after serving two separate Bishops of Portsmouth and four bishop's chaplains in two different locations. She started working part-time for Bishop Timothy Bavin in Bishopswood, the 10-bedroomed thatched home off

The Avenue in Fareham that also doubled as his office.

"I'd worked as a secretary before having children, but working for the Church was completely different," she said. "People have a totally different attitude, which isn't so business-like, but more caring. I remember thinking I wanted to help make the bishop's office as approachable as I could."

Bishop Kenneth took over in 1995, and a re-jigging of his

staff meant Jean could work full-time, and Kenneth also recruited Julie Anderson as a second secretary. Kenneth, his family and his staff all moved to the smaller Bishops Grove, in Osborn Road, in 1996.

"Both Timothy and Kenneth have been a delight to work for," said Jean. "The interesting thing about the job is that every day is different – you don't know what's going to happen day-by-day. But it's

been a joy to have felt like a small cog in a big organisation like the Church. There's been lots of highlights and some sadnesses, such as the bishop's recent illness.

"I'll miss the bishop, his family and colleagues, although I'll still see them. But I'll be able to spend more time with my grandchildren and in my garden in my retirement, and catch up on things I haven't been able to do previously."

## Deacons and priests to be ordained at cathedral

EIGHT people will be ordained as deacons and seven as priests at our cathedral this month.

Bishop Kenneth will ordain Philip Amey to serve as curate at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea, at 6pm on July 1, along with Thelma Barber (St John's, Purbrook), Judith Bee (Hambledon), Joanna Farrell (Froxfield), Vivienne Heenan (Whitwell and Niton), Ian Hill (St John's, Fareham), Meg Kirby (St Cuthbert's, Copnor) and Simon Lewis (Ventnor and Bonchurch).

The following morning at 10.30pm, he will ordain the Rev Margaret Hay as a priest to serve at St Thomas's, Elson, as well as the Rev Valerie Howes (Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton and Exton), the Rev Tom Kennar (Warblington with Emsworth), the Rev Mark Rodel (St Jude's, Southsea), the Rev Gary Snape (Holy Trinity with St Columba, Fareham), the Rev Susan Whitelock (St Mary's, Fratton) and the Rev Ronnie Williams (St Wilfrid's, Cowplain).

# Closure as staff move to new base

**OUR diocesan offices will be closed for two weeks this summer as staff move to a new location.**

Central diocesan staff will move to their new home at Peninsular House, off the M275, between July 24 and August 4. During that time, our archdeacons will be fielding enquiries from parishes.

Our diocese bought the five-storey former P&O headquarters in partnership with Portsmouth Housing Association. Our diocese owns two of the floors, one of which will be rented out to help pay for the maintenance of the building.

It means all our diocesan staff will be together in the same building for the first time, which will improve co-ordination. Until now, board of finance and board of edu-



cation staff have been at Cathedral House and board of mission staff at All Saints' Church. The new offices will also provide a more modern, open-plan environment for staff and visitors.

The new address for the diocesan offices from July 31 will be: First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8TA. The current phone number 023-9282 5731 will not work after July 24.

Individual staff will have direct-dial phone numbers and voice mail for the first time – though the exact numbers have not yet been allocated by BT. A directory listing those numbers will be circulated to parishes and published in the *Pompey Chimes* when they are known. E-mail addresses will also change to make it easier to contact the right person but the existing addresses will also continue to work.

contact the Archdeacon of Portsdown, the Ven Trevor Reader, on 023-9243 2693. And Isle of Wight parishes should contact the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight's office on 01983-884432.

Deputy diocesan secretary Andrew Robinson, who is overseeing the move, said: "We obviously want to keep disruption to a minimum during our move, but it will take us a fortnight to pack, move and unpack. I hope parishes will bear with us during the move. Normal service will be resumed on August 7.

"I hope we can also hold a series of open days some time in September so clergy and parishioners can see for themselves how much better our new offices are.

"Ultimately, we believe that having all staff in one open plan, modern office will make it easier for us to offer advice, support and service to parishes, and improve how we work together as a central staff team."

## Cellists play on the roof

THREE cellists will play on the roof of our cathedral during July as part of a fund-raising stunt for charity.

The Sheffield musicians - Jeremy Dawson, James Rees and Clare Wallace - are trying to visit 42 cathedrals in England in the space of 12 days this summer to raise £5,000 for the charities Shelter and Aspire.

The Extreme Cello Trio tour will come to Portsmouth on July 26, when the musi-

cians will scale the roof over the south ambulatory. As our cathedral should be the third of four visited that day, it's difficult to be precise about the exact timing of the visit.

The trio invented 'extreme cello playing' after playing in several extreme locations in the Peak District.

The performance will only last a few minutes, but audience members are welcome to listen from the ground. More on [www.extreme-cello.com](http://www.extreme-cello.com).

## Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 parishes in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Its total circulation is 9,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each of our parishes pays 15p for each copy, which allows our readers to pick it up for free on the final Sunday of each month. Adverts are dealt with by our publishers, Cornerstone Vision.

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER EDITION:** Monday 7 August

**AVAILABLE FOR PARISHES TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS:** Thursday 24 August

**AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH:** Sunday 27 August

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ADVERTISING: Grant Newcombe or Les Walters, Cornerstone Vision, 28 Old Park Road, Pevensey, Plymouth, PL3 4PY (01752-242264 or [les@cornerstonevision.com](mailto:les@cornerstonevision.com))

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# Pioneer is new top cleric on the island



Canon Caroline Baston

**THE next Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight will be one of the first women ordained as a priest.**

Canon Caroline Baston, who is currently a rector in Winchester and the diocesan director of ordinands, will take up her new position at the start of September.

She takes over from the Ven Trevor Reader, who became Archdeacon of Portsdown on the mainland in February.

Caroline will be installed in Portsmouth Cathedral at 6pm on September 10 and welcomed to the island at St Thomas's Church

in Newport later that week after starting work at the beginning of the month.

The 49-year-old used to work as a teacher in a Birmingham inner-city comprehensive before training to become a priest. She initially worked as a curate in Southampton and was among the first tranche of women to be ordained to the priesthood in 1994.

She was appointed rector of All Saints Church, Winchester, with St Andrew's Church, Chilcomb, and St Peter's Church, Chesil, in 1995.

For the past 11 years, she has combined the post with a diocesan

job. She worked first as diocesan communications officer, with responsibilities that included media liaison, and since 1999 as diocesan director of ordinands, which involved helping those interested in becoming clergy themselves.

She said: "I am delighted to accept Bishop Kenneth's invitation to become the next Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. It is an exciting and challenging post with both island and diocesan responsibilities.

"I very much look forward to moving to the Isle of Wight, getting to know the clergy and people of the parishes and working

with all sections of the island community."

Bishop Kenneth said: "I'm delighted to be able to appoint someone with Caroline's experience and skills to this job. I'm sure she will bring a lot to the Isle of Wight community, and to the Portsmouth diocese as a whole."

She enjoys both playing and watching sport, and is interested in spirituality, including how to use traditional insights and wisdom in a contemporary culture.

She is also a school governor of her local primary school, and a member of both Amnesty International and Medicin Sans Frontiers.

## Bill for church repairs unveiled

REPAIRS to the listed churches in Petersfield deanery will cost almost £900,000 over the next five years, a survey has shown.

English Heritage surveyed all 17 listed Anglican churches in the deanery as part of their 'Inspired' campaign, which aims to persuade the government to contribute more to the maintenance of church buildings.

It was one of five sample areas across the country they looked at in order to calculate the current repair bill for churches across the country.

The survey involved looking at quinquennial inspection reports, a questionnaire sent to churchwardens and a visit by a consultant architect. He calculated the repair bill for the Petersfield deanery at £860,000 from now until 2011.

The national repair bill was estimated as £925m over the next five years, or £185m each year. Although churchgoers are valiantly raising around £67m a year, that still leaves a £118m annual shortfall.

The five-point plan to tackle the problem outlined in the 'Inspire' campaign includes a reform of heritage protection legislation, new support officers to advise congregations how to look after their buildings more effectively, and new maintenance grants schemes.

Rural dean the Rev Simon Weeden said: "It's difficult to know whether that's a fair figure or not, but it does identify that our historic buildings are a great expense, whether you are a small rural community or a large urban church. We'd certainly support any campaign to encourage the government to help with the funding of church repairs."

The Church of England is responsible for 80 per cent of all listed places of worship in England. Of the £101m it spent on repairs in 2004, around £40m came from grants and £60m from worshippers.

With other denominations, that means England's congregations are heroically raising £67m, or 60 per cent of the total spent on repairs to listed churches. But many essential repairs are being overlooked because not enough help is coming from the government and the wider community.

## Ex-teacher helps teenagers examine faith

SUE Ganter is used to helping Portsmouth teenagers explore religion and spirituality. Now she's taking it to a different level.

The former religious studies teacher has taken on a new role as co-ordinator of Portsmouth Youth Inter Faith Forum (PYIFF). The half-time post has been funded by the Home Office until at least next March.

She is working with the forum – a group of 13 to 18-year-olds from different faiths – to help celebrate diversity and promote dialogue between youngsters about religion and spirituality.

That will include teenagers visiting different places of worship, raising awareness about faith issues and creating links with existing multicultural events.

Sue, who was head of religious studies at Springfield School in Drayton for 14 years,



Sue Ganter

said: "I enjoyed what young people had to say and the questions they asked when I was teaching. But that might only be for an hour a week in the classroom. This job gives the young people involved a chance to go deeper.

"The forum is a place where they can ask each other awkward questions about faith in a safe environment. It may also strengthen their own faith as others ask questions about it. It's about valuing the diversity that we have.

"I want to involve people who have no faith as well. I think that's important as, although young people are interested in spirituality, most would say they don't relate to a particular faith.

"The young people also want to engage beyond the mainstream, with some of those smaller faith groups or those in more deprived areas that are harder to reach.

"From my work with young people in the city, I know there are problems in terms of

### FORUM MEMBERS SPEAK:

"It gives me a wider understanding of the interfaith groups within the city. It also helps me understand my place within the culture of the city."

**Sarah Jamieson, 18, from St Mary's Church, Fratton (Church of England)**

"We need to learn how to appreciate the cultures and people who are all around us."

**Shirin Hosseini-Sech, 15 (the Bahai faith)**

racism and lack of understanding, as elsewhere. Schools can only address so much in RE and citizenship lessons."

The forum was launched in 2005 by Portsmouth's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which advises on the city's RE syllabus. The forum organised a multicultural music and interfaith day for 200 people last December.

Sue and the city's interfaith co-ordinator, Taki Jaffer, will be based in our new diocesan offices in Peninsular House from August 7.

Because of work and exam commitments, some members have left the forum. Sue is looking for representatives from the Sikh, Sunni Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and atheist communities. Anyone interested can contact her on 023-9282 1137 (before July 31), 07900-661868 or pyiff@freenet.co.uk



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**VENTNOR:** Christians of all denominations joined forces in Ventnor to celebrate Pentecost in glorious sunshine.

Around 200 worshippers from the South Wight area came together at Ventnor Middle School for their second annual service and celebratory party.

They enjoyed a falconry display, puppets, clowning, a dog display and a time of praise and worship, letting off balloons carrying messages to Jesus. The day had begun with a procession around Ventnor, led by the Wight Diamond Marching Band.

Isle of Wight College students had also made a 10-stone cake which was shared on the day to mark the fact that Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.

**SWANMORE:** Holy clown Roly Bain will join Swanmore villagers for the day on July 2.

The ordained minister and award-winning clown will perform in the community church service in the village hall at 10.30am, then join in a picnic lunch.

He will also give a circus clown performance and run a workshop in circus skills. The event has been organised by St Barnabas



Roly Bain

## news from the pews

Church, Swanmore, and Swanmore Methodist Church. It's all free of charge.

Roly Bain was ordained in 1978 and has clowned all over the UK and abroad, winning awards from Clowns International.

**HART PLAIN:** Worshippers from Hart Plain Church and other nearby churches stepped out for Christian Aid - raising more than £550

in the process.

Sixty or so congregation members joined the Friday evening Line Dancing Club, which is led by Sue Smith, one of the church members.

After some simple line dances, they all enjoyed sausage and mash and American cookies. Robin Drummond from Christian Aid then talked about his recent trip to Sierra Leone to see the work of two of

the charity's mission partners.

The next Sunday there was a special morning service, which used Christian Aid material about Ethiopia. Children made collecting boxes to help raise money, and congregation members raised funds with an austerity lunch.

**GOSPORT:** Jazz legend Eddie Harvey will play a concert - at the church where he first learnt about music.

The jazz pianist will return to St Mary's Church in Alverstoke for the first time since 1939. He sang in the church's choir and was taught to play the piano by the then organist.

He will perform from 7.30pm on July 22 as part of a quintet that also includes two tenor saxophones, drums and bass.

Eddie Harvey was part of the groundbreaking Johnny Dankworth Seven in the 1950s, and has also toured with Humphrey Lyttleton and Kenny Baker. He now teaches in London.

Tickets for the concert, priced at £6, are available from Paul Pilott on 023-9252 6255. The proceeds go music at St Mary's Church.

**HOOK-with-WARSASH:** Children from Hook-with-Warsash C of E Primary School had a hands-on opportunity to create some new animal homes for their school's environmental area.

Outdoor artist Ganesh Bruce helped them to make bird feeders, hedgehog homes, bird homes and bat boxes.

The children measured wood, cut pieces to the correct length and joined them together. For many, it was their first chance to use drills and hammers.

Some pupils even had the chance to use a special wood-burning pen to create their own designs on a totem pole



Pupils from Hook-with-Warsash Primary use the wood-burning pen

## the school report

to be placed in the woodland section of the environmental area.

The school paid for

Mr Bruce to visit due to a grant from the Awards for All Lottery Foundation.

**BRIGHSTONE:** Brighstone C of E Primary School is developing a school travel plan, which aims to reduce car use on the school run.

The idea is to promote walking, cycling and the use of public and shared transport - as the school run accounts for 10 per cent of traffic at peak time. It's a government initiative to improve safety and children's health.

Pupils from its eco-schools' council, parents and governors have had a significant input into the plan. A high percentage of youngsters took part in Cycle to School Week and more people are walking with their children to school.



# Pompey star saw abject poverty

**POMPEY star Andy Griffin had never seen anything like it.**

The Premiership footballer joined worshippers to help street children in Mexico City – and saw for himself the abject poverty that thousands of them face.

He was one of 10 people from the Portsmouth charity Faith and Football who linked up with the US-based mission organisation OMS International there for a week. They took £3,000 raised by local churchgoers to give away, as well as dozens of Pompey shirts.

The trip was also due to involve Pompey players Linvoy Primus and Lomana Lua Lua, but neither could make it in the end. But the link to the project came via someone from Linvoy Primus's church. Gary Chapman, from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn, was one of the team, which organised football tournaments for street children and helped launch an Alpha course for 90 people in Mexico City.

"It was incredibly emotional meeting some of these street kids," said Gary. "They were all high on solvents and would be trying to play football with tissues in their hands, sniffing as they played. They were aged 12 and upwards and had been to the OMS drop-in centre before.

"One of them arrived with a can of pipe cleaner, dipped tissues in it, and then handed them to his mates. We also went to visit where some of them lived - a couple of them actually lived down the sewers where they showed me around 'their home'. I was told street kids are also shot at indiscriminately by the police.

"But the Holy Spirit worked amazingly, and these children seemed touched that someone was bothered enough to talk and play football with them. One of the teams won a trophy. By the end of the day many of us and the kids were crying.

"We also visited a more dangerous area that is ruled by two drugs gangs and where kidnapping is common. The police don't go there at night and we had to be accompanied during the day. We set up a football tournament there with some very hard-nosed kids, but we had to leave early because



we received reports a gang had heard about us and were on their way over with weapons.

"I think Andy Griffin found it quite hard, seeing so much poverty all around him. It's not a situation he would normally find himself in. But his wife had really

encouraged him to come. These trips keep opening my eyes to the extent of poverty in the world, and I'm sure they opened his."

Gary's next trip with Faith and Football will be a return trip to an orphanage in Goa in India in November. He will travel there



**Left: Andy Griffin with street children; above: Gary Chapman in Mexico City**

with the winners of a competition to improve pupils' business skills – a team from the City of Portsmouth Girls' School. The contest was organised by the South-East Hampshire Education Business Partnership and involved 60 school teams from the area.

Anyone who would like to help Faith and Football's work, or donate to the work in Mexico City or in Goa can contact Gary on 01243-774747 or gary@evergreenlettings.co.uk

## Spiritual slot on new radio station

A FORMER Reader from our diocese is presenting a spiritual slot on Portsmouth's newest radio station.

Jane Robinson, who was a Reader at St Cuthbert's Church, Copnor, presents news and views about religion and ethics on Express FM, a new community station.

It was launched in March and is on air 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 93.7FM. Jane's show - Spirit Level - is broadcast at 7pm each Monday. She has already interviewed cathedral clergy and others from the diocese.

The non-profit making station has been set up with the help of the University of Portsmouth, Highbury College and Portsmouth College. Its studios are based in the Wiltshire Buildings, part of the university.

Station director Chris Carnegie said: "There's a lot going on in this vibrant city and we will provide every opportunity for Portsmouth people to express themselves."

For more details, see: [www.expressfm.com](http://www.expressfm.com)

## Church re-design reflects its priorities

**IT'S a church that has been redesigned to remind worshippers about their local community.**

St Faith's Church in Portsmouth has been re-developed to include a new entrance, a new meeting room – and a new coloured glass window that looks out on the Landport community. It's a visual reminder of the congregation's priorities.

More than 200 people, including the Lord Mayor, former parish clergy and community representatives, joined Bishop Kenneth to celebrate the re-ordering of the Crasswell Street church – almost 49 years to the day since it was originally dedicated.

The site has been re-developed in partnership with the newly-formed Landport Community Association and Portsmouth Housing Association. The former community centre next to the church will be re-developed



**Bishop Kenneth and Canon Bob White at the new font in the re-designed St Faith's Church, with confirmation candidates**

and flats created above it.

The church itself was re-designed by Chichester architects CMA and includes a new meeting room – the Barnabas Room, named after one of the parish's former mission churches – a new church office, a quiet 'prayer area', a restored pipe organ and a new entrance that attracts people directly in from Crasswell

Street.

One of the most stunning aspects of the new design is a coloured glass window that separates the church from the Barnabas room. It also enables those in church to see through the room to the window overlooking Crasswell Street – a reminder to the congregation of their calling to be part of the local community.

The service itself had a great atmosphere of celebration, colour and life, and ended with the welcome of those who hope to be confirmed in November.

Parish priest the Rev Charlotte Hetherington, who is responsible for St Faith's, said: "The whole development is an exciting project to be part of. It was wonderful to welcome so many people to the service to celebrate what has been achieved.

"The new entrance places us very much 'on the street' and reflects our desire to be an active part of the Landport community seeking to serve God and his world."

And Canon Bob White, who is vicar of the parish of St Mary's, Fratton, which St Faith's is part of, said: "St Faith's has been an inspiration to the rest of the parish in how they have creatively looked at their building and developed it in a way that equips them for the next 50 years."



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Summertime provides a wonderful opportunity for catching up with reading. If you are going away the travelling time by rail or plane offers plenty of time to sit back and relax with a book. If you are staying at home, time in the garden can be well spent reading, writes Roy Perring. Many people like to get hooked on a thriller or romantic novel but have you thought of using the time wisely with a Christian book?

There are books for all ages from novels to study books. I remember reading a book on the hymn, Amazing Grace. It managed to be both inspirational, historical plus a bit of a travelogue all at the same time. A new series of books featuring hymns by favourite composers should hopefully offer a similar sort of experience, the complimentary CD offering a chance to

hear performances of the works themselves. Respected Anglican the Rev David Shepherd has collected a series of his sermons to provide what he describes as a liberal approach to Anglican problems in Cordon Bleu Christianity. For those who enjoy a novel in the summertime, Paul Kercal has a new one out, Dr Sylver and the Repository of the Past. It's Paul's second book in the Dr Sylvester series and promises gripping excitement. To coincide with the current football mania, there is a re-release of the story of David Jeal, Heart of a Hooligan. Here we look at what happens when a group of British football fans pick on a lone Swedish supporter. There is an encounter with a Salvation Army officer and a new life in Christ. A reality book for those

who find much of what passes as reality TV to be rather trite and want to get their teeth into something more substantial. Author, Terry Atkinson, takes a look at the mature Peter as revealed in the Acts of the Apostles. Terry believes that Peter has received 'bad press' and sets out to help the reader understand him better, in Peter the Mature Man, and in so doing find a maturity on their own Christian life. For those who like to listen to words rather than music whilst driving, the Paths of Righteousness looks at Psalm 23 over 4 CD's, offering as it goes, an inspiring journey through green pastures and gentle flowing streams.

Elsewhere there is a monthly Bible based comic for children that should keep them entertained on the journey.

There is a tremendous selection available from your local Christian bookshop or direct by mail by phone or website.

If you are on holiday whilst reading this, then do look into one of the local Christian bookshops to find a different kind of gift to take home this year.

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# Figures reveal no extra burden

**OUR parishes are paying the same percentage of their income into the central pot as they did in 1998.**

Figures show that the amount requested in parish share remained virtually constant over six years, as a proportion of total parish income. It belies the popular view that parish share is becoming an increasing burden on all our congregations.

The fact that the figure has increased by only 0.1 percentage points is remarkable given that the grant to our diocese from the national Church Commissioners was reduced to zero, and our diocese's contributions towards the Church of England's pensions fund dramatically increased in those six years.

And from 1995 to 2005, clergy stipends – which is where most of the diocesan budget is spent – increased by more than 50 per cent. This is, of course, way above the level of inflation, which increased by only 28 per cent in those years.

Parish resources adviser Gordon Uphill, who calculated the figures, said: "Given every-

IS PARISH SHARE A GREATER BURDEN?			
Year	Total unrestricted parish income	Total parish share collected	Parish share as percentage of parish income
1998	£5.04m	£2.28m	45.2 per cent
2004	£6.92m	£3.13m	45.3 per cent

thing that has happened to affect our budgets since 1998, I would have expected the proportion of parish income spent in parish share to have increased substantially. I was astounded that it was virtually the same.

"Despite increases in our parish share, it remains one of the lowest in the 43 dioceses in England, as measured per church member. But what's pleasing to note is that parish income has also increased.

"Of course, there are variations between parishes, but overall, this represents a remarkable effort by parishes to generate more income, for which we should be thankful."

Total unrestricted parish income in 2004 – the last year for which full figures are available – was £6.92m. In that year, the total parish share collected was £3.13m, or 45.3 per cent of parish income. In 1998, total unrestricted parish income was

£5.04m and parish share was £2.28m, making the equivalent figure 45.2 per cent.

The news comes as our diocese prepares to contribute more to the national Church of England's pensions fund – an increase of £100,000 is expected in the 2007 budget. Even more could be asked for in 2008.

Parishes across our diocese will be asked during the next six months for their views on the latest shortfalls in the Church's national pensions fund.

New government regulations, reduced investment returns, and increasing life expectancy of clergy mean that contributions from dioceses will probably have to increase again from April 2008.

Diocesan secretary Michael Jordan said: "The Church of England is not alone in having problems with pension funds. And this isn't the first time that

dioceses have had to add extra money to the fund to meet a potential shortfall.

"But the consultation that will happen in the second half of 2006 will allow parishes to say what they think about some important questions: should we be prepared to find additional contributions to fund clergy pensions, or is there a level beyond which we aren't prepared to go?

"If so, do we change the entitlement of clergy to pensions in future? Should the current scheme be closed to new entrants? Should we link post-retirement pensions increases to inflation rather than stipends?"

Parishes will be able to make their views known via a consultation form that will be sent out as soon as it is received from the national Church.

Once parishes and diocesan bodies have made their views known, the issue is likely to come to the Church's general synod next February, with a final decision needing to be taken by July 2007.

Our Bishop's Council has already decided to close our diocesan lay staff's final salary pensions scheme to new entrants.

## Navy helps with first stage of project



Officers and ratings from the Royal Navy move one of the sheds at the Church of the Ascension in North End

**OFFICERS** and ratings from the Royal Navy helped worshippers at the Church of the Ascension in North End move four sheds and demolish a fifth – the first stage in a project to transform the church.

The sheds house equipment used by community groups that meet in the church. But they had to be moved from part of the site that will be sold to Portsmouth Housing Association to build new flats. The cash from the sale will help to pay for new community facilities inside the church.

Commander Geoff Bewley, from HMS King Alfred on Whale Island, said: "This was a community activity we were happy to help with.

"It's also a training exercise, helping develop leadership and team skills that the part-timers will use when they are serving alongside their full-time colleagues in the Royal Navy."

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# Education at all levels

## Choosing a school

Whilst most students will have already decided on a University or College to attend from the autumn semester, some will still be looking for a course and others will start planning for next year. A lot of prayer and advice will be undertaken in deciding what path to follow, even when inherent talents seem

to make the choice a little more obvious. For younger Christians the path may have already been discussed when choosing subjects for A levels but for many

older Christians starting a course could well be a part of a change in life's direction.

There's also the choice of college. For many some time away from home at University can be a time of self-discovery and growing, although others may well prefer somewhere closer to home. This can be due to the commitments such as family responsibilities or commitments to the local church or other organisations. Travelling times are also quicker a boon for most students.

For all the challenge of full time study should prove to be rewarding and fulfilling.

## Other ways of learning

The way in which we view education has

changed considerably over the years with an increasing emphasis being placed on 'Lifelong Learning' for people of all ages and abilities.

Christians can take part in this process through courses at universities and colleges or through one of the increasing number of distance learning courses, which can be studied for at home as well as part-time and short break courses.

There are many colleges, which offer the subject of Theology through distance learning, and is ideal for students with commitments, which stop them, being involved in full time education. For some, Distance Learning offers the opportunity to take a special-

ist subject to a new level.

Of course, it is not just Theology that will be of interest to Christians. There are many other subjects and skills that can enable them to become more efficiently involved in the work of the Church or within society at large. These can involve anything from secretarial skills to counselling. Developing artistic abilities can also be put to good use in the service of God.

The real message of Lifelong Learning is that it is never too late to learn a new skill, or study a new subject or to re-investigate the opportunity to study a subject that for some reason or another had to be dropped in the past.



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In many ways we all leave a legacy behind us when we die. It is the result of the lives we have led and the people we have touched on our journey through life. In some cases there will be very tangible legacies such as a ministry, which is remembered, it could be works of art or writing. In some cases we will have had the opportunity to work on a project such as a church extension or community project that has really made a difference.

There are other sorts of legacies, living legacies if you like, which enable a work or project to continue after we are gone. Those with families will usually leave a will making sure that it is clear who is to inherit certain things to avoid any confusion after they have died, but there is also the opportunity to leave money to various charities or the church itself in order that their ministry gets the vital funds that are needed to continue its work. In many ways funds we leave in this manner reflect a lot about what our beliefs are.

The necessity for a will is even more important for those without a direct heir in order that their wishes are considered in respect

on any funds they leave behind when they die or monies raised through selling an estate. It can be surprising to see how much a simple terraced house bought for just thousands of pounds many years ago would fetch today!

Planning a funeral in advance is yet another way of making things a little easier for those left behind when we die. Not only is the funeral already paid for, but other things such as our own choice of hymns, piece of music, scripture or literature during the service can bring a sense of joy to those attending. The stress is taken from someone else trying to make decisions on our behalf hoping that they are arranging a funeral that we would have arranged for ourselves.

Whether planning our own funeral through a pre-payment bond or looking at where our money is spent after we die can be a very positive action, giving a great sense of satisfaction to us while we are still alive, knowing that we will be a positive force after we pass on and that our legacy will indeed be 'living'.

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# Flowers or Futures?



Photographs modelled for The Children's Society

The Children's Society has recently produced a new Donations In Memory pack, together with a supporting website called 'Flowers or Futures'.

The pack contains lots of useful materials for what is always a very difficult time for family and friends as they mourn the loss of someone who holds a special place in their hearts. Included are funeral notification cards, Gift Aid envelopes and thank you cards as well as information leaflets about our work.

The website allows supporters to remember their loved ones by creating a Living Memorial Fund in their loved one's name. Family and friends will then be able to access the fund, and share photos and messages, as well as making donations into the fund in lieu of flowers.

The Children's Society provides hope, love and understanding to 50,000 vulnerable children every year.

To find out more please call The Children's Society on 0845 300 1128 quoting reference, *Pompey Chimes*, or go to [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/flowersorfutures](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/flowersorfutures) where you can order materials and/or set up a fund.

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# Island's top attraction was lovingly restored

THE Isle of Wight once boasted 55 miles of Victorian railway track, with services run by eight separate companies.

Most of it closed between 1952 and 1966, and the Ryde to Shanklin line that operates today only survived thanks to a public outcry.

It was in 1971 that a group of schoolboys and their families decided to try to restore the steam railway between Wootton and Havenstreet, where a mile and a half of

track still existed.

By 1991, the line between Havenstreet and Smallbrook had been added, but only after volunteers helped to re-lay track that had been removed. It's now possible to transfer from steam train to the island line and vice versa at Smallbrook Junction.

The steam railway now boasts seven engines and three diesels, all of which have been painstakingly restored to pristine condition. The oldest loco-

motive was built in 1876.

The carriages have also been lovingly restored, using the original wood and upholstery where possible. All the carriages were used on the island's original steam trains, and many contain original period photos and details.

The steam railway attracts around 60,000 visitors a year and runs trains every day in the summer and less frequently in winter.

It puts on a series of special

events that attract thousands of visitors – from fish and chip evenings to ghost walks.

Many families see Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends when they visit, and thousands flock to the annual island steam show over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The railway's Havenstreet station already featured a restored ticket office, museum, shop and café, but a recent extension – the Calbourne

room – means it can now host wedding receptions and conferences. School parties are also catered for in a modern classroom.

John said: "You can spend a whole day here without any problem. The whole place is a living, breathing museum and it gives you a real buzz to see how authentic everything is."

For more information about the Isle of Wight steam railway, see: [www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk](http://www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk)

# Steam railway is a tiny slice of heaven

**BEING part of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a bit like being part of a church congregation for John Hibberd.**

Both involve a group of dedicated people taking care to preserve a historic institution and offering to serve members of the wider community – and there's a lot of job satisfaction involved too.

The retired priest, who worships at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake, will spend much of the summer at one of the island's premier tourist attractions.

He works voluntarily as assistant finance manager for two days a week, and as a train conductor and in the booking office on other days of the week. In June there were only six days when he wasn't there.

And the frequent journeys up and down the five miles of track between Wootton and Smallbrook also give him time to reflect on the beauty of God's creation he can see from the beautifully-restored carriages.

"If you want to praise God for his creation, there's no better place to do it than sitting in a carriage or the guard's van looking at the scenery!" he said. "Sitting in a historic railway carriage that's been loved and cared for by so many people also restores your faith in humanity."

"There's not an official chaplain to the railway, and I don't wear my dog collar here, but people know who I am and there is a ministry."

"I can provide a listening ear, and people do come to me because



**The Rev John Hibberd at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway**

they know I'm a clergyman. They also stand in for me when I go and take funerals or other services.

"In many ways, the steam railway community is like a church. The volunteers are helping to preserve part of English heritage, just as a congregation looks after a church building."

"There is also a mixture of regulars who are often here, and visitors who may only come once or twice a year, just like at church. You want them all to feel welcome, and there is a satisfaction when people say how much they've enjoyed themselves."

The 68-year-old worked as a shipping clerk in London and also did national service before training for the priesthood.

He worked as a priest in Chiswick before joining the staff of the Diocese of London as finance secretary. He was there for 12 years before retiring to the island.

He had been interested in trains since he was 10, when he would watch the Royal Scot thunder past, near his house in Wembley every Saturday morning. In 1959, he brought a scout group to the Isle of Wight and saw its steam trains in regular service.

He then started coming to the island for holidays and weekends to help out with the restored steam railway from 1993.

The amount of time he spent on the island gradually increased until he bought a bungalow in

Lake in 1996.

"The steam railway can only really survive on voluntary

on holidays. But there are a core of 20-30 of us who are here much of the time.

"It can be quite a complicated job. Selling tickets, for instance, involves knowing how much first and third class, adult and child tickets are, as well as the special offers involving travelling on the ferries, the hovercraft or British Rail.

"You have to be good at mental arithmetic as there are no calculators! There is training for all those involved in many aspects of the railway – and the training to drive or fire an engine, for instance, takes a long time."

"Being here is part of my life of prayer. Every time I come here, I pray that I'll be kept safe, and that others will too. And I enjoy helping to run the railway and being part of it. Even when it's wet and you're getting a good soaking, it's wonderful!"

John has also been PCC treasurer in his parish since 2000, and is involved with a variety of other organisations, including the

## my faith

**The Rev John Hibberd divides his time between the church and the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. But he claims there are more similarities between the two than you might think**

labour," he said. "There are about 12 people who are paid – which increases to 18 in the high season – but there are around 150 volunteers."

"Some are retired, like me, some are enthusiasts, some are schoolboys on work experience or

British Legion and the Isle of Wight Musical Competition Festival Committee.

"Once people know that you have a head for figures, you can end up with lots of offers," he said. "I don't like to say no, and it all keeps me out of mischief!"



# Church has key role in urban life

**SO what do you think makes a city a 'good' city?**

That's one of the questions posed by *Faithful Cities*, the report just published jointly by the Church of England and Methodist Church in celebration of the seminal *Faith in the City* report 21 years ago.

Although set up by the Church of England, the group that wrote this new report, the Commission on Urban Life and Faith, was diverse, including eight Anglicans (including the Archbishop of York), two Roman Catholics, one URC, a Muslim, and a Methodist chair in Baroness Richardson.

The style of the report (pictured right) is rather different to that of 21 years ago, with lots of colour, both in pictures, text boxes, and case examples.

It is in many ways an easier read than the earlier report, not least by being shorter, but it has also to grapple with much greater complexity. It does not duck this,

## the big issue



**A new national report asks us to consider what makes a good city - and how the Church can help. Our social responsibility adviser the Rev Nick Ralph sifts through it**

but most of its conclusions are necessarily less focussed than those of the original report. In the 11 recommendations, it talks about the importance of the Church maintaining "a planned, continued and substantial presence across our urban areas".

It talks about the importance of social cohesion, calling for the gap between those living in poverty and the very wealthy to be reduced.

Another unusually focussed recommendation concerns asylum policy. Like those responsible for the earlier report, the authors of this one do not shy away from criticism of the gov-

ernment, saying that it should lead rather than follow public opinion on this issue, and that, "asylum seekers should be allowed to sustain themselves, and contribute to society through paid work. It is unacceptable to use destitution as a tool of coercion when dealing with 'refused' asylum seekers."

The report talks about the need for clarity over partnerships between faith communities and public authorities. This is really about the delivery of regeneration projects and services by faith groups.

There is a major agenda behind this which, as a Church,

we will need to wrestle with further. It also says that the Church of England should continue to support the Church Urban Fund as a "vital resource".

On young people and education, it calls for a refocussing "away from the more performance driven models to the development of informal and holistic educational approaches which incorporate mind, body and emotions."

One recommendation is for a review of the impact of faith schools on community cohesion in urban settings. This recognises the misgivings of some that faith schools might foster division.

In fact, the report argues that, properly constituted, the opposite should be true, as faith schools should be understood as having a "foundation in faith" and not as



"schools for the faithful". It asserts that "the ability to celebrate and live with 'difference' as a source of human enrichment is a key urban challenge."

The report sets out to stimulate discussion and action not just by those living in an urban setting but also by those responsible for formulating policies that affect those in an urban setting.

In a diocese like this one which has urban, suburban and rural parts to it, that involves more of us than just those living in city centres, and we plan to respond to that call for discussion in some way in the second half of the year.

● *Faithful Cities* (£9.99) was published in May by Church House Publishing and Methodist Publishing House. Available from all good bookshops. ISBN 1-85852-315-X

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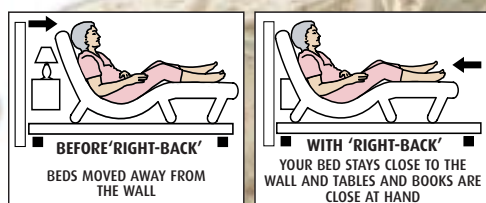


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field, writes Roy  
Perring.

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## Friday 30 June - Sunday 2 July

**BINSTEAD, Church of the Holy Cross, Church Lane (Friday: 6pm-8pm; Saturday: 10am-4.30pm; Sunday 1pm-4.30pm):** *Flower festival*. Theme: Women of the Bible. Includes stalls, refreshments, competitions and children's dancing display; **(Saturday: 7.30pm):** *Concert by the Tritone Singers*; **(Sunday: 4.30pm):** *Songs of Praise service*.

## Saturday 1 July

**PURBROOK, Purbrook Park School, Park Avenue (1pm-4pm):** *Christ Church Portsdown summer fete*. Stalls, arena displays, including marching band and dancers and barbecue. Opened by Mark Storey, chief football writer, *The News*. Admission: 50p, children: free.

**BEDHAMPTON, Bidbury Mead (2pm):** *Bedhampton summer show*. Opened by the Mayor of Havant.

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (6pm):** *Ordination of deacons*. See page 2 for details.

**WHIPPINGHAM, St Mildred's Church (7pm):** *Unity Stompers*. Have a picnic in the church orchard and listen to the island's premier traditional jazz combo. Tickets: £5 (under-12s: free).

## Sunday 2 July

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am):** *Ordination of priests*. See page 2 for details.

**SWANMORE, Village Hall (10.30am):** *Community church service with Roly Bain*. See page 4 for details.

**SOUTH HARTING, St Mary and St Gabriel Church (2pm):** *Summer teas*. Visit the village on Sundays throughout July and August for a homemade cream tea. Also on **July 9, 16, 23 & 30** and **August 6, 13, 20 & 27**.  
**CALBOURNE, throughout the village (11am-5pm):** *Open gardens*. Refreshments available in recreation centre. Admission by programme: £2.50. Free parking on sports field.

## Wednesday 5 July

**PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (12noon):** *Charity lunch*.  
**GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Rowner Lane, Rowner (7.30pm):** *Mass followed by ecumenical Julian meeting*. Half an hour of silent prayer. Details: the Rev John Draper (023-9258 1834).

## Friday 7 July -

## Monday 10 July

**SANDOWN, St John the Evangelist, Carter Street (10.30am-4pm, except Sunday: 2pm-4pm):** *Flower festival to celebrate church's 125th anniversary*.

## Saturday 8 July

**GOSPORT, St Thomas's Church, Elson (10am-4pm):** *Summer fayre*. Beer tents, bouncy castles and fun on theme of Noah's Ark. Also features the launch of Elson's parish history book, written by local historians Mike and Mary Talbot.  
**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7pm):** *Salvation Army concert*.

**VENTNOR, Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Road, (7pm):** *A Musical Potpourri*. An evening with the Godshill Singers. With supporting solo performances. Retiring collection.  
**HAVANT, St Faith's Church, West Street (7.30pm):** *Wyndcliffe Voices*. Tickets: £6 (children: £3), including wine and nibbles.

## Tuesday 11 July

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (11am):** *Mothers' Union diocesan festival service*. Address given by Trish Heywood, worldwide president of Mothers' Union.

# Deanery day to focus on faith in workplace



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Followed by lunch and chance to meet her. Contact: Jo Findlay (023-9287 3277).

**PORTSMOUTH, Cosham Baptist Church, Havant Road (12noon-2pm):** *Rebuilding Broken Lives*. A Tearfund workshop for church leaders. Hear real-life stories, explore the Bible's agenda for serving the poor and get practical ideas. Contact: jennie.mathews@tearfund.org or ring 01730-269291 to book a place.

## Thursday 13 July

**PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, George Street, Fratton (12noon):** *Charity lunch*.  
**SOUTHSEA, Church of the Holy Spirit, Fawcett Road (7.45pm):** *Concert*. Wyndcliffe Voices, the Lazy Lane Mynstrells (crumhorns, recorders, hurdy-gurdy) and Oaklands School Recorder Ensemble. Followed by refreshments. Retiring collection to centennial appeal.

## Friday 14 July - Sunday 16 July

**SOUTHWICK, St James' Church (Friday & Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: 12noon-6pm):** *Flower festival*. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of The Rowans Hospice Travel. Theme: journeys. Donations to The Rowans Hospice.  
**ARRETON, St George's Church (Friday & Saturday: 10am-4pm; Sunday: 12.30pm-4pm):** *Display of antique christening robes*. Includes displays of flowers, organ music, demonstrations of lace making and embroidery, and refreshments. Special church service on **July 16** at 11.15am.

## Saturday 15 July

**DENMEAD, All Saints Church, Hambledon Road (10am-12noon):** *Focus on Ghana*. Coffee morning, with photos and videos on display and jewellery for sale.  
**SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (10am-4pm):** *Quiet day*. Conductor: Canon Richard Eckersley. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks and tea provided. Cost: £5. Let the Sisters know on 023-9283 3498 or ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk if you want to attend.  
**GOSPORT, Trinity Green (12noon-4pm):** *Holy Trinity summer fair*. Includes handicrafts, refreshments, cream teas, raffle and stalls.  
**SOMERS TOWN, St Peter's Church, Somers Road (1.30pm):** *Summer fair*. Admission: 20p.  
**STUBBINGTON, Holy Rood Church (1.30pm):** *Stubbington parish fete*. Craft stalls, face-painting, children's fancy dress, country garden flower arranging and cream teas. Contact: Tina Sanford (01329-661549 or tigger\_sanford3475@hotmail.com)

## Sunday 16 July

**PETERSFIELD, Churchers College (10am-4pm):** *Thank God for Monday!* Petersfield deanery day. See panel above.  
**PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church,**

**WORSHIPERS** from the Petersfield deanery will join forces to focus on how to be a Christian at work.

'Thank God for Monday!' is the title of their deanery day on **July 16**, which will be held at Churchers' College, Petersfield. Bishop Kenneth and the Archdeacon of the Meon, the Ven Peter Hancock, will be there.

The executive director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, Mark Greene, will be the key speaker. He

(or on the beach) at 6.30pm on **July 30**.

## Tuesday 1 August - Friday 4 August

**HAMBLEDON, Village hall (10am):** *Holiday club*. Stories, music, craft and games on the Landlubbers theme. Concludes with presentation service in St Peter & St Paul Church at 1pm on **August 4**. See pages 8-9 for details.

## Friday 4 August

**GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Alverstoke (12.30pm-1.15pm):** *Organ recital*. David Davies, from Guildford Cathedral. Tickets: £3.50.

## Saturday 5 August

**HAVANT, St Faith's Church, West Street (10am-12noon):** *Coffee morning*.

## Monday 7 August - Saturday 12 August

**EAST COWES, St James Church, Church Path (10am-4pm daily; also 6.30pm-8.30pm on Wednesday & Thursday):** *Jigsaw puzzle festival*. Hundreds of jigsaw made up, on display and for sale. Refreshments and bookstall. Admission: £1 (adults), 50p (children). Contact: 01983-294075.

## Tuesday 8 August

**TOTLAND BAY, Christ Church, Alum Bay New Road (7.30pm):** *Organ recital*. By Paul Hale, Southwell Minster.

## Tuesday 8 August - Friday 11 August

**DENMEAD, Denmead Community Centre (9.15am-3.30pm):** *Denmead Activities and Bible School (DABS)*. Ecumenical holiday club with games, music and activities. See pages 8-9 for details.

## Friday 11 August

**GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Alverstoke (12.30pm-1.15pm):** *Organ*

previously worked in advertising and wrote a book about faith at work entitled *Thank God It's Monday*.

The day will also include workshops on the theme of work, as well as those on Celtic prayer, clowning, labyrinths, the environment, *The Da Vinci Code*, storytelling and computer projection in worship.

The day will also feature worship and a special programme of activities for children and young people. It happens between 10am and 4pm.

*recital*. Marcus Wibberley, from Portsmouth Cathedral. Tickets: £3.50.

## Monday 14 August - Friday 18 August

**NITON, St John's Church, Church Street (9.30am-12noon):** *Children's musical activity week*. See pages 8-9 for details.

## Friday 18 August

**GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Alverstoke (12.30pm-1.15pm):** *Organ recital*. David Sanger from Cumbria. Tickets: £3.50.  
**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm):** *Clergy in concert*. The Dean of Hereford (piano) and Canon Michael Tristram (bass-baritone). Tickets: £12 in advance only (includes fork supper) on 023-9273 1282.

## Friday 25 August

**GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Alverstoke (12.30pm-1.15pm):** *Organ recital*. Daniel Cook, from Salisbury Cathedral. Tickets: £3.50.

## Saturday 26 August

**HAVANT, St Faith's Church, West Street (10am-3.30pm):** *Town fair*.

## Sunday 27 August

**RYDE, HMS Royal George Memorial Garden, the Esplanade (3pm):** *Open-air service*. RNA chaplain the Rev Nick Wallace and Ryde Sea Cadet chaplain, the Rev Jonathan Redvers Harris, lead worship to dedicate commemoration plaque originally laid by Earl Mountbatten.

● *Would you like your church's events for September listed here and on our website? Send details to: Pompey Chimes, First Floor, Diocese of Portsmouth, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8TA (new address from July 31), or to communications@portsmouth.anglican.org by August 7. NB: There is no separate August edition.*

# situations vacant

**BISHOP'S WALTHAM:** A pianist is required to accompany a 35-strong choir. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings, 7.30pm-9.30pm in the Methodist Church, Basingwell Street, Bishop's Waltham.

For details, contact Eunice Matthews (01329-511513 or eunice.buckingham@ntlworld.com).

**COPNOR:** St Cuthbert's Church is looking for a new organist. The church is halfway through a £3.5m re-development, and worship currently takes place in a local school, accompanied by a piano and a small music group.

Worship will revert to the re-developed church in 2008, and the new organ-

ist will be closely involved with decision-making about the organ, which is currently in storage, and about all aspects of music in the future.

This is a great opportunity to be innovative and develop new musical accompaniment for worship. Contact the Rev David Power on 023-9282 7071 or davidmpower@ntlworld.com before the end of July.

**DENMEAD:** All Saints Church is looking for a new organist from the end of July. It would involve playing for Sunday services and one choir practice a week. RSCM affiliated. Please contact the vicar on 023-9225 5490 or by letter with the names of two referees.



# Teens chill and chat at Friday's club



Emma Rundell plays table football at 'Friday's' - the youth group that meets in the church hall at St Thomas's, Elson

**IT'S a chance for dozens of teenagers to relax and be themselves.**

Nearly 50 young people mill around the church hall of St Thomas the Apostle in Gosport, flitting between the playstations and the table football, chatting to their friends as they lounge around on sofas or competing ferociously around the table tennis table.

This is 'Friday's', a youth group that aims to build relationships with youngsters from the Elson area by opening the church's doors for two hours every Friday night. Internet access, playstations, table football and table tennis tables are provided - plus the chance to meet friends and volunteer Christian leaders.

It's an initiative created by the local parish in an area where there is little else provided for this age group. It's also part of the Gosport deanery Kairos plan. The idea is to



provide somewhere safe for local teenagers to meet so they don't have to hang around the streets, to offer them advice and support and to develop their spiritual awareness.

The project began as an act of faith and commitment to the local community, and has since forged links with other youth work services, including Hampshire Youth Service and Connexions.

The priest-in-charge, the Rev Simon Rundell, said: "Much of the time at the club appears chaotic and unstructured, with young people flitting from activity to activity, consuming huge amounts of tuck, or simply sitting on the sofas chatting with their friends, or interacting with leaders who are taking an active Christian interest in them.

"After a week of structure and order in school it's useful for them

to have a place to relax, be themselves and ultimately grow into being themselves in the presence of God. It is less unstructured than might be imagined at first.

"Each week we close the session with some group time - a chance to focus on the week past, on God, and on our response to Him. This is growing into a key part of the club - developing a sense of the sacred and a growth in the spiritual.

"Kairos gave us the vision to take an initiative in this much-needed area, and the commitment of the parish to young people has been the driving force behind it all."

The group, which was launched in February, has already been asked by one headteacher to work with certain vulnerable teenagers.

The response to the initiative within the community has also been outstanding, so the project has now been given £1,000 from the Kairos pump-priming fund to help extend its outreach and facilities.

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## P/T Chaplaincy Centre Support Co-ordinator

Directorate

£9,425 - £10,926

Initial one-year contract, 20 hours per week

With the opening of our new Chaplaincy Centre in July 2006, we are looking for someone to work with chaplains who will combine effective administrative skills with a pastoral role, for students and staff who visit the Centre. You'll have experience in a support/pastoral care role and be able to demonstrate sensitive interpersonal skills. The Centre will provide a service for a diverse range of people and you will demonstrate an empathetic understanding of all clients. Effective administrative and organisational skills are also essential, as is the ability to adapt to different work circumstances.

There is some flexibility in the hours, although a core number of 20 per week worked across five days will be essential.

For an application pack, please contact us at the number (24-hour answerphone) or address below, quoting ref: SCAD 0009/PP.

Closing date: 14th July 2006.

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## Y i luv 2 snd txt msgs

I WAS going to tell you all about the joys of being a grandmother but the expectant baby does not know about my deadline to write *The Last Word*!

Our son has prepared a text message to let us know when they are on the way to the hospital but still, the baby does not take the hint. So I will tell you how much I love texting instead!

Of all the modern forms of communication it is the one I love the best. Nothing beats the spoken word, of course, but as a vehicle for a spontaneous thought or a practical arrangement, it is brilliant.

At the age of nine I went to boarding school and until the half-term break the only way I could communicate with my parents was by writing a letter twice a week - and even then they were read by the headmistress before posting.



## the last word

by Sarah Stevenson  
the bishop's wife

Such 'stiff upper lip' attitudes have fortunately now gone and we are surrounded by means of communication not dreamt of in my youth or even until the last few years.

With texting I can drop myself, without intruding, into my children's minds and they will reply when it suits them; I can find out how my friends are; I can track travellers and fetch them from the station at the right time. Endless possibilities.

The answerphone is not such a success. The first time I

encountered one, way back in the 1980s, I had to replace the receiver because I was laughing so much. These days it makes me want to cry more than laugh. What is it about an answerphone which turns the most intelligent coherent people into stumbling, rambling, boring, wittersers?

I hope that the Almighty does not feel the same way about some of our long intercessions, but I pray He will tell baby Stevenson to get a move on.