

Parishes urged to apply for grants

DOES your parish need some money to help spruce up its churchyard? Could you use that money to create or preserve a valuable green space?

Diocesan social responsibility adviser Canon Nick Ralph is urging parishes to apply for grants from a new lottery-funded initiative.

The £50m Community Spaces programme has been launched to help community groups across Britain, including church and faith-based groups. Churchyards are specifically mentioned as examples of the kind of projects supported.

It will give grants of between £10,000 and £450,000 to not-for-profit groups to create better local environments, increase access to green spaces for interaction, play or recreation, develop and run a practical environmental project or work in partnership with others in the community.

"This could be a very useful pot of money that specifically highlights it is open to faith groups and includes churchyards," said Nick. "The fund is being administered on behalf of the Big Lottery by Groundworks. I have a good working relationship with Groundwork Solent."

For more information, see www.community-spaces.org.uk, or contact Nick on 023-9289 9674 or nick.ralph@portsmouth.anglican.org

Day puts healing at the forefront

HE'S already intimately involved in the healing ministry – now he'll be advising parishes what it means too.

Canon Nick Fennemore, who leads the team of Portsmouth hospital chaplains, has been appointed as diocesan healing adviser.

He replaces the Rev Paul Kennedy who has moved from Steep, Froxfield and Privett to a parish in Winchester diocese.

And one of Nick's first roles will be to attend the annual diocesan celebration of healing and wholeness at our cathedral on May 10.

The day will feature an address by Canon Mark Wilson, who was the Archdeacon of Dorking until 2005 and bishop's adviser on healing ministry before that. He is currently priest-psychotherapist in Guildford diocese and co-ordinates Journey Into Healing.

His morning address, entitled 'By his wounds you have been healed', runs through the Passion story from the Garden of Gethsemane to Easter Sunday, as the key to Christian healing.

The day starts with coffee in Cathedral House at 10.15am and finishes at 2.45pm.

It will also feature a mid-day healing service and an afternoon workshop on the theme 'Healing Our Image of God'. Participants are asked to bring their own lunch.

Canon Nick Fennemore, who is head of chaplaincy and bereavement services for Portsmouth Hospitals, will be there in his new diocesan role, alongside members of the diocesan healing team.

Nick has been involved with the ministry of healing since he was a teenager. He worked with the Rt Rev Morris Maddocks, who co-founded what became the Acorn Christian Healing Centre near Bordon.

"I've had 23 years in the health service, and I'm very interested in the links that it has with what the Church is

doing," he said.

"I've never believed that healing ministry was something that you did separately in church, but that it embraces all that happens in our hospitals, our GPs' surgeries and our medical centres.

"God uses the skills of doctors, surgeons and nurses and all healthcare workers to bring people to wholeness.

"I'd love to see the hospital chaplaincy more involved in the life of parishes, and I'd like to see healing put higher on the agenda in our churches."

Nick is available to speak to or to advise any parishes. You can contact him on 023-9228 6408 or nick.fennemore@portsmouth.anglican.org

You can see details of the diocese's healing team on the diocesan website: www.portsmouth.anglican.org



Canon Nick Fennemore

VSO links with former bishop marked with cathedral display

IT was a letter to a national newspaper by a former Bishop of Portsmouth that started it all.

The Rt Rev Launcelot Fleming wrote to the *Sunday Times* in March 1958 suggesting that teenagers could spend a year serving others abroad before going to university. That is thought to be one of the seminal moments in the creation of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

Now the organisation is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibition and an event in our cathedral.

A poster exhibition will be displayed in the cathedral for around three weeks from May 12. Canon Michael Cooper, former vicar and VSO volunteer in 1959, and geographer Dr Hugh Mason will speak at the launch of the exhibition at 7.30pm that night.

Bishop Launcelot's original letter said: "The under-developed countries of the



The Rt Rev Launcelot Fleming

Commonwealth offer opportunities of service that would not only make a positive contribution to those countries, but would constitute an experience of inestimable benefit to many of our young people.

"The projects I have in mind do not postulate specialist skills so much as a readiness to work alongside the local people. Their need is urgent. Equally urgent is the need for our young people to have the opportunity of doing

something worthwhile, and seeing a bit of the world into the bargain. Is it beyond our organisational capacity to unite these needs?"

The first VSO volunteers – eight 18-year-old men – left the UK to give a year's voluntary service in Ghana, Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) and Sarawak on May 15, 1958.

Since then, VSO has sent over 30,000 volunteers to work in over 70 countries and still has thriving programmes in Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia.

The exhibition has been put together by the Portsmouth and Chichester VSO support group, which includes many who have served with VSO in the past.

The dean of the cathedral, the Very Rev David Brindley, said: "I'm delighted that the cathedral can host this exhibition, as I was myself a VSO volunteer, working in Lebanon in 1971-72."

Pompey Chimes

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