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**For the Lord your God is a
merciful God. He will not
leave you or destroy you
or forget the covenant
with your fathers that he
swore to them.**

Deut 4:31

FAREHAM: Children from Fareham will have fun and find out more about faith at this summer's holiday club.

Churches of all denominations in Fareham are joining forces to host 'Hero Activity Week' each morning from August 8-12. It happens from 10am-1pm for all children aged five to 11 and includes fun activities, and the chance to find out about Jesus, the ultimate hero.

It costs just £1 a day per child, which includes lunch. For details, contact the parish office at Holy Trinity Church, on 01329-232688 or office@htscf.org.uk.

SOUTHWICK: A total of 77 walkers took part in the Christian Aid sponsored walk around Southwick.

Two interesting routes of just under 10 and five miles were planned, along with a short family walk around the village, incorporating a quiz. The weather was ideal, and the walkers returned to enjoy excellent refreshments, thanks to Southwick church.

Not all the sponsorship money has yet been collected, but the organisers hope to at least equal last year's total of £5,000 to support the dispossessed and impoverished.

LANGRISH:

Worshippers at Langrish held a commemorative service to mark 100 years since the Battle of Jutland and the start of the Somme offensive.



Bishop Christopher with clergy and churchwardens from East Meon, Langrish, West Meon and Warnford

news from the pews

The service had great empathy for the servicemen fighting at that time of the First World War.

There were readings from Rudyard Kipling's *My Boy Jack* and from diaries and letters written to loved ones at that time. A brief history was given of each of the events and the readings.

At the point of remembrance, Carl Flohr from East Meon, who attends Churchers College, played the Last Post and the Reveille on his trumpet, giving a special poignancy to the service.

The parish also welcomed Bishop Christopher to a joint service with worshippers from East Meon, West Meon and Warnford the previous Sunday. Each of the four churches in the cluster takes it in

turns to host the others each time there is a fifth Sunday of the month. The congregation of around 70 included some visiting for the first time.

TITCHFIELD:

Worshippers from St Peter's Church held a birthday party to celebrate six years of Messy Church.

The church hosted its very first Messy Church session back in 2010, and has continued to hold sessions every month during term-time ever since.

Around 25 children and their carers enjoyed the chance to plant seeds, write a message on a heart, make a splatter painting of fireworks and create a party hat. They also heard about Pentecost, sang a song and shared a meal. Candles were lit on a birthday cake and shared round.

NITON: Work has now started on the renovation of the stonework of St John the Baptist Church in Niton.

The 12th century parish church was given a £106,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the repairs, to add to donations from parishioners and supporters.

Island firm GJ Banks started work on the steeple and other crumbling areas in April. It is expected that it will be completed in October. The PCC has extended its thanks to everyone involved.

The church is also hosting a series of events throughout the year to celebrate its heritage. The next one is a bring-and-share picnic lunch on Saturday 20 August, from 12noon-2pm.

The guest of honour is Cllr Dave Stewart, and the event will feature photos of Old Niton.

For more details, contact the stonework project manager Rose Ashton on nitonchurchwarden@hotmail.co.uk

PORTSMOUTH:

The principal of our diocese's only mainland C of E secondary school has announced she will step down this summer.

Dame Sharon Hollows, principal at Charter Academy, has led the academy for seven years – during which it went from being Portsmouth's worst-performing school to the most improved in the country.

Charter Academy was previously known

the school report

as St. Luke's before becoming an academy sponsored by Ark Schools in 2009.

In the last year before joining the Ark network, only 21 per cent of students achieved five good GCSEs, including English and maths. In 2015, 73 per cent

achieved that standard.

In a letter to parents, Dame Sharon wrote: "These past few years have been among the most rewarding of my professional career, but I feel that the time is right for me to make a change.

"Today, Charter is recognised as the best

school in the city, and has been recognised nationally for its turnaround.

"I am very proud of all that we have accomplished – staff, students and parents all working together."

Dame Sharon will continue to work for Ark as an educational consultant. Vice principal Clive Barnes has been announced as Charter's interim principal from September.