

Easter visit for children



CHILDREN from a Horndean school had a chance to sample what Easter is all about – with a visit to their local church.

The seven and eight-year-olds from Horndean C of E Junior School came to All Saints Church, Catherington, to explore the church and churchyard, try on clergy vestments, and bake unleavened bread.

The two days of workshops also included learning to sing four songs, decorating eggs for Easter and an interactive walk through the Easter story in church. Both days ended with a short service which incorporated elements from the workshops.

It's the fifth year that children from the school have visited the church at Easter, giving them a chance to discover more about the basics of the Christian faith, and to



hear the Easter message.

Bishop Christopher also joined children on one of the two days, to see what they had been doing and to lead worship.

One of the children, Elliot Banks, aged 8, also dressed as a bishop for the service, complete with a bishop's staff, mitre, cross and ring. He processed into the service with the rest of his group dressed as monks.

"I feel quite proud to be chosen to be bishop," he said.

"The clothes are actually quite heavy to wear."

And Alfie Vincent, aged eight, said: "We have done some research around the church and learnt different things about the graves.

"I liked designing the Easter eggs and the singing best. And we learnt that in the olden days, the people of Israel didn't have time to make bread properly, so they made unleavened bread."

The Rev Dawn Banting and

Above: Alfie Vincent and Harrison Clarkson, both 8, and Chloe Thomas and Olivia Wilds, both 7, explore the churchyard; left: Bishop Elliot Banks, 8, and his classmates dressed as monks

education officer Sarah Page, from our cathedral, dressed children in robes and vestments during one workshop. Other workshops were led by volunteers from the parish, as well as the vicar, Canon Gill Hill.

She said: "Many people from the church put an immense amount of time and energy into making these days enjoyable and memorable for the children, and this year marks the fifth anniversary of the project's inception."

New C of E sports ministry launched

ONE of our clergy represented our diocese at Lambeth Palace for the launch of a new Church of England initiative.

The Rev Jonathan Jeffery, who is vicar of Leigh Park and also chaplain to Pompey Football Club, attended with representatives of all 29 southern dioceses in the Church of England.

Former England defender Stuart Pearce and former Pompey legend Linvoy Primus were also there.

The Archbishop of Canterbury backed the work being done through the launch of the C of E Sports Ministry initiative. The Most Rev Justin Welby, who has made evangelism and witness a priority for his ministry, said that evangelism is "not a survival strategy for the church, it is integral to being a Christian."

He said: "Reaching into an area of life where huge numbers of people across the country are involved,



The diocesan representatives launch the initiative at Lambeth Palace particularly on Sundays, is something that is critical to expressing what it is to be a Christian."

Graham Daniels, director of Christians in Sport, shared the history of sports mission in this country before a series of interviews were held to help

share best-practice when it comes to sports ministry. And a new resource created to aid the growth of sports ministry was introduced. The website www.ReadySetGo.ec is full of resources for practitioners who minister in sport.

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Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
Ex 15:11