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Garry Martinez
Migrante International in the Philippines

Our Lent appeal for 2016 focuses on the church’s response to human trafficking around the world.

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BE SEEN

To advertise in this newspaper, contact Glenda or Michelle on **01752 225623** or email glenda@cornerstonevision.com

COWPLAIN: It was the second birthday of the Community Coffee Cup run by St Wilfrid’s Church and Westbrook Church last month.

This is a weekly community event that runs each Saturday morning, from 10am-12noon, in the Westbrook Hall in Tempest Avenue, Cowplain.

Worshippers serve teas, coffees, cakes, biscuits and toast to people, and offer games and toys for children to play with.

It’s an ideal place for families or people who are on their own, who can come and meet a friendly face.

To celebrate its second birthday, the deputy Mayor of Havant, Councillor Faith Ponsobny, came to meet people and cut a birthday cake.

PORTSMOUTH: City churches are aiming to collect hundreds of Easter eggs for disadvantaged children and young people for Easter.

The appeal, spearheaded by St Mary’s Church in Fratton, was launched on Valentine’s Day. The aim is to collect enough Easter eggs for each of the children and young people supported by the Roberts Centre and Southern Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS).

The Roberts Centre, in Landport, supports families facing homelessness, family breakdown or difficult times. SDAS supports women and children affected by domestic violence through its refuge and outreach services.

This is the second year running that St Mary’s has led the appeal. Last year it collected more than 350 eggs for the Roberts Centre.

The vicar of St Mary’s, Canon Bob White, said: “Last year we were overwhelmed (as was the boot of my car!) with the generosity and care shown by so many people.



Family members can enjoy toys and games along with their cuppas at the Community Coffee Cup in Westbrook Hall

news from the pews

“I know the significance the gift had for those who received them. For us it was part of our keeping of Lent – to consider the needs of others and to reflect on how we share and show God’s love to others.

“We have extended the scheme this year to cover Southern Domestic Abuse Service, confident that we will be able to collect many more eggs and show that love and care to yet more individuals.”

Eggs can be donated at Church of England churches across the city, including St Mary’s Church in Fratton Road and the Church of the Resurrection in Drayton, as well as the Portsmouth deanery office at St Faith’s Church, in Crasswell Street, Landport.

The deadline to donate is March 18.

GATCOMBE: The appeal launched by Gatcombe Parochial Church Council to pay for a new toilet and a catering area has been a success.

A total of £25,650 was raised towards the new disabled toilet and food service area inside St Olave’s Church.

They have now been built, were handed over to the church by Isle of Wight contractor GJ Banks at the end of

2015, and are now in use.

The Rev Marcus Bagg, rector of the church, said: “We are absolutely delighted with the provision of our new food service area and disabled toilet, which have been designed and built to an extremely high standard and with the utmost care.

“We are already seeing the benefits of these facilities, and now have the potential for a wider use of the church. We expect to hold an event in the spring to thank all those who have contributed to this ambitious project.”

CROOKHORN/COPNOR: Two churches in our area will host seminars looking at the issue of pornography.

The Naked Truth Project aims to open people’s eyes to the damaging impact of pornography, through awareness, education and recovering programmes.

And a team from the project will be visiting our area next month to inform us and provide practical support.

“Porn - The Naked Truth” is at Church of the Good Shepherd from 7.30pm-9pm on April 22, and from 9.30am-11am on April 23.

The session will then be repeated at City Life

Church, Tangier Road, from 7pm-8.30pm on April 23. Among the speakers will be Ian Henderson.

For details, see www.nakedtruthproject.com or www.visibleministries.com

NITON: A church that has been awarded a lottery grant for repairs is holding a series of heritage events to mark the occasion.

St John’s Church, Niton, was awarded £106,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to repairs its stonework. Work will begin this summer.

A series of events has been planned to raise awareness about the church’s heritage.

On March 9 from 7.30pm, Dr Richard Smout of the Isle of Wight Records Office will talk about ‘Smuggling’. Appeal patrons Bishop Christopher and the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight will be there.

On April 13 at 7.30pm, Geoff Allan of the Western Front Association will talk about ‘Niton and the First World War’.

On May 11 at 7.30pm, Stephen Fisher of the Maritime Archaeology Trust will speak on ‘Forgotten Shipwrecks of World War 1’.

There’s a bell-ringing demonstration on June 25 and a bring-and-share picnic lunch on August 20. For more details, contact nitonchurchwarden@hotmail.co.uk.