



**The Rev Humphrey Prideaux (Alverstoke):** For service in education and teacher training, and ministry in many parishes in his retirement

**Ian Smith (Ryde):** For years of service on the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and helping to solve problems relating to buildings

**Margaret Hunt (Lee-on-Solent):** For years as churchwarden, safeguarding representative, and for working with children and young people and within the community

**Philip Drew (Holy Spirit, Southsea):** For dedicated service to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches as organ adviser, and as a parish organist

**Michael Voice and Marilyn Palmer (St George's, Portsea):** For commitment to ministry and mission in Portsea for 30 years.

**Felicity Hindson (Exton):** For service as Hampshire county councillor, especially in Children's Services and Adult Services

**John Nicholls (Locks Heath):** For serving the diocese's governance structures, and chairing the lay staff committee

**Sue Whitewick (Seaview and St Helens):** For years of service in worship, administration and community engagement

**Rodney Fox (Binstead, Havenstreet & Wootton):** For service as a Reader, in Christian education on the island, as school governor and inspector

**Frank Reid (Cathedral):** For years of service to the cathedral, including many years as a churchwarden and supporting diocesan events

**Laurie and Ethel Brokeshire (Stubbington):** For deep Christian love and commitment, including fostering more than 60 children over 25 years

Recipients of the St Thomas Award in our cathedral. Major Randal Cross, from All Saints, Ryde, was also given an award for service over many years for his parish, deanery, archdeaconry and the diocese, but was not able to attend the presentation

# Bishop honours faithful servants

**BISHOP Christopher presented awards to diocesan stalwarts to mark years of faithful Christian service.**

The bishop has created the St Thomas Award, in the name of the patron saint of our cathedral, to mark notable Christian service in the church and wider society.

And the first recipients of the award attended our cathedral to receive their awards during Evensong last month.

Among the recipients was Rodney Fox, from Binstead, Havenstreet and Wootton, who received the award for his long service as a Reader, his involvement with Christian education on the Isle of Wight, and his roles as governor and inspector.

He was headmaster of King Edward School, Witley, and a Reader in Guildford diocese before moving to the Isle of Wight in 1998. He was responsible for the joint Anglican/Methodist training course for Readers on the island, and still leads the Exploring Christianity course there.

He was chair of governors at Ryde School for six years, and chaired the governing body at St Blasius CofE Academy in Shanklin as it converted to academy status. He still co-ordinates the work of his parish with Binstead Primary School, and inspects independent schools across the country.

"I was very surprised and pleased to receive this, but also slightly embarrassed because other people also do so much," he said, "It's a privilege to do all these things for the Church."

"I enjoy being part of school life on the Isle of Wight too. I still lead assemblies at Binstead Primary, and co-ordinate what our parish does there. There is a programme so that pupils visit the church each year and learn what happens at baptisms, weddings and funerals, and so on."

"I was also a selector for the Bishop's Advisory Panels for 10 years, which was a great opportunity to meet people who are trying to find God's will for their lives. You come away from those times uplifted and reflecting on your own life and vocation."

Another recipient of the award



Ian Smith with his award

is Felicity Hindson, who worships at St Peter and St Paul Church, Exton. She was previously a churchwarden, and is part of the choir that sings in all four of the Bridge parishes. She was a county councillor for many years, leading the work of Hampshire County Council in Children's Services and then in Adult Services.

"We did focus on young people in difficulties and whether we could provide kinship care for them, with uncles, aunts, grandparents, or other family members, rather than taking them into care," she said. "This involved

training for social workers, and also for those family members who took on these young people."

"I also worked in Adult Services, where we tried to give those with disabilities the chance to live more independent lives, and to get the best help for older people. It was very rewarding work, but I'm very aware that we did it as a team, and that I had the support of the council leader. I feel honoured to be given this award from the bishop."

Bishop Christopher said: "What strikes me is that these people's service was and is to the gospel first and for the kingdom. It's not just for what they've done, although they have all done a great amount, but for who they are."

"What distinguishes these people, and they are only the tip of the iceberg and representative of so many, is their honest and generous service without personal gain. In these 14, we see the life-giving Spirit touching and changing lives, bringing hope out of frustration, delight from despair."

For more photos, see: [www.facebook.com/CofEPortsmouth](http://www.facebook.com/CofEPortsmouth).

## Alverstoke worshipper is our new crime chief

THE new Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is a worshipper from St Mary's Church, Alverstoke.

Michael Lane (pictured below), who was a Gosport councillor for four years, and also recently chaired a Parish Share Review Group, was elected last month to the important role. It involves managing its £300m budget, awarding contracts for services and holding Hampshire Constabulary to account.

The former naval commodore, who has more than 30 years of experience in the Royal Navy, was elected to the post with more than 150,000 first and second preference votes.

He will work alongside the new Chief Constable for Hampshire Constabulary, Olivia Pinkney.

Mr Lane said: "I appreciate the voters' trust in me and promise everyone that I will dedicate myself to the role. While I will take the role of scrutiny of the force seriously, I admire the Chief Constable and officers as dedicated professionals."

"I would also like to thank the outgoing commissioner, Simon Hayes, for setting up the office and the great care he has shown for residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

## Golden barque back on top of our cathedral

OUR cathedral marked a significant milestone last month in the continuing project to repair its tower and cupola.

The 'golden barque' was restored to the top of the tower in a delicate two-hour operation. This gilded ship has acted as a weathervane and landmark for homcoming ships since 1710.

The original was blown down in 1954, and this replica replaced it. It was removed and re-gilded as part of the current restoration work. The 17th century tower has been clad in scaffolding and the bells silent since July 2015 as vital repairwork has been carried out, thanks to a government grant.

