

Pathway launch to train ministers

BISHOP Christopher has officially launched a new centre to train our ministers in the heart of Portsmouth.

Dozens of people including students, their friends and family, clergy and diocesan staff gathered in St Luke's Church in Southsea, where the centre is based, for a special service.

It celebrated the launch of the Portsmouth Pathway, our new centre for training clergy and lay ministers, which accepted its first intake of students this September.

The service was led by Bishop Christopher and included hymns, readings, prayers and the commissioning of the small team leading and supporting the centre and its students.

He prayed for the Rev Dr James Grenfell as centre director, Claire Loveridge as its administrator and the Rev Annie McCabe, vicar of St Luke's, as its chaplain.

In his sermon, the Rev Dr James Grenfell reflected on the passage in Luke's gospel, where Jesus appoints 70 disciples and sends them ahead of him in pairs.

He said: "For Luke, the metaphor of a journey contains a set of associations about change, purpose, navigation, direction and destination, which are central to our lives of Christian discipleship.



Bishop Christopher at the Portsmouth Pathway with (l to r): centre administrator Claire Loveridge, director the Rev James Grenfell and chaplain the Rev Annie McCabe

"The Pathway offers an intense experience of Christian discipleship which is searching and challenging. It's not just about academic learning or teaching people specific ministerial skills but probably most important of all is the spiritual formation –

the process, as St Paul writes, of having Christ formed in us.

"Please pray for those students on the Pathway as they continue on the exhilarating, challenging, stretching but deeply fulfilling journey to ordained or lay ministry.

"Pray for all those in this

diocese who will contribute to their formation, for the tutors, for the congregation here at St Luke's, for those who will supervise them in their placements, and for their partners and families."

There are currently 19 students on the course, 10 ordinands and nine Readers. Ten of these are in the first year of training and nine in the second year.

There are also another 11 Readers-in-training in their third year, who are pursuing their Formation for Ministry year.

The Pathway students have so far been exploring vocation, the New Testament, Christian doctrine and ethics.

They'll also look at the Old Testament, mission and ministry and pastoral care. Most of the sessions take place in the evening or at weekends, meaning those who work during the day can attend.

The initiative is a partnership between our diocese, Ripon College Cuddesdon, where Bishop Christopher is chairman of the board of trustees, and Durham University. The three-year course will lead to diplomas or certificates in theology.

Previously, those called to become clergy from our diocese and who trained part-time attended the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme (STETS), based in Salisbury.

University chaplains get top marks

THE University of Portsmouth Chaplaincy has been given top marks in an international survey of students.

It received a satisfaction rating of 98 per cent in the survey – the highest mark of all 62 universities surveyed across the world.

The research was carried out by the i-graduate website for its International Student Barometer.

It also found that the chaplaincy, which offers a range of services to support students, received the highest rating – of 90 per cent – for its provision of worship facilities.

University chaplain the Rev Andy Marshall said: "These results reflect the resources the university has committed to supporting the spiritual, cultural, and pastoral needs of international and UK students over recent years, and the hard work of the chaplaincy team."

The team is based in the Nuffield Centre, in St Michael's Road. As well as the chance to talk confidentially to a chaplain, the chapel offers a space where students can meet friends, a sanctuary room for reflection and prayer, and an Islamic prayer room with its own washing facilities.

To find out more, see: www.port.ac.uk/chaplaincy.

Holy Land film to be shown

A PARISH near Petersfield will host the screening of a film about Bethlehem to raise awareness of the situation in the Holy Land.

The PCC at Hawkley will show the film *Open Bethlehem* in the village hall at 7.30pm on January 23. The previous Consul General to Jerusalem, Vincent Fean, is planning to come, and the parish is organising for the maker of the film, Leila Sansour, to come and introduce it.

They'll invite those curates and others who visited the Holy Land with the bishop this year to come, and to bring someone from their parish.

It costs £10, including wine and nibbles. If people feel moved by it, they can become an ambassador and gain a Bethlehem passport. For further details about the film, see: www.openbethlehem.org.

Leigh Park school's Rock Challenge success

A LEIGH Park school scooped 10 awards for its dance performance at the UK J (Junior) Rock Challenge Finals after being inspired by a popular children's book.

Fifty-five pupils at Riders Junior School developed their routine around the book *Aliens Love Underpants* by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort. They walked away with the Spirit of Junior Rock Challenge award which recognised their team work and the way in which they supported the other schools competing.

They also won the national award for entertainment, as well as the national award for the scene or moment of 2015, which was voted for



Riders Junior School at the Junior Rock Challenge

by the public. There were more than 50,000 views of the performance with the school receiving over 1,500 votes.

Among those performing

was Jem Jeffery, aged 10, son of the Rev Jonathan Jeffery, vicar of Leigh Park and Warren Park.

Jem said: "It was a really

good and fun experience. I was slightly nervous just before we went on stage but when we went out on stage and were performing the adrenalin kicked in and it was just an amazing feeling."

Elmas Chuter, 10, said: "It made me more confident, and helped me to get to know my friends better because we were working really closely together. When I was on stage it felt good and wasn't that scary."

Headteacher Anna Jones said: "I am really proud of all of our children. It has been really great to be able to celebrate as a community the achievements of our children. We cannot wait for next year's J Rock! "