

Let's tackle that generation gap

EVER wondered why different generations seem to think differently?

Why might the values and priorities of teenagers seem to be the opposite of ours? Why might we get frustrated with older people, whose attitudes appear to us to be stuck in the past?

The generation gap can make young people seem like aliens to older people, and old people seem like zombies to the young!

That's why 'Zombies versus Aliens' is the title given to a weekend looking at what has shaped the thinking of each generation, and how those generational differences might affect the Church.

International business speaker Dr Graeme Codrington, who spoke at our Diocesan Conference in 2011, will lead two sessions on December 4 and 5 to examine these issues in detail.

And Saturday's day-long conference will be in the headquarters of Ben Ainslie Racing in Old Portsmouth – the venue built for the Olympic sailing champion that hosted this summer America's Cup races.

Social responsibility adviser Canon Nick Ralph said: "Graeme's talk at the Diocesan Conference was entertaining and thought-provoking.

"He has kindly agreed to come back to run a conference for the diocese, so that clergy can bring



Above: the Ben Ainslie Racing team at their Portsmouth headquarters; left: social analyst Dr Graeme Codrington

along parishioners to hear what he has to say, and think together about the changes that are affecting us as church communities.

"He has some new content and updated insights since we last heard from him, especially on the digital native generation and future trends. So it would be worth coming, even if you have heard him speak before.

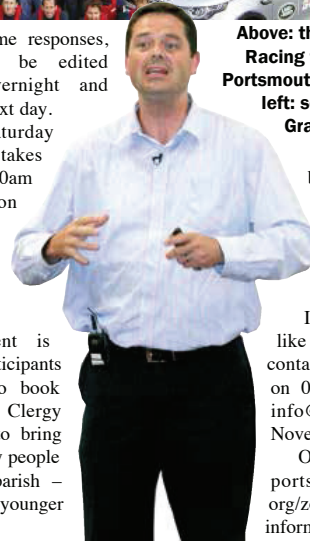
"This is a unique opportunity to consider issues which affect all churches and to work together to think about some strategies for tackling them."

Young people will get the chance to have their own session from 7.30pm on December 4, at the Aspek Gallery in Gunwharf Quays. As well as hearing from Graeme, they will get the chance

to video some responses, which will be edited together overnight and shown the next day.

The Saturday conference takes place from 10am to 4pm on December 5, and will be hosted by Bishop Christopher.

The event is free, but participants will need to book in advance. Clergy are invited to bring along two lay people from their parish – ideally one a younger person.



The event has been organised by our diocese, and the Council for Social Responsibility (CSR).

If you would like to book, please contact Nicky Pybus on 023-9289 9670 or info@csrnet.org by November 23.

Or see www.portsmouth.anglican.org/zombies for more information.

Church will mark its 175th birthday

A MUSICAL extravaganza will help a church mark its 175th birthday in style.

St James Church in Emsworth will mark the major milestone this month with a concert that harks back to Victorian times.

The church and the town have grown up together since the earliest years of Queen Victoria's reign, weathering the rise and fall of the local oyster industry, enduring the horrors of war and rejoicing in hundreds of weddings and baptisms.

So the church's director of music, Sarah Pinnell, is putting together a concert by the church choir that includes styles and genres from the 1840s to the present day. It will include choral and vocal items, instrumental solos, and a visual presentation.

It's happening on November 7, from 7pm, and all are welcome. There is no admission charge, but donations can be given towards the church's 175th anniversary project – to replace the west doors of the building.

For more details, see: www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org.

Help children with shoebox collection

YOU can help make Christmas better for needy children across the world – by filling a shoebox with presents.

The Operation Christmas Child project is run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Purse.

And St Simon's Church in Southsea will make it easy for you to contribute, by hosting a shoebox social afternoon, from 2pm-5pm on November 14. Everyone is welcome to help to pack and wrap shoeboxes, with everything provided for you.

If you can't come, you can fill your own shoebox with donations, or donate money so that items can be bought to put into boxes.

For details of which items are appropriate to donate, see www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk. Or ring St Simon's parish office on 023-9282 9440 for more details.

Plans will make building accessible

PLANS to redevelop the front of a Portsmouth church should provide better access to the busy building.

St Mark's Church in North End was built in the 1970s with up and down ramps leading to the worship area above and community rooms below – but they represent a real barrier to less mobile members of the community.

The curate, the Rev Kim Weeks, who uses a wheelchair herself, said: "We started to look at how we could get a wheelchair into the building on all floors, but soon realised it was a much bigger issue



The proposed new front entrance to St Mark's, North End than that. We really needed to address the issue of how welcoming the building was to all. The new plans will remove the ramps and create a single street-level access to the

building with both stairs and high quality lift to all levels."

This is just one of the five elements of the church's Every Square Inch campaign, which aims to transform the building for community use. The idea is to see every square inch of the building used to serve the local community.

The £280,000 project includes an improved kitchen and dining area, which will enhance the church's community cafe; a new 'activity studio' for a range of physical programmes; and the refurbishment of its three community meeting rooms.