

Synod to debate the future of the C of E

YOU can fire questions about the future of the Church of England at one of the key advocates of its Renewal and Reform agenda.

Canon Dr John Spence, who chairs the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, will be the guest speaker at our Diocesan Synod meeting on November 5.

Synod members will discuss the national C of E's Renewal and Reform agenda, which includes plans to simplify Church procedures; to provide it with more effective leadership; to rethink theological training; and to make better use of the financial resources we have.

John chaired one of the task groups that recommended changes in the institution of the Church of England, so that it could be better equipped for today's challenges.

He'll be speaking during the morning of our Diocesan Synod meeting. And as well as receiving questions on the day, he is also happy to receive questions in advance, so he can work them into his presentation.

Email any such questions to our Diocesan Secretary, the Rev Wendy Kennedy on wendy.kennedy@portsmouth.anglican.org.

Our Diocesan Synod members will also be discussing safeguarding policy; our ongoing commitment to improve our parsonages; the budget for 2017; and deanery synod elections for 2017.

Royal approval for minster plans

NEWPORT Minster unveiled plans for a radical transformation – as their royal patron paid a visit.

HRH Prince Edward, who is patron of the Minster Renewal Campaign, met staff and volunteers from the Victorian church during a day-long trip to the Isle of Wight.

He heard about plans to complete the restoration of the minster in a £2.7m project that would enable a reshaping of its interior, so it could welcome islanders, tourists and visitors more effectively.

That work would come after the current Phase 5 of the Minster's Renewal Campaign, which involves repairs to external stonework and stained glass windows in the west and east ends.

The £285,000 Phase 5 scheme also includes the creation of a new welcome area with new flooring, under-floor heating and interpretation boards, as the preliminary work towards the reshaping of the interior.

These plans have been agreed by the PCC, diocese and English Heritage, and work is likely to start in January and be completed by May 2017. A benefactor has already promised £75,000 towards Phase 5.

HRH Prince Edward then heard about plans to develop the Minster further, to enable it to



HRH Prince Edward with the Rev Kevin Arkell with the Horsey Memorial in the background

become a new cultural hub at the heart of Newport.

This £2.7m project would involve a new refectory and gift shop, new toilets and vestries, the removal of the pews to allow more flexibility in hosting events, a new sound system and new lighting. A bid for lottery funding will be made to help fund this project.

Future projects may include the restoration of the memorial to Sir Edward Horsey, a courtier to Queen Elizabeth I and Captain of the Isle of Wight, and a more prominent display of its collection

of silver. A royal-themed trail, linking the minster, Carisbrooke Castle and Osborn House, could be marketed to tourists.

The vicar, the Rev Kevin Arkell, said: "I gave HRH Prince Edward a brief tour, focussing on new developments, forthcoming repairs and particularly the work on the west end windows.

"There followed a time of discussion with particular emphasis on the intention to complete the appeal, which gained full support. The Prince was interested in seating and acoustics.

"He enquired about the church congregation, and was pleased to hear this is growing, with a renewed musical tradition. He was pleased to hear of the appointment of a director of music who is an accomplished musician, who composes music for our choir and a supporting brass ensemble."

Newport Minster's Renewal Campaign began in 2005. The first four phases have seen vital repairs to external stonework, roofs, stained glass windows, the repair of its tower and clock faces, and the restoration of the lady chapel.

We welcomed our neighbours!

MORE than 200 people turned up for lunch as St Luke's Church in Southsea welcomed its neighbours.

The free barbecue took place outside the church on the weekend when more than 1,200 students moved into new flats opposite the church.

The event gave the students a chance to meet local families, residents from the Portsmouth Foyer and other neighbours.

The vicar, the Rev Annie McCabe, said: "We were aware there might be tension between different groups living close to each other and were keen for the church to be the open place where everyone feels at home."

The church had already offered its car park during the week as a drop-off spot, where newly-arrived students could unpack their possessions.



Worshippers hosted the barbecue in their car park

The church hopes to build on those relationships by hosting a new Sunday brunch cafe, each week from 11.30am.

Pioneer minister Susie Templeton is behind the new

initiative, and has worked with architecture and interior design students to create a pop up café space with great food. For details, see www.stlukeandstpeter.org.uk.

Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 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

**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER/
JANUARY EDITION:** Monday 7
November (NB: There is no separate
January edition)

**AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM
DEANERY DEPOTS:** Thursday 24
November

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH:
Sunday 27 November

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