



# Pompey Churches

Free of charge



NUMBER 146

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

MARCH 2016

## I was pregnant with someone else's babies

My Faith: page 12

## The students training to be our ministers

Portsmouth Pathway: pages 8-9



## Harbour Church to serve students and young adults in heart of city

**A BRAND new church is being created in Portsmouth to help reach students and younger people.**

The Harbour Church will be a church plant in the heart of the city, offering contemporary worship and evangelistic initiatives in a non-traditional church venue.

About 30 worshippers will move from St Peter's Church in Brighton as the initial congregation. They aim to expand by working with those who have grown up with no previous experience of church.

It will be open to all, but the new church leaders are particularly keen to spread the gospel among the city's 22,000 students, and those aged 15 to 29 – between 2001 and 2011 there was a significant increase in this age group in the city.

The church's first Sunday services will be in September, but the team will meet regularly in Portsmouth over the summer as they get to know each other.

Bishop Christopher has created this new Anglican congregation by using a Bishop's Mission Order for the first time. This allows new churches to be planted across traditional parish boundaries.

It will be led by the Rev Alex Wood, currently curate at St Peter's, Brighton. St Peter's was itself a church plant from Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, in London, the home of the Alpha Course. It started five years ago with 30 people and is now 800-strong.

Alex and his wife Liz will move to Portsmouth with their daughter Annie. They'll live in the vicarage at St Saviour's Church, Stamshaw, and Alex will also be licensed to St Alban's Church, Copnor.

They will be joined by Ben Bryant, who will be ordained as curate at Harbour Church in our cathedral this summer. Ben, who is currently at Holy Trinity,

# WE'RE STARTING A NEW CHURCH!



Members of the new Harbour Church visiting Portsmouth

### MEET SOME OF OUR CONGREGATION



**HANNAH McCALLUM, 21**  
Involved with St Peter's when at the University of Sussex. Moving here to be a teacher at Mayfield School. Looking forward to making a difference.



**JONNY SWALES, 26**  
Works for charity helping excluded pupils, and those aged 16-24 to find apprenticeships. Hopes to set up social enterprise to help young people here.



**LAUREN MEREDITH, 21**  
Been a Christian for two years and works in a youth hostel. Starting course at Portsmouth University in criminology and hopes to reach fellow students.

Clapham, will come with his wife Martha and their children Jonah and Rae. And Sam Parker, who has been a worship leader at the Christian youth festival Soul Survivor, will join the church as worship pastor.

Alex said: "We love the city and it's an exciting place to be.

It was an exciting adventure to watch St Peter's grow, and it has given us a great vision of how powerful the local church can be.

"This is a big move for us, but we have a job and a house. It's even bigger for the other guys, who have committed themselves to the church plant, but need to find jobs

and somewhere to live. The bishop has invited us to work particularly with students and young adults. We're also keen to work with the poor and marginalised."

The Archdeacon of Portsdown, the Ven Joanne Grenfell, said: "We are pleased to welcome a team from St Peter's and Holy Trinity Brompton to plant a new church in Portsmouth's inner city and to work alongside our existing churches in reaching out.

"We value the energy and commitment that they will bring as they work to share the good news of the gospel among those who have little previous experience of church.

"We're still working out together the details of how and where this new church will be

located, but we are absolutely committed to working together in partnership in this new venture.

"This will be a fantastic addition to the work that our churches and chaplaincies already do to reach out to students and those in the inner city. It will sit well alongside the university chaplaincy, the chaplaincy projects in schools and FE colleges, and the ministry of our existing churches to those in the heart of the city."

Our £2.4m strategy aims to develop new styles of ministry and new worshipping communities. It has also seen the appointment of four new pioneer ministers to find new ways of being 'church'.

Other city churches are also being invited to consider church planting as part of this strategy.