

## Fortnight aims for a fairer deal for farmers

FAIRTRADE Fortnight happens in the first two weeks of March – and it's a good chance to raise awareness about the issue locally.

Fairtrade goods are those where suppliers in developing countries are paid a fair price, to avoid problems when fluctuating prices drive farmers out of business.

And Fairtrade Fortnight, from February 29 until March 13, is a chance to remind people that they can guarantee a fair price has been paid for a product if it has a Fairtrade Mark.

The fortnight kicks off with a Fairtrade breakfast in our cathedral on February 28. There's also a breakfast and coffee morning at St Mary's church hall in Hayling Island from 8.45am-12noon on March 1.

The University of Portsmouth Students' Union will hold a Fairtrade event from 9am-4pm on March 2, offering samples and smoothies made from Fairtrade bananas. The Lord Mayor will hold a Fairtrade coffee morning the same day.

On March 3, you can get a Fairtrade breakfast in Commercial Road from 10am-12noon. And Alan Mak MP will meet those giving out Fairtrade bananas in the Meridian Centre, Havant, from 9am-11am on March 4.

There's a Fairtrade day in Gosport's Discovery Centre from 10.30am-3.30pm on March 5. And a Fairtrade meal in Havant on March 12. See [www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk) for more details.

## Join our young people on Taize trip

IT'S a great chance to meet thousands of other young Christians from across the world – and to stretch your faith.

Our diocese is running another pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France this summer, and it could be a life-changing trip for young people from our parishes.

We're looking for around a dozen young people aged between 15 and 25 who would like to experience prayer and worship with the ecumenical community.

The pilgrimage happens between July 23 and August 1, including a full week joining in the regular worship times, Bible studies and discussions with Christians from a wide range of backgrounds. Our young people will be camping within the community itself.



Bishop Christopher joins our diocesan team on a previous visit to the Taizé Community

It will be the third year in a row that our diocese has led a pilgrimage to the Taizé community. Those who have been before have made good friends, deepened their discipleship and experienced

new ways of worshipping.

And Bishop Christopher, who joined the young people from our diocese in Taizé last summer, will be explaining what the experience is like to those interested. He will be

joined by Brother Paulo from the community, for an event on March 2 at our cathedral.

Young people can quiz them between 7pm and 8.30pm about what to expect from their visit. Parents will also be welcome to discover more as well.

One of those who went on last year's trip said: "It was an amazing experience. I very much hope to go back this year and hopefully meet some of the people I met last year."

The trip is being led by the Rev Allie Kerr, vicar of East Cowes and Whippingham, and one of our young vocations advisers. Anyone interested is advised to book before May 31 with a deposit of £50.

For more details, contact her on 01983-299930 or 07795-470474 or [revd.allie@gmail.com](mailto:revd.allie@gmail.com).

# Families flock to informal service

**CHILDREN and adults are flocking to a new service at a Lee-on-Solent church.**

Sundays@11, which happens each week at St Faith's Church, is designed to help those of all ages to connect with God.

It happens at 11am, straight after the more traditional Parish

Eucharist at 9.30am.

The youngest children are encouraged to sit on mats at the front of church, so they can see what is going on. And no one minds if they are noisy.

The first 20 minutes of Sundays@11 are spent all together, with singing, prayer and an introduction to the Bible passage using pictures, drama or voices.

The songs are modern worship songs which are projected onto a screen. There is usually a chance for the children and adults to talk together.

Then everyone splits into separate groups. Children go to age-related activities in one of the halls. One group for adults is an interactive talk on the day's theme. Another might be a discussion, a meditation or something else. One week they looked through newspapers to discuss the messages they were transmitting.

The final part of the service involves everyone praying together. The creative prayer techniques might involve writing prayers down, or using physical objects such as stones or candles. Afterwards, people stay and chat.

When the new service was



Sundays@11 at St Faith's Church, Lee-on-Solent

launched in November, 70 adults and 24 children came along. Since then, people have kept on coming back.

The vicar, the Rev Paul Chamberlain, said: "I was nervous. We wondered if people would enjoy it and whether they might like it enough to come back a second time. We had spent months thinking about and planning it. But I needn't have been worried! It did work and many of them came back.

"I'm so pleased with the first few weeks of Sundays@11! It couldn't have started better. For

me, the best thing is seeing children and adults enjoying being together in church, and exploring Christian faith."

If you would like to join families at Church@11, you are welcome to join worshippers for coffee in the hall from 10.30am.

The service follows a similar pattern to Church Alive at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke, which also involves adults and children splitting into different groups, depending on their preferred style of learning about faith.

For more information, see [www.stfaithslee.org.uk](http://www.stfaithslee.org.uk).

## 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](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/pompeychimes)

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**AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS:** Thursday 24 March (Maunday Thursday)

**AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH:**  
Sunday 27 March (Easter Sunday)

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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.

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