



# Pompey Churches

Free of charge



NUMBER 145

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

FEBRUARY 2016

THE  
OF

## Our new ministers will offer innovation

Pioneer ministry: page 3

## Why these peanuts were a precious gift

My Faith: page 12



## Audit praise for how we help keep people safe

AN independent audit has praised the arrangements that help to keep vulnerable people safe in our diocese.

The audit, published last month, concluded that our diocese was well on the way to developing a robust safeguarding culture to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The significant emphasis on safeguarding has come from the top, with the bishop providing a clear lead.

Auditors from the Social Care Institute of Excellence, a support agency specialising in safeguarding, were impressed with the openness and desire to learn evident within the diocese, and the commitment of clergy, staff and volunteers to care for those vulnerable older and younger people who engage with its churches.

Portsmouth was one of four dioceses in the Church of England to pilot a new system of independent safeguarding audits.

The Archdeacon of the Meon, the Ven Gavin Collins, said: "Portsmouth was happy to volunteer as one of the four dioceses that would pilot these audits. We saw this as a welcome opportunity to be scrutinised and to find out what needed to improve.

"We're grateful that this independent audit has shown us where our strengths are as a diocese, and also found some areas for improvement."

These audits will take place in other Church of England dioceses during 2016 and 2017.

You can read the full report on [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding).

## Island worshippers vow to work together on God's mission

# WE ARE UNITED!



### IT'S a strategy that aims to glorify God and spread the gospel in the Isle of Wight.

The latest version of the Isle of Wight Plan aims to find new ways of being the Church of England on the Island, to attract newcomers, deepen discipleship and engage effectively with the community.

Worshippers gathered at Cowes Yacht Haven for the launch of the brand new 'Isle of Wight Deanery', which brought together parishes in East and West Wight. The 300 churchgoers also heard the latest on how their strategy would dovetail with the diocesan strategic plan to 'live, pray, serve' in the future.

The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Peter Sutton, explained how this review started in 2012 in the context of national and local challenges – such as declining and ageing congregations, the struggle to meet parish share, the large

number of church buildings, and the fact that even record numbers of ordinands weren't enough to fill the gaps left by large numbers of retiring clergy.

He thanked and congratulated parishes for the radical improvement in their ability and commitment to meet the costs of ministry via parish share, and explained how an Island-wide stewardship programme in 2016 would enable further progress.

Parishes would in future work together in six Island clusters, working towards the four elements of our diocesan 'live, pray, serve' strategy: Making Disciples, Growing Churches, Learning for Life and Transforming Society. This would involve congregations being ready to pray for and serve their communities, and for their churches to be communities where others can thrive.

Among the plans for the next two years are the development of the structure which has involved the creation of one Isle of Wight Deanery. The Island's six clusters

will be mission areas, and will be invited to share ways of engaging in ministry and mission, and ensuring that all expressions of Anglicanism can thrive without excessive duplication. By 2017, each cluster will be invited to identify one mission priority for the next three years.

Individual churches may see radical development as festival or pilgrimage churches, or as churches that focus on areas such as healing, tourism or ministry to second home owners. By 2017, each parish will also be invited to identify one mission priority for the next three years.

The bishop has initiated a review into the role of Newport Minster, which will be undertaken in 2016 by the Very Rev Jane Hedges, Dean of Norwich Cathedral, and Canon Peter Leonard, residentiary canon of our cathedral.

As the number of stipendiary clergy reduces, there will be a Ministry and Vocations Strategy for the Isle of Wight which

complements that of the diocese. It will include pioneer ministers to create new worshipping communities. There will be two courses each year for lay pastoral assistants, and courses for lay worship leaders and lay preachers, as needed, as well as the Exploring Christianity Course.

In terms of mission, parishes will be nominated to take part in the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG) programme. Parishes will also be encouraged to use branded A-boards or swing boards outside their buildings to tell passers-by that their church is open. To deepen discipleship, there will be a common Lent Course this year to help parishes tackle these issues. It is called 'Five Words: Open, Pilgrim, Disciple, Servant and Mission.'

Parishes will also be invited to consider how they can use their buildings more effectively to serve and transform their local communities. They will also be urged to develop their links with church and community schools.

**Classy event inaugurates new Isle of Wight Deanery: pages 8-9**