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FROM PROPAGATION TO PARTNERSHIP

As Us returns to the well-loved USPG, the P in our name has changed! It might seem a small change but it's an important one. It's the way we do mission now - inclusive, empowering, forward-looking.

† UNITED SOCIETY PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

USPG[†]

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

LEIGH PARK: Our pioneer ministers helped to lead a fun week to help those moving up to secondary school.

The Revs Barney and Sara Barron joined forces with a band of committed volunteers who gave up a week of their summer holidays.

The summer school offered the 11-year-olds the chance to make friends with others before they started secondary school.

There was a superhero theme, and plenty of fun and learning through stories, crafts, games and other challenges.

Each day had a different theme, aimed at preparing people for the transition to secondary school and building their confidence. Among the subjects covered were who we are, how we treat others, facing our fears, respect and getting organised.

Barney and Sara's own son had experienced the benefit of a summer school last year. Sadly, this year the government withdrew funding for schools to run such schemes, despite Department of Education research in 2013 showing the positive effect they had on 11-year-olds.

So Barney and Sara decided to act to fill the gap. They were joined by volunteers from the local community and some of the older students from Park Community School.

COSHAM: These figures from a Nativity scene are now 100 years old – and in need of some repair.

They were first created in 1916 when a Christmas crib was built at St John the Baptist Church, Rudmore.

The church was made redundant in the 1970s and converted into retirement flats. A statue of Our Lady and the crib were taken to St Philip's Church, Cosham.

The almost life-size stable was re-built to fit into St Philip's, and the Nativity scene is much-admired each Christmas.

Over 40 years of handling, the figures



Fun at the P09 summer school in Leigh Park



The Nativity crib from St Philip's Cosham

news from the pews

have suffered some damage and the crib hasn't been used for two years. The church would love to restore the figures in time for this Christmas – exactly 100 years since they were created.

The parish has created a 'Figure Fund' to help with the cost of restoration, and is keen to contact older members of the former Rudmore congregation who might like to make a small donation.

Anyone interested can contact the parish office on 023-9237 6307 or wymeringchurch@gmail.com.

YARMOUTH: Bishop Christopher led a group of island walkers on a brand new modern pilgrimage trail.

'Crossing the Yar' is the name given to a new 7km walk between Freshwater and

Yarmouth. The bishop helped to inaugurate the trail on a visit to the island over the summer.

He joined walkers who started the circular walk at St Agnes's Church, Freshwater, and followed the River Yar to Yarmouth and back.

They paused at All Saints Church, Freshwater, and St James Church, Yarmouth, on the way, and saw points of geographical and historical interest which were printed on the pilgrimage leaflet.

For a copy of the walk leaflet, please contact Sally Rivlin, PA to the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, on 01983-884432 or sally.rivlin@portsmouth.anglican.org

CARISBROOKE/NEWPORT: Ten-year-old Max Downer started learning bellringing at St Mary's, Carisbrooke, a

year ago, and then rang at Newport Minster.

Over the summer, he rang his first quarter peal at Newport Minster. This involved ringing for 43 minutes non-stop, with 1,260 changes and two methods – Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles. Max was ringing the tenor bell, an important one as it completes each round of ringing and helps to ensure a good rhythm.

The bellringing team are trying to find out when someone as young as 10 last rang a first quarter peal on the Isle of Wight.

Why not join in at a practice in Carisbrooke on Friday evenings from 7.30pm-9pm, or in Newport on Monday evenings from 7.30pm-9pm?

VENTNOR: For the sixth successive year, St Alban's Church celebrated the birthday of the former poet laureate Sir John Betjeman.

The poet visited and signed the Visitors' Book there in July 1950, and later that year said he would worship in St Alban's if he lived in Ventnor.

Because of his love for the place, St Alban's churchgoers mark his birthday each year. This would have been his 110th.

There was Sung Evensong and special music by the choir, a tea party, and then conversation about the poet's life and writings.