

# Choral tribute to D-Day

**CHILDREN from four Gosport schools were among those singing on a special choral tribute to the heroes of D-Day.**

The 200 pupils were recorded in St Mary's Church, Rowner, as part of our Cathedral Sing outreach programme, which takes music into local schools. They came from Siskin Primary, Rowner Junior, Grange Junior and Peel Common Junior Schools.

Their voices will be heard on the new CD entitled *Heroes' Tide*, which has been produced to raise funds for the transformation of Portsmouth's D-Day Museum.

Two Portsmouth Cathedral choirs, Portsmouth Choral Union, Solent Male Voice Choir and the Milton Glee Club Choir are among the other choral groups recorded for the CD.

The tracks include *We'll Meet Again*, *Do Not Stand at my Grave and Weep* by Howard Goodall, and an arrangement of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.

The CD also includes the

premiere of a reflective piece entitled *Heroes' Tide* by James Dunlop, a Royal Marines musician.

It is sung by the Portsmouth Massed Choir, which was inspired by the events surrounding the 70th anniversary of D-Day and brings together more than 300 singers and musicians.

They were recorded live at Portsmouth Guildhall earlier in the autumn. The other choirs involved were also recorded at the same event, when D-Day veterans spoke of their experiences between breaks in recording.

The rector of Rowner, Canon John Draper, said: "The town and people of Gosport played a vital part in the D-Day landings, as many troops left the shores of Gosport for northern France in June 1944.

"It is entirely appropriate that the four junior schools of Rowner should use Rowner Parish Church as their recording base. The church is the spiritual home of so many servicemen and women today. We were privileged to host the event."

The Cathedral Sing outreach

project is a series of classroom workshops and community events for children and teachers in primary schools, delivered by leaders and members of Portsmouth Cathedral Choirs across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

It engages thousands of children each year, and highlights the potential of music to explore other elements of the primary school curriculum.

And the £4.9m project to transform the D-Day Museum in Southsea aims to create a radical new layout that use the most up-to-date display methods, to continue to tell the story of turning point of the Second World War.

The idea is to fully convey the scale and drama of the largest seaborne invasion in history, and the human side of the story, seizing the last opportunity to capture the first-hand experiences of the men and women who took part. The work is due for completion in mid-2017.

For more details, see [www.ddaymuseum.co.uk](http://www.ddaymuseum.co.uk) or ring 023-9283 4788. Copies of the CD are available, priced at £9.99, plus £1.50 postage and packing. They can be ordered by emailing [development@ddaymuseum.co.uk](mailto:development@ddaymuseum.co.uk) or ringing 023-9268 8037.



Pupils from the four Gosport schools are recorded for the new CD in St Mary the Virgin Church, Rowner

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## Jesus, born into turmoil

AS 2015 draws to a close, the world certainly feels a much less secure place.

We are used to seeing pictures of refugees, and of war and unrest in distant lands, but this year these pictures are of places much closer to home.

If we've recently visited somewhere like Paris or one of the Greek islands on holiday, it does bring the images of terrorist attacks or desperate refugees coming ashore somehow more real to us.

The distress of others, and the ever-present risk of sudden terrorist attacks impacting us and those we know and love, does darken our thoughts, even at a festive time like Christmas.

But, of course, it was into just such a world of turmoil that God chose for Jesus to be born so long ago.

God's son, born to a very young woman living under an



the **last word**

by the Rev Wendy Kennedy  
Diocesan Secretary

oppressive regime, and into a family that would very soon have to flee to another country for asylum in the face of the threat of death.

In the midst of dark uncertainty the light and hope of the world was born.

The example and victory of Jesus Christ still shines in our darkness. As we prepare to celebrate again and to retell the story of the nativity this Christmastide, we are reassured that uncertainty and

risk are only of this world and that, through Jesus, God is with us and has us safely in his embrace.

We have the certainty that not even the very worst the world can throw at us, not even death, can defeat us.

This Christmas, may the light and love of Christ fill us so that the divine gifts of reckless generosity, hospitality, and love can flow through us to this hurting world and to others in need.