



Paul Kerensa

Comedian is booked for our conference

AWARD-WINNING Christian comedian Paul Kerensa has been added to the line-up for our Diocesan Conference this month.

Paul, who helped to write the sitcoms *Miranda* and *Not Going Out*, will be the after-dinner speaker at our conference, which happens between September 7-9 at High Leigh Conference Centre.

The chief executive of Christian Aid, Loretta Minghella, the Rev Steve Chalke, founder of the Oasis Trust, and the Rev Dr Sam Wells, from St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London, will be the main speakers. There's also a variety of workshops on topics such as stewardship, other faiths, discipleship and vocation.

Bishop Christopher will welcome our clergy, and some of our Readers, diocesan staff and key lay leaders to the conference. The overall theme is 'Connect For', and we'll be invited to connect our theology with our daily lives in parishes, chaplaincies and workplaces.

For full details, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/conf2015

Pompey Chimes

The Pompey Chimes is the official newspaper of the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 parishes in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Its circulation is 8,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each parish pays 15p for each copy, which allows our readers to pick it up for free on the final Sunday of the previous month. Paid-for adverts are dealt with by our publishers, Cornerstone Vision. For a list of editorial deadlines, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/pompeychimes

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER EDITION: Monday 7 September

AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 24 September

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 27 September

CONTACTS:

EDITORIAL: Neil Pugmire, First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road,

All photos and details of children and young people in the Pompey Chimes are published with the informed and express written permission of those who have parental responsibility for them.

An easier way to donate our cash

'It's a more efficient system'

IT IS A SIMPLE WAY TO INCREASE YOUR PARISH'S INCOME – AND TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR WORSHIPPERS TO GIVE.

The Parish Giving Scheme enables congregation members to give money via direct debit, rather than by standing order, or by putting envelopes or loose change in the collection plate. It allows worshippers to plan their giving as part of their Christian stewardship – and also gives them the chance to increase the amount they give each year, in line with inflation.

Nine parishes in our diocese have been trialling the scheme ahead of a diocesan-wide launch this autumn. And they've already seen increases in giving in just a couple of months. The average weekly gift under this scheme is £16.44 per person, rather than the diocesan average of £9.50.

The other advantage of the scheme is that the parish simply receives one monthly payment for all the Parish Giving Scheme donations, with the gift-aid tax refund already added. No longer do they have to check every envelope, account for each donation, and then apply for the tax refund.

In All Saints Church, Ryde, the parish tried the new scheme out on 10 regular givers. The amount they gave rose by 12 per cent.

PCC treasurer Randal Cross said: "It has been a great success and in September we plan to

THE Parish Giving Scheme made a real difference to Jane Cobley, from All Saints, East Meon.

She signed up to give £200 a month by direct debit – and ticked the box for her donation to increase in line with inflation.

"It's a more efficient way of giving," she said. "You don't have to remember to bring your envelope

to launch the scheme to the rest of our congregation. The biggest saving is in time for the treasurer, gift aid secretary and those checking weekly envelopes.

"Although we will continue to use weekly envelopes, we hope that a good percentage of those who use the gift aid envelopes will transfer to the scheme."

There was also a rise in giving among the 10 regular donors at All Saints Church, Gurnard, who were also trialling the scheme.

"It's certainly less work for me and for the gift aid co-ordinator," said PCC treasurer

Wendy Peskett. "All of those involved with the scheme were giving by standing order already, but this made them look at how

lope to church each week. I pay most of my bills by direct debit, so this makes sense. If you create a standing order, you can leave it for several years and then realise that you haven't increased it.

"It's part of my faith to give money, time and in practical ways to help serve the Church and the community."

Wendy Peskett. "All of those involved with the scheme were giving by standing order already, but this made them look at how



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME™

much they were giving. The majority of them signed up to the option of an annual inflationary increase as well.

"It is so simple, and it brings us into a new era. I'll definitely suggest it to other donors in September and we'll run a stewardship campaign



Babette Shaw with (left) Kirsty Egan, 7, and Laura Taylor, 8

Children perform summer show

CHILDREN were given the chance to learn some basics of acting, singing and dancing at a three-day summer school.

The youngsters came to St Simon's Church in Southsea for the sessions with youth outreach worker Babette Shaw – who has trained in musical theatre.

And the nine children also

had the chance to perform in front of family and friends at the end of their summer school.

They staged an alternative version of Cinderella, as well as performing songs and choreography.

Hannah Taylor, aged 11, said: "It was really fun. I loved all the energy and the games

we've done, and performing at the end."

Babette will continue to offer regular Saturday afternoon sessions for children and young people at St Simon's Church, from 2pm-4pm.

For more information, contact her via the church office on 023-9282 9440.