



Diocese of Portsmouth

Pompey Churches

Free of charge



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

NUMBER 144 Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016



I need God's help as I foster children

My Faith: page 12

Decorated trees and more festive fun

Christmas events: page 3



BLUEPRINT FOR OUR FUTURE IS UNVEILED

WE have a blueprint to guide our diocese in the future - and it can be summed up in just three words.

'Live, Pray, Serve' will be our motto for the future, as we seek to equip people to **live** as disciples of Christ; to **pray**, individually and together as worshipping communities; and to **serve** our local neighbourhoods and society together.

To achieve this, we will encourage and support our parishes, chaplaincies and church schools as they aim to:

- make disciples of Christ;
- grow our churches;
- equip people for lifelong learning; and
- promote the transformation of society.

These four strands embrace all the work covered by our central diocesan teams, but engagement with individual worshippers and in local communities only happens at the frontline of parishes, chaplaincies and church schools.

Diocesan staff can make this easier as we provide new forms of pioneering ministry, alternative structures, or new ways and styles of training and support. But ultimately it can only happen with your help!

This new strategic vision was endorsed by our Diocesan Synod last month, where members voted overwhelmingly to support this

new direction for the future.

It builds on our previous initiatives, such as Kairos and Ministry for Mission, which also aimed to promote discipleship, church growth and community engagement.

It is also our response to the national Church of England's increasing emphasis on church growth, discipleship and outreach. Its 'Reform and Renewal' agenda covers how we might change ordination training nationally; the ongoing training of clergy and laity to develop disciples; the training of senior clergy; and how to simplify Church processes and ease red tape.

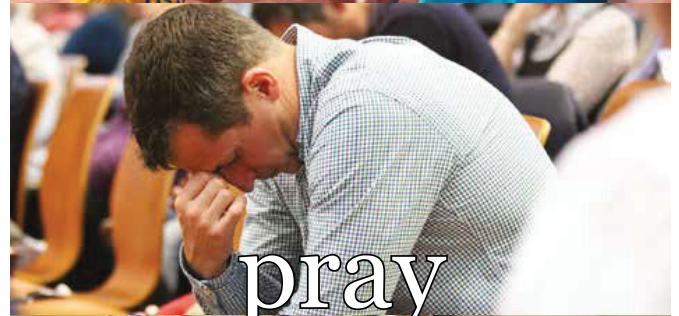
The Archdeacon of Portsdown, the Ven Joanne Grenfell, told synod members: "Recently we have been challenged and prompted by the national Church to engage with a process of what is called reform and renewal: to think creatively about how we form new disciples, grow churches, serve society and engage with young people and schools.

"Our own pioneering initiative is part of this work - looking at how to reach and serve the hardest-to-reach communities, as well as engaging with young people and areas of new housing. That work is now well under way.

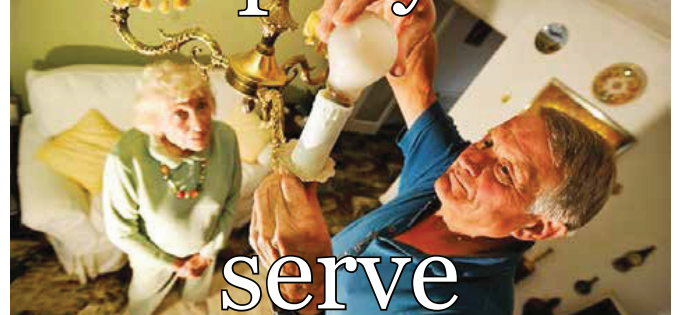
"And our new Portsmouth Pathway, training Readers and ordinands together, locally, in the heart of Portsmouth, is also part of this work and shows our commitment to better formation and training for all kinds of ministry."



live



pray



serve

Bishop condemns Paris attacks

BISHOP Christopher has condemned the terrorism that killed more than 120 people in Paris last month.

His response came as our churches prayed for those affected by the horrific attacks, and as local Muslim leaders offered reassurances that they stood for peace.

The bishop said: "I was sickened to hear of the tragic events in Paris, the latest in a long line of terrorist attacks around the world. I was chairing our Diocesan Synod on the Saturday and we paused beforehand to pray for the victims, those who mourn for them, the injured, and those left anxious and fearful in

Paris. Our churches will also have been praying along similar lines during services.

"We want to show solidarity with all those innocent people caught up in these horrific events. Few of us can imagine the devastating, long-term effects of this brutality on the families involved.

"We also want to challenge the view that suggests we should therefore close our borders to refugees and asylum seekers. This kind of brutality can be an everyday occurrence in many countries today. It is precisely these kind of random acts of terror that so many of them are running away from."

What does this mean for parishes?: pages 8-9