

# Picnic launch for new pioneers

**IT was a special event which showed the local community just what they could do.**

Picnic in the Park was inspired by the Big Lunch initiative, which originated at the Eden Project in Cornwall. The idea is to get as many people as possible to have lunch with their neighbours, as a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

Our new PO9 pioneer ministers, Barney and Sara Barron, invited members of the Leigh Park community to come together for the first of what they hope will be an annual event.

The Picnic in the Park was organised by and for members of the local community, who offered their talents to provide activities including crafts, facepainting, a treasure hunt, photo booth, rescue rabbits, a community art project and more.

Park Community School generously hosted the event, and



Guests have fun with facepainting (left) and dressing up for the photo booth

funding came from Postcode Publications. Guests also enjoyed laser quest, an inflatable assault course and bouncy castles.

The event also benefitted from the talents of Park Community School's young sports ambassadors. The local police also came along and brought their van along for children to explore.

Everyone brought their own picnic, which was supplemented by free homemade cakes and

drinks.

Barney and Sara have been appointed to share the job of pioneer minister in the PO9 area as part of a drive by our diocese to engage with those who find it difficult to engage with traditional models of church.

Our new pioneer ministers are now working in the Leesland area of Gosport, and the Cosham and Wymering area of Portsmouth, adding to the existing work elsewhere in the diocese. Another pioneer minister will be appointed

for the Milton area of Portsmouth.

Barney said: "It was a brilliant day, in glorious weather, and showed what people here can do when they work together. We hope it will become an annual event, so we'd love to hear your ideas to make it even better."

"It was also a way of showing how the Church is here to serve its local community, facilitating those kind of occasions where genuine community spirit comes to the fore."

"As we discover more about

what God wants us to do in this area, we hope we can encourage people here to pray, worship and serve others in new ways.

"That might not involve going to church as we know it, but it will definitely mean being with others who want to do the same and perhaps discovering new ways of being church together."

If you live in the PO9 area and would like to be involved in next year's event, please get in touch via email on barneyb29@hotmail.com.

**“EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE”**

John Kenway ★★★★★ TRUSTPILOT

**16 REG**  
NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI 110PS  
ACENTA ONLY 1,000 MILES  
NEW PRICE £22,460

**OUR PRICE**  
**£17365**

**NEARLY NEW**

**12 REG** NISSAN LEAF 50R AUTO SILVER A/C. SAT NAV 8K - NO FUEL, NO TAXI  
**ONLY £8132**

**ELECTRIC CAR**

**62 REG** FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI (70) EDGE 3DR RED 59K  
**ONLY £5099**

**61 REG** CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO 1.6 HDI ED 5DR BLACK 30K  
**ONLY £9199**

UP TO 4,000 USED CARS PRICE CHECKED DAILY, COMPREHENSIVELY CHECKED & FULLY GUARANTEED

**AUTOSAVE... SERVING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS**

**autosave** | CALL 0845 122 6910 | **AUTOSAVE.CO.UK**

Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

## How to share a vision

### the last word

by the Ven Joanne Grenfell  
Archdeacon of Portsdown



AT worst, walking through the doors of a church for the first time is like entering a club where lukewarm coffee is promised in return for sitting quietly through a rambling sermon and joining in with music whose tunes and words are equally unfamiliar.

At best, walking through the doors of a church for the first time is like a homecoming, finding your place of hope and challenge, where the love of Jesus is written on the hearts of those who gently welcome and lead you in to share fellowship, food, and praise.

On holiday this summer, with my family, on the long walk from the car park to the entrance at the Eden Project in Cornwall, I noticed a series of beautifully photographed and lettered signs, drawing the eye and the feet down the path towards the ticket office.

*If you believe... (it begins)... there should be a place... that explores what a great future might look like... that celebrates life... and puts champagne in the veins... that's all about education*

*...with mud between your toes... to hold conversations... that might just go somewhere... that's a sanctuary... for all those who think the future belongs to us all... then welcome to the Eden Project... That's why we built this place and that's where the money goes.*

Impressive, isn't it, as a vision of serious principles and shared joy, a warm encouragement to join in, and, crucially, a confident assertion of what good your ticket price and additional donations do?

So what would a similar invitation to participate, enjoy, and give look like in our churches? Here's my attempt,

but you could try to make your own for your own church community.

*If you believe... there should be a place... where bread is broken... and wine is shared... with everyone... where people come together to learn... about the life and witness of Jesus Christ... to follow a path as disciples... and to go out to transform God's world... heal the sick and broken hearted... feed the poor... and bring justice to communities... then welcome to our church... That's why this place was built... and that's why our money goes to sustaining this community, its building, and its outreach... Will you join us?*