



Left: Jane Ball, from East Meon and Langrish, views footage from the drone; right: explaining how it works at Droxford School

# DVD tells story of our rich heritage

**A NEW DVD uses evocative aerial photography to tell the story of the heritage of the Meon Valley and its churches.**

*The Meon Valley - A Journey of Discovery* gives us the chance to follow in the footsteps of St Wilfrid, taking us from East Meon on the South Downs to Titchfield Haven on the Solent coast.

It brings to life the story of the river, its settlers, history and heritage. The unique aerial footage, taken by a drone hovering over the landscape, is blended with ground-based filming and archive photography.

Alina Jenkins of the BBC narrates the story of the Meon Valley's 10 villages and market towns, its history, churches and other rich heritage, and its four national nature reserves.

Viewers of all ages can experience the story from the Bronze and Iron Ages, through the Roman and Saxon eras to modern times. It includes Shakespeare's visit to Titchfield and Winston Churchill, the allied leaders and tens of thousands of troops and equipment deployed in the ancient Forest of Bere ahead of D-Day.

The film was commissioned by the Friends of the Saxon Church at Corhampton. It's part of its community heritage programme to bring to life the area's heritage, of which the church, built in AD1020, is a living symbol.

It tells the story of how Christianity returned to the Meon Valley in the seventh Century. St Bede in his eighth century *Ecclesiastical History*



Children from Meonstoke C of E Infant School on their Saxon Day

of the English People described the mission of Wilfrith of Northumberland (St Wilfrid) to convert the Meonwara (people of the Meon) to Christianity.

Wilfrith is believed to have built many churches along the valley including a minster church at Titchfield. The DVD brings to life the story and features of each of the 10 historic churches in the valley, and their communities.

Peter O'Sullivan, from the Friends of Corhampton Church, led the production of the film and DVD. He said: "This has been an amazing project involving local schools, villages, historical societies and church groups up and down the valley.

"Support has come from many organisations, including from Dr Kelly Kilpatrick of Nottingham University. Kelly's research into the place names of the valley enabled our narrator, Alina Jenkins, to use Old English, the

language of our Saxon forbears. Sondre Danielsen from Norway, who is fluent in Old English, recorded for us the Lord's Prayer as it would have sounded in our churches in the Saxon era."

Funding from the project came from the South Downs National Park's Sustainable Community Fund and Winchester and Hampshire councils.

Adrian Moss and the team at Focus Business Communications, based at the Hamble, provided research, creative direction and production capability. They worked with aerial film partner Cambridge UAV, using cutting-edge unmanned 'drone' cameras.

More than 1,000 copies of the DVD have been distributed since its launch late last year, with Meon Valley churches and heritage organisations benefitting from the sales. It has been seen by everyone from school pupils to older people, and as far afield as

Australia, India and the west coast of the USA. Our C of E schools have been among those who contributed to the programme and the making of the film.

Linda Coumbe, headteacher at Meonstoke C of E Infant School, said: "Our children really enjoy and learn from the Saxon community heritage project. We were delighted to contribute to the making of the film and for the children to experience the excitement of the unmanned aerial vehicle flying near the school."

To buy copies, see [www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk](http://www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk) or ring John Snow on 07437-487259.

There's a chance to walk along the valley in the footsteps of St Wilfrid yourself on October 10. Walkers will leave St Nicholas Church, Wickham, at 1pm for a six-mile pilgrimage to Droxford, for refreshments and a short service. Contact Robert Goulson on 01329-832915 for details.

## Medical staff in healing service

HEALTH workers from across our diocese will attend a special healing service in our cathedral this month.

Those involved in healing for the NHS, private medical services, and in our parishes have been invited to the service on Sunday 18 October.

The date coincides with St Luke's Day – St Luke was known as a doctor in Jesus' time.

The speaker will be Angela Painter, chief executive of Burrowswood Christian Hospital near Tunbridge Wells.

She has been involved with health-related work in a number of aspects, and is ideally placed to draw together both spheres of activity in her message.

The service is a departure from the regular healing days that have taken place annually recently. There will be an opportunity for healing prayer after the service, along with refreshments.

Diocesan healing adviser David Pearson said: "This will be a service to honour and celebrate the work of healing within our community, and to affirm the contribution of all those involved in local health services and parish prayer ministry teams."

## Candidates line up for election

OUR diocese's candidates for election to the General Synod have been revealed.

There are six clergy candidates standing for three places: the Ven Gavin Collins, the Rev James Hunt, Canon Peter Leonard, the Rev Charlie Peer, Canon Bob White and the Rev Hugh White.

And there are eight lay candidates standing for three places: Emily Bagg, David Day, Lucy Docherty, Mark Emerton, Stuart Forster, Rebecca Hunt, Michael Lane and Paul Utting.

Deanery synod members are now voting – clergy vote for clergy representatives and lay people vote for lay representatives. They have until October 9 to vote. The results will be revealed on October 12.

Full details of all the candidates can be found on [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/synodelections](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/synodelections).