

Justin will celebrate with our Sisters

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will be in our cathedral at the end of July – and he'd love to meet you!

The Most Rev Justin Welby is leading a service marking 150 years of the Sisters of Bethany, an Anglican religious order based in Southsea. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach during the service.

It happens at 11am on July 29, and is a chance for the whole Bethany community to gather and celebrate. That includes the Sisters themselves, and the network of Associates, Oblates and Friends from around the UK. The service will be followed by a simple lunch.

They would love to know if you are coming, so they can make sure there is enough seating and food afterwards. Contact them on ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk by June 27 if you would like to be there. The Archbishop is keen to meet people from the Bethany community and from our diocese over lunch.

The Sisters of Bethany was originally established in 1866, and was the first Church of England community to offer retreats for women.

This celebration not only marks an important milestone, but also reinforces the Archbishop's view that religious communities play a vital role in the Church of England.

For more information, see: www.sistersofbethany.org.uk.

Kay's friends run to combat cancer

FOUR of our diocesan staff are running this month in honour of their former colleague who is recovering from cancer.

Clare Jones and Rachel Houlberg, who support the bishop in administration, Valerie Agnew, who supports senior clergy in administration, and Ruth Tuschling, our spirituality adviser, will be running the 10K Race for Life in honour of Kay Lancaster.

They are calling themselves 'Kay's Pavement Pounders' and are aiming to raise at least £650 for Cancer Research UK. They are already well on their way to reaching that target.

Kay said: "I am thrilled they are doing it to raise money for Cancer Research UK. My colleagues have all been a great source of encouragement, kindness and support through all of this – my diagnosis, surgery and recovery."

"I really hope they have fun preparing for it and on the day."

Kay recently retired from the diocesan staff team after nearly 20 years. She has undertaken various administrative roles in that time, most recently working with the Mission, Discipleship and Ministry team.

Kay was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and underwent surgery at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham. Her recovery is going well.



Above: Kay Lancaster with Canon David Isaac and Liz Hodson, who worked together as our diocesan education team for many years; above right: the Rev Ruth Tuschling in training

Kay is keen to use her experience to warn others of the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

"It is vital that it is caught early. Otherwise, as in my case, treatment takes much longer and the outcome is less certain," Kay said.

"Looking back now, I'm aware that I had a couple of the symptoms for a while before I did anything about it but I just put them down to signs of getting older.

"Ovarian cancer can so often be caught late as the symptoms can be put down to other things. Catching

it early is so very important."

Kay has lived in Alverstoke for nearly 40 years and attends St Francis Church. The prayers and support of her friends, colleagues, church family and wider community have been enormously helpful in her journey over the last few years.

"Serious illness changes the shape of life so quickly and I don't think we can ever be prepared for it and would not want to live a life in anticipation of it, but when it happens kind, caring people



whether family, friends, church family or colleagues make such a difference to life in the days and weeks as they pass," Kay said.

"Staying positive while living with and being treated for cancer seems to be very important in coping with treatment, and gestures such as Valerie, Clare, Rachel and Ruth are helping me to do so."

To sponsor Kay's Pavement Pounders, please see: www.justgiving.com/teams/Kayspavementpounders.

City parish enjoys rural trip

WORSHIPPERS from an inner-city parish enjoyed a trip to a village parish church for worship, fun and food.

Around 60 people from St Luke's Church in central Portsmouth joined the 40-strong congregation at Hawkleigh Parish Church for a morning service followed by lunch and games.

The vicar of Hawkleigh, the Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne said: "It was a brilliant day. The weather was beautiful, and the service was full of joy."

"We tried to make it a really interactive service – we washed our hands in the font as a symbol of repentance, and each placed a lit candle in a heart."

"The intercessions were written on paper chains. We gave people time to write something and placed them on the altar. When we read and prayed for them the next day, it was so moving to see what people wanted prayer for."

"After the service, we had games of rounders, egg and spoon and sack races, and flinging the horse shoe on the cricket pitch outside the village hall."

"It was lovely to see the connections made between people from different backgrounds, but connected to one another by the love of God. Next time, we hope to visit them for a service on the beach."



Children from St Luke's Church and from Hawkleigh enjoyed playing together

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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