



Left: Pupils join Rachael during the sermon; right: she is commissioned by the vicar of St Jude's, the Rev Mike Duff

# New era begins at C of E school

**PUPILS, staff, governors and parents helped to commission their new headteacher in our cathedral.**

Rachael Osborne was commissioned in her new role as headteacher at St Jude's C of E Primary School. She committed herself to value all those in the school as uniquely gifted by God.

And she pledged to keep improving the school to make sure children had the best educational experience possible.

All 400 pupils from St Jude's, as well as school staff, governors and parents, made the trip to the cathedral for the

half-hour service. They also pledged to support the school during the service, which included prayers led by pupils and songs.

Canon Peter Leonard, who preached, likened the headteacher to a chef, with others in the school given different roles in the kitchen. And the Rev Mike Duff, vicar of St Jude's Church, Southsea, led the commissioning part of the service.

Miss Osborne said: "I first came to St Jude's five years ago to help with teaching and learning, and I became a deputy head and then acting headteacher when the previous head left in January.

"There was a rigorous process to find a new headteacher and I was delighted

to be given the chance to become the school's permanent head.

"I like the fact that there is a creative curriculum at St Jude's, and nothing is thought to be impossible. I want to keep learning fun, and I want children to run into school with smiles on their faces. There is a very committed team of staff who are very loyal to the children.

"I want to build on the relationships with St Jude's Church and the cathedral and continue its Christian ethos. Its set of values weren't imposed by a headteacher, but came out of conversations with the whole school community.

"Our deputy head, Izzy Lewis, introduced a 'Big Question' each week that

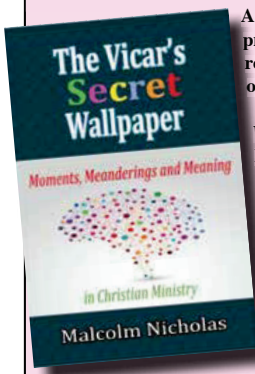
children could discuss, which really helps them to think about life.

"I want to keep the school improving, so for instance I'd like older children to work and learn in school in a way that prepares them for the way they will learn at secondary school.

"And I'd like to develop the outside learning space, and provide better opportunities for children to achieve their early learning goals. We want our children to be enthusiastic learners, motivated and keen to succeed."

Miss Osborne started her teaching career at Northern Parade Junior School in Portsmouth, and then worked at Bidbury Junior School for four years before moving to St Jude's.

## Ex-island priest writes book about ministry



A FORMER Isle of Wight priest has published a book reflecting on his experiences of ministry.

*The Vicar's Secret Wallpaper* was written by the Rev Malcolm Nicholas, who was ordained in 1984 and spent the first eight years of his ministry on the island.

He was a non-stipendiary priest in Gatcombe and Shorwell before moving to Winchester and then Lincoln dioceses, and has

now retired to Norwich.

His book draws on the experience of ministry in a variety of settings, and uses real-life encounters to introduce pastoral, theological, and sociological reflections.

It concludes with some reflections on such topics as aggressive atheism, same sex marriage, and some disturbing trends in today's church.

Malcolm said: "*The Vicar's Secret Wallpaper* seeks to be honest about the pilgrimage

of ministry, the emotions encountered and the lessons learnt. Whilst it is, on the one hand a personal account, it has much to offer anyone who may be feeling some call to ministry, those wishing to understand their clergy a little better, and those simply wanting to deepen their own spiritual pilgrimage by sharing in an honest account of another's."

It can be bought via Amazon online, or from Malcolm, on 01263 514036.

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