



# Pompey Churches

Free of charge



THE CHURCH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT



NUMBER 155

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

FEBRUARY 2017

**We've been supporting families for 30 years**  
Roberts Centre: pages 8-9

**God called us to work for him 250 miles away**  
My Faith: page 12



# YOU CAN HELP STOP TRAFFICKING HORROR

## JELA was brought up in a Muslim family in Albania, but started to date a man who wasn't a Muslim.

Her family weren't happy with the relationship, so the couple decided to travel to France to get married. However, in Belgium Jela became separated from her fiancé, and the other Albanians she was travelling with became unfriendly.

They forced her to work as a prostitute in France for three months. Then she was brought to the UK on the back of a lorry.

She and three other women were kept under guard in a house in London. Every day, men paid her traffickers to have sex with Jela.

One day while travelling, she managed to escape and flagged down a policeman. Jela was referred to the Salvation Army, and was sent to a safe house, ill, pregnant and traumatised.

She received counselling, legal advice and healthcare, and gave birth to a baby daughter there. She has now applied for a social care course and supports other pregnant Albanian ladies.

Our diocese will be helping people like Jela as part of the Bishop's Lent Appeal for 2017. Your generosity will help survivors of sex trafficking across the world, as well as local victims of domestic abuse.

The money raised by our churchgoers during Lent will be split between Stop The Traffik, which is a global movement of activists who try to prevent human trafficking, and local charities that



## Jela ended up ill, pregnant and traumatised after becoming the victim of sex traffickers

support victims of domestic abuse. Bishop Christopher said: "This year's Lent Appeal is called 'From Slavery to Freedom' and is focusing on the mistreatment of women, with a particular emphasis on domestic abuse and human trafficking.

"We take our many freedoms for granted; but for far too many, human trafficking has turned their lives into a living hell where their work or their bodies are exploited for others' gain.

"As we focus on this issue of human trafficking, we will also focus on local charities in the diocese that are preventing and responding to the mistreatment of women and girls.

"I was fortunate to grow up

in a home free from domestic violence. This is sadly not the case for too many in our communities. This year, we stand in solidarity with all who live under the cloud of domestic abuse."

The Bishop's Lent Appeal is an annual event which enables generous churchgoers to

donate money or hold fundraising events. The total is split between a global charity and a local good cause.

Last year's appeal raised £23,110, which was split between the St Nicholas Theological Seminary in Ghana, which trains

ordinands for the Anglican Church in Ghana, and local charities that help those who experience obstacles to learning.

Stop The Traffik is a coalition of charities which seeks to prevent trafficking via education to empower individuals to take action, global campaigning for change, and sharing knowledge and information of where trafficking is taking place. For details, see: [www.stophettraffik.org](http://www.stophettraffik.org)

Our cathedral hosted a training day last month on the issue of modern-day slavery, which included speakers from Stop The Traffik and other organisations working in this area.

We have also appointed the Rev Edwina Fennemore, curate

## CHURCH PROJECT AIMS TO TACKLE MODERN SLAVERY

THE national Church of England has recently launched a three-year project to help dioceses in the detection of modern-day slavery, and to help support those who are victims.

The Clewer Initiative was launched in autumn 2016 and will continue until 2019. Its project officer Caroline Virgo was one of the speakers at our training day on modern slavery last month.

Our diocese is now also a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership. It aims to implement the government's strategy on modern slavery, which identifies the important part that faith groups can play in supporting this initiative.

at St Alban's, West Leigh, as our lead liaison person on this issue.

Domestic abuse affects one in four women in their lifetime, accounts for 16 per cent of all violent crime, and is the single most quoted reasons for becoming homeless.

If you would like to nominate a local charity or community group working in this area to receive a grant from the appeal fund, please contact Rachel Houlberg on [rachel.houlberg@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:rachel.houlberg@portsmouth.anglican.org) or 01329-280247.

To donate to the Bishop's Lent Appeal, use the special envelopes that have been given to your PCC treasurer, or see [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/lentappeal2017](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/lentappeal2017).

For more information on this issue, see [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery).

**STOP THE TRAFFIK**

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

