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The Revd Rex RB Reyes Jr, General Secretary,  
National Council of Churches in the Philippines

We are campaigning with the world church for  
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**FARLINGTON:** There was 1940s music, bunting and flags, tables set with the best china – and tea and cakes.

It was all for a vintage tea party at St Andrew's church hall in Farlington. The event was organised to raise money for the Diocese of Ho in Ghana – which is linked to the Portsmouth deanery via our Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL).

There were prizes to be won in the raffle, a Dad's Army quiz to puzzle over and a hamper to win, donated by Co-operative Funeral Services in Cosham High Street.

Once the remaining cakes were sold after the services in both parish churches the following day, almost £400 was raised and sent to the Bishop of Ho.

**BRIGHTSTONE:** St Mary's Church in Brightstone will host a flower festival and strawberry fair from June 17-19.

Beautiful floral displays can be seen in the church on all three days from 10am-5.30pm, and there are musical highlights too.

The Credorer Ensemble will play from 10am-11am on



The group who organised the 1940s party at Farlington: (l to r) Linda Upton, Di Allen, Ethan Whittle, Tasha Wells, Nick Wells, Elaine Beeby, John Upton, Sheena Day, Amanda Wells and Chantal Bodsworth

## news from the pews

the Friday, and there's a choral concert that evening from 7pm featuring four choirs.

You can treat yourself to a strawberry cream tea in the nearby Wilberforce Hall from 12.30pm-4pm on the Sunday. And the finale concert with the Medina Marching Band happens in St Mary's Church from 6.30pm on the Sunday.

**PORTCHESTER:** The Friends of St Mary's, Portchester, have organised a guided tour of the church and its notable graves on June

26. Anyone interested should meet at the lych gate in front of the church by 2.15pm. It costs £5 per head, and refreshments are available afterwards.

And the first annual meeting of the Friends takes place in the church from 10.30am on July 2.

**BISHOP'S WALTHAM:** Our diocesan branch of the Mothers' Union has organised a talk about refugees.

The chief executive of the Refugee Council, Maurice Wren, and a speaker from Amnesty International will be at St

Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham, from 7pm-9pm on June 2.

Their talks will be followed by the chance to ask questions about the current refugee crisis.

**CLANFIELD:** If you enjoy afternoon tea, why not head to St James church hall in Clanfield, on Sunday afternoons during June, July and August?

They'll be serving a delicious array of mouth-watering cakes with tea or coffee from 3pm-5pm. Prices are reasonable and refills are free.

This is the eighth year the teas have been offered, and have always proved to be popular. All will be served with a smile. The proceeds go towards the maintenance of the church.

**SWANMORE:** Children from Swanmore C of E Primary School thanked their local coffee shop for their new class reading books.

The 80 books were funded by a donation from the coffee shop across the road, run by St Barnabas Church.

Barnaby's Coffee Shop was launched in October 2014 by the community and churchgoers of Swanmore. It has been a huge success with more than 50 volunteers working five days a week.

Its profits are ploughed back into local community projects, including the St George's Foundation, the Guides, the Royal British Legion and groups of community



Children from Swanmore Primary outside Barnaby's with their new books

## the school report

carers. The latest donation helped to buy these set texts for pupils in Years 3 and 5.

The school's head of literacy Jane Saunders said: "There is no doubt the children love

reading from new books. Given the new National Curriculum's focus on quality literature, it has never been so important to get children engaged with and reading a wide range of authors."

For details, see: [www.barnabys.org.uk](http://www.barnabys.org.uk).