



The Rev Amanda Collinson, Jacob, aged 5, and Samuel, 3, with the bears

Bears donated to refugees

THREE hundred teddy bears are on their way to help Syrian refugees – thanks to the generosity of Isle of Wight youngsters.

Wightlink Ferries transported the cuddly toys across the Solent so they could be shipped out to border camps in time for Christmas, giving comfort to children who have lost their homes because of the civil war.

The Rev Amanda Collinson, priest-in-charge of All Saints, Gurnard, and St John the Baptist, Northwood, organised the appeal with local schools and churches in Cowes on behalf of the national charity Project Paddington.

She collected 11 boxes of much-loved teddies and other soft toys in less than two weeks from Gurnard, Northwood and Lanesend Primary Schools, Gurnard

Pre-School and churchgoers from around Cowes.

“My boys Samuel and Jacob won’t go to sleep if they don’t have their bears close at hand, so I know how important a soft toy can be to a child,” she said. “I have been humbled by the amazing generosity of the hundreds of caring pupils who wanted to help children they don’t even know.”

Project Paddington was developed by a group of mums in Sheffield as a response to the growing humanitarian crisis among refugees and displaced people. It involved children donating teddies and writing notes to send to refugee children. In just two months, more than 20,000 children and their families got involved in the scheme.

For details of the project, see www.projectpaddington.com.

Have your say on our Church

THE details of a youth event which will allow young people to have their say on the future of the Church have been confirmed.

Those aged between 13 and 25 will get a chance to hear future trends analyst Dr Graeme Codrington speak at the Zombies versus Aliens youth event. It happens from 7.30pm-9.30pm on December 4 at the Aspx Gallery in Gunwharf Quays.

The 40 delegates will hear from him, share some food, and then film their responses. That footage will be used the next day, when clergy and lay leaders attend their Zombies versus Aliens event at the headquarters of Ben Ainslie Racing in Old Portsmouth. Details are on www.portsmouth.anglican.org/zombies.

Churchyard plan will serve locals

A CHURCH near Fareham is to extend the use of its churchyard with two new developments to serve its community.

The churchyard at St Mary’s Church, Warsash, is almost full after 145 years of continuous use.

Its PCC has now agreed that forthcoming burials can take place on old, unmarked graves that are more than 100 years old, and is awaiting final approval from our Diocesan Chancellor to permit this.

This is not a new idea, as the current regulations allow for old graves to be used in this way.

They have also agreed to provide a new Garden of Remembrance where ashes can be interred. This will be a landscaped area at the eastern end of the churchyard, where ashes can be buried.

Both of these developments will allow those in St Mary’s parish to be buried, or for their ashes to be interred, in their local churchyard.

It will also allow local residents to visit the graves and memorials of loved ones in the tranquil surroundings of the church grounds.

St Mary’s churchyard is the only one in the Western Wards of Fareham where new burials can take place, as the other churchyards in the area are all full.

Churchwarden Roger Clear said: “One of the significant ways in which we serve our community is through the churchyard, where all who die in the parish have the right to be buried. This is unusual these days, as so many churchyards are full or closed to further burials.

“Our PCC wanted to keep the churchyard available for as long as possible to the local community, so we can continue to provide a final resting place for loved ones in our parish.

“Interment of ashes is actually much more common these days



The tranquil churchyard at St Mary’s Church, Warsash

than burials, so we focussed first on this. Once there is no more space for ashes to be buried in specific plots, the idea is to provide a landscaped area where ashes can be interred.

“People’s names will be recorded in a Book of Remembrance kept on display in the church, which is open from 9am-5pm every day.

“This is similar to the practice at many other churches, and the book will be opened each day at the current day of the year. Families can also visit by appointment to find the names of their loved ones.

“A local man has also done a lot of research into our churchyard. As a result, we now there are a number of unmarked graves where it is impossible to

identify who is buried in them. There is a centuries-old practice of re-using grave plots, and we plan to introduce this.

“The current regulations allow such ‘over-burial’ for graves over 50 years old. But, given our village life and local long memories, we would only over-bury above graves over 100 years old, which are unmarked, with unknown remains.

“Any remains discovered when preparing graves would be reinterred with suitable dignity and prayers. With our current rate of burials, we believe this will allow us to continue to use the churchyard almost indefinitely.”

The parish has been consulting with local residents on the idea throughout November.

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

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(NB: There is no separate January edition)

AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 28 January

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 31 January

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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.

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