



Bishop Jonathan Frost

Bishop is new chair of board

THE Bishop of Southampton is the new chairman of the board that oversees our work to support schools.

The Rt Rev Jonathan Frost is now chairing the joint Board of Education for both Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses. The board meets quarterly and supervises our work with C of E schools, academies, community schools and further education.

Among Bishop Jonathan's previous experience is a stint as chaplain to the University of Surrey in Guildford. Bishop Christopher has also made him an assistant bishop in our diocese, so he can perform episcopal roles in our parishes and schools as needs be.

Our education team has also welcomed two new staff members. Abbie Eales is our new education officer, replacing Emily Fletcher, who was assistant director of education.

And Julie Stirling is the new PA to our director of education, Jeff Williams, replacing Pippa Fraser-Harris, who was interim PA for Jeff during the autumn.

Teenagers' trip to be life-changing

THIS is the team heading off for a life-changing adventure in Ghana this summer.

They'll be decorating a classroom for children who have special needs, working alongside local Ghanaians as part of a unique cross-cultural opportunity. They'll also get the chance to offer sports and games to Ghanaian children.

The teenagers from Portsmouth deanery will be visiting St George's Anglican School campus in the Diocese of Ho, in eastern Ghana, as part of our Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL).

They'll be in Ghana for a couple of weeks at the end of July and the start of August, in a trip that aims to broaden their horizons and deepen their discipleship. And they got the chance to meet the Bishop of Ho, the Rt Rev Matthias Mededues-Badohu, when he visited St Jude's Church in Southsea, during a briefing for the team.

Eleanor Ferris, aged 15, from St James Church, Milton, said: "It's a really good opportunity to grow our faith, to see their faith, and to help people there. I'm interested in finding out about the culture, which will help us to appreciate more what we have here."

Ben Wilkins, 16, also from St James, said: "I'm looking forward to the whole experience, meeting new people and seeing a different



(Back, l to r): Lauren Brushwood, 18, from St Cuthbert's, Copnor; Sophie Carabott, 15, Kings Church; Megan Wade, 17, Eleanor Ferris, 15, & Ben Wilkins, 16, all St James, Milton; Sam Adie, 14, St Jude's, Southsea; Charlie Slimm, 15, St Swithun's, Southsea; Louie Carabott, 13, Kings Church; & Ben Dawson, 14, St Jude's; (front): Steve McDermott, 19, St Cuthbert's; Bishop Matthias; and Hollie Simmons 15, Kings Church

culture. I think the food might be challenging, but I'll look forward to seeing some different wildlife while we're there."

Lauren Brushwood, 18, from St Cuthbert's Church, Copnor, said: "I work with children who have special needs here, so I'm really interested to see what they do for children with special needs. And it will be good to make new friends on this team."

And Steve McDermott, 19, also from St Cuthbert's, said: "It will be good to see a different way of life. I'm really looking forward to it."

The team will be led by Rachel

Duff and Fran Carabott, from St Jude's, Southsea, who have already travelled to Ho to map out the project.

"It is very unusual for there to be provision for children with special needs in a school, so we want to make this classroom as attractive as possible for these children," said Rachel. "We plan to be decorating each morning and then when school finishes at 2pm, we'll be offering sports and games to any of the children who want to stay on for a while.

"Some of the church ladies will cook for us each day, so we will be offering some employment while

we are there. Each day will start with prayer and worship, and in the evenings there will be time for swimming, relaxing and preparing for the following day."

The team, who have christened themselves 'Project G', will be raising money to help fund their trip at the Love Southsea Market on March 5 and 6. They'll be sponsored to cycle the 1,400km to Ghana on exercise bikes, and will run tombola and other fundraising stalls in Southsea shopping precinct.

For details of our IDWAL links, see www.portsmouth.anglican.org/IDWAL

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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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.

Lent Appeal will inspire education

THIS year's Bishop's Lent Appeal will support education projects both in Ghana and within our diocese.

The annual appeal – which raised a record £32,000 last year – usually supports one local cause and one global one.

This year's donations will be split between providing improved accommodation for those studying for ordination at St Nicholas Theological Seminary in Ghana, and helping charities that tackle obstacles to learning here.

The Ghanaian students' accommodation blocks have been identified as a priority

to help residential students to learn more effectively.

And the charities that we aim to support locally include those helping disadvantaged young people to access learning in creative ways, those working with adults who struggle with literacy, charities helping those for whom English isn't their first language with English skills, and those addressing issues of poverty.

Parishes have been invited to nominate charities they know about that meet those criteria. They have also been offered the chance to hear from curate who can preach

about these issues during Lent.

Among them are the Rev Steve Marsh, from Holy Road, Stubbington, and the Rev Garry Roberts, from Holy Trinity, Fareham. Both have issues with dyslexia.

Steve was helped by his theological college in Cuddesdon, but would have benefited from support when he was younger. He said: "Being given the right help earlier would have made learning a much more enabling and encouraging experience."

For details about the appeal, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/lentappeal