



Above left: celebrations at St James Church, Milton, and above right: the lunch club at St John's Church, Newport

We threw parties for Queen's 90th

OUR churches and schools threw parties to mark the Queen's 90th birthday – and to unite their communities.

Bunting was unfurled, flags waved, birthday cake eaten, and special thanksgiving services held to mark the Queen's life of faith and duty.

The Wednesday Lunch Club at **St John's, Newport**, celebrated with a meal for members and volunteers involving a red, white and blue dress code. John Matthews, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, and the Rev Janet Hallam, St John's curate, joined in.

Doris Stewardson, who also celebrates her 90th birthday in August, cut the birthday cake, helped by Peter Taylor, aged 95, and Olive Hosking, 93.

Doris is looking forward to celebrating her 90th birthday with members of her family coming from around the world later in the year.

St Philip's Church, Cosham, hosted a community fun day to celebrate both the Queen's birthday and the Big Lunch.

There was a bouncy castle, face painting, stalls, singing groups, a local DJ playing music from previous decades, and an exhibition of the history of Cosham and the Highbury area.

Pioneer minister Nicky Pybus, who organised the event, said: "It was great that so many people of all ages came along, and it was fantastic to bring the whole community together – and to show that St Philip's is *their* church, whether or not they believe in God."



Above and right: Pupils from Hook-with-Warsash Academy enjoy their street party

Pupils from **Hook-with-Warsash C of E Academy** celebrated with their own street party in the playground.

They had a whole day specially dedicated to the Queen's 90th birthday. In the morning they were involved in lots of activities about the Royal Family and in the afternoon they gathered in the playground for a picnic, with food kindly donated by the parents.

Holy Trinity Church, Blendworth, organised a village fete to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in Blendworth House, featuring traditional stalls and activities. There were displays by the TS Active Cadet Band and Rifle Drill Squad, and music by the Blendworth Brass Band.

Visitors tried archery with the Forest of Bere Bowmen, and enjoyed a bouncy castle, welly

throwing, various types of races and a crockery smashing stall.

More than 200 people also visited Holy Trinity Church, where a display of historic photos of Hordean compiled by John Merrill was on display. The church hopes to run something similar next year.

Worshippers and friends gathered at **St James Church, Milton**, for a celebration of tea and cake, followed by a Songs of Praise service.

Around 60 people joined in some of the hymns that had been used in the national service at St Paul's Cathedral, and some of the official prayers were also used.



Worshippers at **Portsmouth Cathedral** celebrated with cream tea in the nave, and a special Festal Evensong.

It featured a piece of music commissioned by St Paul's Cathedral for the occasion, composed by Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music.

And **St Mary's Church, Liss**, welcomed uniformed organisations, local councillors and members of community groups to a service marking the Queen's 90th birthday.

Bishop to celebrate church's 50 years

BISHOP Christopher will help a church in Havant to mark its 50th anniversary this month.

St Alban's Church in West Leigh will mark five decades since it was first built with a Celebration Eucharist.

It happens at 3pm on Saturday 16 July, which is the actual anniversary of the church's dedication.

The vicar, Canon Karina Green, said: "The church was built 50 years ago to be a Christian witness to the people who were moving out to West Leigh, into the new post-war housing. There was originally a church on St Alban's Road, an old tin hut, before the present church was built.

"It is built in a Scandinavian style, so has a warmth and light feel to it. The hall offers good facilities to several groups and as a venue for the local community.

"The service will be a time to give thanks for the people who have been part of the St Alban's community, those who have been baptised or married at the church, for events and activities and for the worshipping life of the church."

Previous clergy and worshippers have been invited, and the afternoon will conclude with a traditional English afternoon tea.

Create floral displays for big tea party

OUR Good Neighbours Support Service celebrates its 40th anniversary this month with a tea party in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra, at Winchester Cathedral.

The service, which supports more than 100 voluntary care groups across Hampshire, was created in 1976. It is celebrating with a big tea party in a marquee outside the cathedral on July 14.

You could help the party by designing spectacular floral displays as centrepieces for the tables. There are no creative restrictions, you can enter as an individual or a group, and the winner receives a prize.

Register by emailing info@hampshire.goodneighbours.org, uk or ringing 023-9289 9671.