

Parishes to respond to Pentecost initiative

OUR parishes are responding to a Pentecost prayer initiative launched by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

'Thy Kingdom Come' is encouraging churches to sign up for a week of prayer for the evangelisation of our nation in the days leading up to Pentecost 2016 – from May 8-16.

The week will end with prayer and worship at a series of 'beacon events' in six different cathedrals. Our closest will be at Winchester Cathedral at 7pm on May 15.

Worship leader Matt Redman and the Bishop of Basingstoke, the Rt Rev David Williams, will lead the service – half of which will take place outside to cater for all those who want to be there.

Worshippers from St Peter's Church, Titchfield, will reflect on the Lord's Prayer from Monday to Friday that week. Each day there will be a reflection on specific words from the prayer from 10am-11am, and the session will be repeated from 7pm-8pm.

Churchgoers at Holy Trinity, Bembridge, will organise prayer stations in church, and those at St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham, will also organise prayer during the week before heading to Winchester Cathedral on the Sunday.

Our spirituality adviser, the Rev Ruth Tuschling, has created a leaflet with prayers that can be used during the week. To download the leaflet and find out more, see www.portsmouth.anglican.org/thykingdom, or see www.thykingdom.co.uk

Spend a gap year exploring your calling



Discovery gap-year interns 2014-15 (back, l to r): Hannah Watson, Michael Dowell, Laura Craft (front) Imogen Hardman and Tallie Kerr

ARE you a young person who could spend a year serving God – and working out what he is calling you to?

Our diocese's Discovery gap year scheme allows 18 to 24-year-olds to spend a year working in one of our parishes, deepening their discipleship and discerning how to use their gifts in the future.

They are hosted by church families, offered a mentor to help with spiritual growth, and receive regular fortnightly training and residential trips to help develop in the Christian faith. We're now looking

for people who would like to sign up for the scheme from September 2016 until July 2017.

We're also looking for parishes who would like to support a Discovery gap-year person with accommodation and experience in ministry.

One parish that is already recruiting for its gap-year discipleship programme is St Jude's, Southsea. They're specifically looking for someone aged 21 or over from September.

For more information, contact Ben Mizen on 023-9289 9652 or ben.mizen@portsmouth.anglican.org.

Keeping African planes in the air

SHE is heading to Africa to become a missionary – but not in the traditional way you might expect.

Carrie Pither, from St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham, will take charge of the flight ministry for a Christian organisation called Africa Inland Mission (AIM) from this summer.

She will be based in Nairobi for the next three years, helping up to 40 staff, including pilots and engineers, to keep planes in the air and ferrying people and supplies from place to place.

It means that she'll be

supporting those missionaries who will be sharing the gospel with people in more than 20 African nations. Her work will help others to do church planting, community development, emergency relief, education, Bible translation and more.

It's a big step for Carrie, who will leave family and friends here, as well as her congregation at St Peter's.

Having previously worked as a chief inspector for Hampshire Police, she has most recently been working in the church office for Bishop's Waltham and Upham parishes.

"AIM are working to reach the unreached," she said. "Their main aim is evangelistic, and they also do health and education projects to help people in these countries. They have a logistics department, which includes the flight ministry, counselling service, finance and travel, and I'll be managing the flight ministry.

"AIM Air supports the work of AIM by flying missionaries, pastors and cargo over some of the world's most inhospitable terrain, to bring hope and good news. They have three main bases, two in Kenya and one in Uganda. I will be based in Nairobi, Kenya, for three years.

"I did go to Tanzania in 2003 with Mission Aviation Fellowship and that had a profound effect on me. I always thought that I would do something else in Africa, but it



Carrie Pither: off to Kenya from this summer

has taken 13 years to happen!

"Last September, I went out to Nairobi to see the AIM Air set-up for myself. They have six small planes, 12 pilots and various engineers there and in their other two bases.

"I'll be there for a minimum of two years and won't come back home in that time. There is obviously a sacrifice involving family and friends, especially as it has been so lovely living in Bishop's Waltham and being part of my church community. But my mum, daughter and sisters understand and have been very supportive.

"I'll enjoy being involved with a new culture, the personal challenge, and also the sense that God is giving me a chance to be of

service. It does feel that much of what I've done in the past 13 years has prepared me for this."

Carrie does have to raise £20,000 to pay for her time in Nairobi, and would like people to sign up to support her in prayer and financially. See www.eu.aimint.org/pray/peopleandplaces/carrie-pither for details.

She has organised some fundraising events, including a coffee morning at St Peter's, at 10am on May 6; and an African evening at St Peter's church hall at 7pm on June 9. She will be commissioned at St Peter's on June 26.

For more details, see www.aimint.org or www.aimair.org. To support Carrie, contact her on carrie.pither@aimint.org.

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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