

Westminster Abbey in Lego thrills visitors

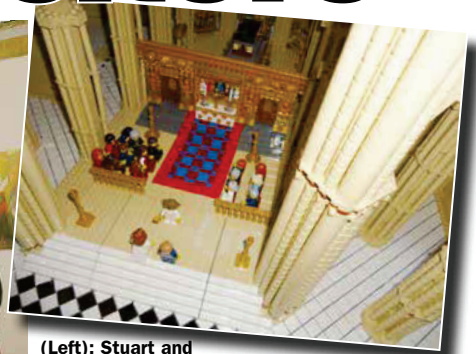
WHEN Stuart and Naomi Crawshaw got married at St Philip's, Cosham, there was a special 'supermodel' in attendance.

Just to the right of the altar was a Lego model of Westminster Abbey – complete with tiny Lego figures of Prince William and Kate Middleton inside.

Stuart and Naomi had been members of a team that first assembled the model back in 2011 for a Lego show that coincided with the royal couple's wedding. So they wanted it at their wedding as an example of their shared work and interests.

The day before they themselves got married, Stuart and Naomi assembled the 180,000-piece Lego model inside the church. And the newly-weds, who live in Cosham, have left the model there for others to see.

So when almost 400 children from nearby Highbury Primary



(Left): Stuart and Naomi Crawshaw build the Lego model; (above): the interior, including William and Kate

School came to St Philip's for their Harvest service last month, they were amazed to see the model in situ.

Worshipper Mark Brady said: "Highbury Primary School have services here each month, and are keen to cultivate links with the church. When the pupils

saw the model, it attracted a great deal of attention and comment, including one girl saying she wanted to become a professional Lego modeller when she grows up.

"Everyone who has seen it has been grateful to the newly-weds for putting it on show once again."

Stuart and Naomi originally put together the model with another couple in just eight weeks ahead of the 2011 Lego show.

The detailed interior includes a Lego figure of the former

the royal couple, as well as the abbey's distinctive black and white flooring, its arches and an authentic-looking reredos.

The original also included 400 Lego mini-figures sitting inside Westminster Abbey as guests.

The model was displayed again at the 2014 Brick Show in London, and has been widely acclaimed as a masterpiece of its genre. But the sections of the model had been stored in crates since then.

It's not the only Lego link

between St Philip's Church and Highbury Primary School. The parish's pioneer minister Nicky Pybus is running a Lego club at the school each Wednesday, from 3.15pm-4.30pm.

Parents and children can enjoy Lego activities together, based on a different Bible story each week. A short story is usually followed by three or four quickfire Lego challenges based on the theme.

So far they have been working through some of Jesus's parables, but now they are spending four weeks on aspects of the Christmas story. For details, see www.stphilipscosham.org.uk.

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Remembering is vital

MANY churches will be holding Remembrance events in November.

The month begins with the Church calendar focussing on All Saints and All Souls on the first and second of the month, and of course poppies are already in evidence everywhere.

Remembrance Sunday has been particularly poignant during these years which commemorate the First World War.

But why do we remember? Is there any point in recalling events from a century ago? Should we not just let the horrors of the past and the conflicts between nations which are now allies quietly fade?

The past is an important guide to the present – as much in personal behaviour and relationships between nations as it is in the Christian faith.

Our faith is based on



the last word

by the Very Rev David Brindley Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral

historical events over 2,000 years ago, and however much we might discuss the exact way in which they happened, we can be certain that the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus are part of history. The past is important for Christians as it throws so much light on the present.

As a society we are in danger of forgetting that we have much to learn from the past. Not only did we come

from there, but it has shaped our present world.

Human beings have a tendency to continually repeat their past actions and mistakes – breaking free of our prejudices and fears is something we all find very difficult.

Perhaps this time of remembrance can help us to put the present into perspective and to learn from mistakes – both as individuals and as nations.