

Day to link different generations at cathedral

GRANDPARENTS and their grandchildren will be inspired to share fun together at our cathedral on a special day this month.

Our cathedral and Bible Reading Fellowship will jointly host a festival day based around Messy Church activities.

The Grandparents' Festival on September 17 will also include exciting, bite-sized seminars at which worshippers can learn about initiatives to help them reach those living locally.

The 20-minute sessions include practical tips from those behind *Who Let the Dads Out?*, *The Gift of Years*, Messy Church and Faith in Homes. They will be followed by an act of worship for everyone together, and then a party tea for all.

It is one of two such festivals being run by BRF across the UK. The idea is to celebrate Christian initiatives that span the generations and bring those of different age groups together to learn more about God. The other venue is Sheffield Cathedral.

The programme for September 17 starts at 1.45pm, with Messy Church activities and seminars from 2pm-3.30pm, the celebration at 3.40pm and tea from 4pm.

Tickets for the event are priced at £5 for adults and £2.50 for those under 16. Children must be accompanied by a grandparent or surrogate grandparent. Adults are also welcome to bring their grandparents!

For full details, see www.brfonline.org.uk/gparentsfestival.



Above: the Brokenshire clan after the swim; right: Laurie emerges from the water



Cancer sufferer's charity sea swim

HE may have been diagnosed with terminal cancer – but that didn't stop Laurie Brokenshire from putting others first.

The retired naval commodore and his family swam 30 miles in relay in the sea from Fowey in Cornwall to his hometown Plymouth. Laurie completed the challenge despite being diagnosed recently with rapid brain cancer.

He and his family have already raised more than £35,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support, Christian Vision for Men and Care for the Family. Laurie completed the challenge last month despite just completing a six-week course

of radio and chemotherapy.

Laurie, 63, from Holy Rood Church, Stubbington, was recently featured in the pages of the *Pompey Chimes* because he and his wife Ethel had fostered 66 children – the number has since increased to 68. He is also a member of the Magic Circle, he headed up the UK Sea Cadet Corps and owns the biggest collection of puzzles in the world.

The swim started in the dark, at 5.20am and they arrived in Plymouth Hoe just after 6pm. Family members accompanied Laurie in canoes, and some of his children and grandchildren also swam in open seas, three or four miles off the coast.

"It was tiring, but hugely fulfilling for all the family, and we

feel privileged to have

the strength to have done it," said Laurie. "We arrived at Tinside Lido on Plymouth Hoe to hundreds of friends and family cheering and partying.

"We were so blessed with the weather, given that pre and post-swim the wind and sea were strong. On the day, it was the calmest I have ever seen that stretch of water.

"Amazingly, our hugely generous friends and family crossed the target line of £30k just as we were swimming. So it took



Laurie and Ethel were in last November's Pompey Chimes

only 15 days to raise that amount, and more is coming in."

Laurie chose to swim 30 miles and to try to raise £30,000 because it was 30 years since he had swum the Channel.

Among the others taking part were his wife Ethel, children Sarah, Matthew and Philip, and their spouses Bobby Chloe and Rosalie. His daughter and son-in-law Rachel and Craig swam in South Africa.

You can still support the family on www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ABC_Swim.

Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 140 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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REVIEW

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat by Wight Strollers and St Peter's Church, Shorwell

IT'S not often that an amateur show blows you away because it is so ambitious. But this was one of the best productions I've seen for many years.

Joseph is everyone's favourite Biblical musical, with fantastic sing-a-long songs such as *Any Dream Will Do*, and *Go, Go, Go Joseph*, on top of a moving story of rejection and then redemption.

Director Sarah Scotcher wasn't content with presenting us with note-perfect singing,

exemplary dancing and fantastic costumes. She added some directorial flourishes that took it to the next level.

So there were multiple changes of costume for Joseph's brothers to reflect the different styles of songs, walk-on parts for a pantomime-style camel among a myriad of props, and elastic prison bars to accommodate the girth of the baker.

Both Nick Weightman as Joseph and Emily Scotcher as the narrator had stage presence that wouldn't be out of place in the West End. Brad Barnley channelled Elvis successfully as Pharaoh and Beth Batchelor was a suitably seductive Mrs Potiphar.

The chorus were

impeccable – no one stepped out of character or stopped concentrating. And the dancers showcased an impressive variety of styles.

Credit to musical director Kim Ball as well for getting the balance right between vocals and instruments. It's so easy for an orchestra to drown out the lyrics in a small theatre. Her musicians hit every note, and were also mixed expertly so that we could hear every word sung.

The three performances raised £6,275 to be split between Isle of Wight charities and St Peter's Church, Shorwell. The cash will help the church to pay for new toilets and a kitchen area.

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