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**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



**CATHEDRAL:** The nave of our cathedral was brimming over at the seams as people flocked to see the sell-out performances of T S Eliot's play *Murder in the Cathedral*.

The rarely-performed play features the killing of our cathedral's patron saint, Thomas a Becket, on the steps of Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.

The Southsea Shakespeare Actors (SSA) joined members of the cathedral congregation to bring these dramatic events to life.

Patric Howe played Thomas with a sensitive touch that contrasted with the brutality of the murder. Residentiary Canon Peter Leonard, who played the part of a priest, was enthusiastic about the opportunities to set the play within the nave and choir of the cathedral.

Director Lauren Farnhill said: "It was a challenge and exciting to work within such an atmospheric space. I hope this project will be the first of many dramatic collaborations between the SSA and the cathedral."

She dedicated the production to the memory of Dr Colin White, chair of the SSA, director of the Royal Naval Museum and server at our cathedral, who had always intended to stage the play there.

**LEE-ON-SOLENT:** A project that helps people with an affordable mode of transport around Lee-on-Solent has made a further improvement.

ICANGO is a partnership between St Faith's Church, Lee on Solent, and Gosport Voluntary Action to provide transport for those who are elderly, poor, disabled or living in isolated areas. The scheme now operates three mini-buses and is about to take delivery of a new bus donated by the Hampshire Community Transport scheme.

Because of the vulnerability of the clientele, ICANGO has



The Women of Canterbury in *Murder in the Cathedral*



David Brindley with the east window at Holy Cross, Binstead

## news from the pews

now fitted defibrillators to all its vehicles and trained drivers in how to use them.

The team of drivers has been reduced from 20 to 14 recently, so anyone who would like to volunteer as a driver should ring churchwarden Cliff Rook on 023-9255 1300.

**BINSTEAD:** Holy Cross Church, Binstead, recently celebrated its patronal festival weekend with a Eucharist at which the dean of our cathedral preached.

The Very Rev David Brindley talked about stewardship, and dedicated the recently-restored east window at the church. The centre and right-hand lancets were restored, and the left-hand lancet and three trefoils cleaned, thanks to an energetic fundraising drive.

A vintage tea party was also held at the church to mark not just

the patronal festival, but also Isle of Wight Day. Visitors enjoyed tea in the sunshine and browsed the produce and craft stalls.

**HAVANT:** An author from St Faith's Church, Havant, has written a book that aims to bridge the divide between Roman Catholics and Evangelicals.

*Peacemaking in God's Church* was written by Martin Mosse, and is available in print and as an ebook on Amazon Kindle.

Its central thrust is that only a reunited and prayerful Church will complete our mission to bring about God's kingdom. Maintaining the historic tensions between denominations is a luxury we can't afford.

Martin presents some principles of peacemaking, and proposes a structure to help opposing sides

see how their beliefs might not be mutually exclusive.

He also pleads for a return to the Biblical practice of waiting on God in silent contemplative prayer. For details, contact him directly on [martin@brainwaves.org.uk](mailto:martin@brainwaves.org.uk).

**GOSPORT:** A Gosport priest who has just completed his curacy at Holy Trinity and Christ Church in Gosport has been licensed as a deanery priest by Bishop Christopher.

In a moving ceremony at a packed St Mary the Virgin Church, Rowner, the Rev Pete Lambert was welcomed into his new role.

Pete is a chartered surveyor working in HM Naval Base, and is ably supported by his wife Sue, who is herself a lay minister. Among his interests is a leading role in two local charities that support the underprivileged.

The deanery service was led by Canon John Draper, the rector of Rowner, and the Rev Margaret Hay, assistant priest.