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**NEWPORT:** This was the scene as a team of worshippers from across the Isle of Wight were commissioned as lay pastoral assistants in parishes.

The new lay pastoral assistants had taken part in a 10-week course to train them for future ministry in their own parishes.

The course is intended to be repeated twice in 2016, and aims to help local congregations to function, flourish and grow. The idea was first mooted in the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight's paper Living Together, which sought to find better ways for island churches to offer ministry and mission.



The new lay pastoral assistants after they had been commissioned

**LEIGH PARK:** It has been a time of celebration at St Francis Church, Leigh Park.

The church marked its patronal festival with a 'Big Heart Day', which included a celebration service, a free lunchtime picnic together, and music from the Urban Vocal Group.

The group included people aged eight to 80 from the local area.

Six days later, St Francis also hosted a Harvest Festival Supper, which included a two-course meal and a glass of wine for around 40 people.

Afterwards, the congregation played skittles together.

**FAREHAM:** A group from St John's Church, Fareham, took part in the Great South Run.



The Rev Bruce Deans (centre) with (l to r) Sian Rich-Smith, her mum Joy, Sue Lupton, and Christian Rich-Smith, preparing for the Great South Run

## news from the pews

Among them was the vicar, the Rev Bruce Deans, who raised money for cancer charities while his wife Caroline was being treated for breast cancer.

He encouraged friends to donate to Cancer Research UK and Breast Cancer Care, although he didn't formally collect sponsorship.

"I had decided to

run this year before I knew anything about Caroline's cancer," said Bruce. "Most people will know about the great work Cancer Research does. I've only got to know the other charity, Breast Cancer Care, through Caroline's illness.

"It is a charity that has provided us with some really useful booklets about breast

cancer: what it is, what we can expect, treatment options, and where to get support."

Others from the congregation who took on the 10-mile run included Charlie Stevenson, who ran in memory of her workmate Steve Long, who died out of the blue in August 2014 of an unknown heart condition

Also running were worshippers Kat Powell, Joy Rich-Smith and her children Christian and Sian, Sue Lupton, Natalie Summer-Anderson and Laura Craft.

**NEWPORT:** Children from Newport C of E Primary School were filmed as part of the BBC's Children In Need programme last month.

Their Kindness Programme has been funded by money raised for Children In Need, so BBC film crews visited to see it in action.

The programme was founded by Kim Brown, who runs the workshops with three volunteers, Mark, Paddy and Anna. It is a whole-school

## the school report

approach to building a more compassionate environment and helping pupils feel good about themselves.

It uses our five senses to show how we are all different. The workshop also involves a large blow-up igloo, inside of which are five sensory

points, allowing them to explore each sense via an interactive portal.

Rosie Colson, pastoral lead at the school said: "Our children have enjoyed taking part, and it has given them a basis to think about how we all perceive the world

differently, and that it is in fact OK to be different.

"Our school was fortunate enough to have a BBC crew visit for one day to film the workshops in action. Our eight anti-bullying ambassadors were filmed during their workshop and some were even directly interviewed by the reporter."

The footage was screened in the run-up to the Children In Need telethon last month.