

New coffee shop will create jobs

OUR diocese's newest church has opened its own coffee shop – to help create work for the jobless.

Harbour Church, which is based in Commercial Road, Portsmouth, has refurbished a retail unit underneath its worship space to create the coffee shop.

It opened for the first time last month and offers great-tasting coffee, juice, smoothies, cookies and cake to city centre workers and shoppers. Its reasonable prices and stripped-down decor have already attracted a regular clientele.

And the plan is for the Harbour Coffee House to offer unemployed local residents a pathway into work.

Congregation member Jonny Swales, who is managing the coffee shop, said: "We have already taken on a couple of unemployed to help us refurbish the place and get it ready.

"We've employed some people we know to be staff and baristas for now, so that we can get the coffee shop established.

"But we hope to be working in partnership with a national charity called Volition in future which is already working in a couple of cathedrals – Manchester and Liverpool.



Coffee shop manager Jonny Swales (centre) and his team serving in The Harbour Coffee House

"The scheme would provide long-term unemployed young people with education via Portsmouth College and the chance to work here and build up employment skills. We would give them a real working environment and mentoring.

"If you are young or haven't worked before, it's hard to get a job that you need experience for. Hopefully we can provide that for them."

The coffee shop is privately-owned, and Harbour Church has leased the premises for now.

Harbour Church opened its doors for the first time last September, worshipping on the first floor of a refurbished department store on Commercial Road.

Its initial core congregation was a group of young people who relocated from St Peter's Church in Brighton. The church plant was

supported by a grant from the national Church given as part of its Renewal and Reform agenda.

The specific brief for Harbour Church is to work with young adults and students, but the church leadership has also expressed the desire to work with the homeless, jobless and marginalised in inner-city Portsmouth.

For details about the church and coffee shop, see www.harbourchurchportsmouth.org.



Michael Harvey

Join us for next stage of LYCIG journey

CLERGY and lay leaders are being invited to the next stage of a journey to help them to grow their churches.

Parishes that attended our Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) conference in Liphook last October are being invited to two follow-up events to help them continue the journey they've started.

The first of those is this month, when Michael Harvey, who helped to create the Back to Church Sunday initiative, leads a session on 'Creating a Culture of Invitation' in your church.

It's on Friday 24 February from 7pm-9.30pm at St Jude's Church, Southsea. The session will then be repeated from 10am-2pm in the same venue on Saturday 25 February.

Participants can choose which session to attend – Friday's will be a condensed version of Saturday's.

Conference participants are invited to bring up to 10 delegates with them on a first-come, first-served basis. Lunch will be provided on the Saturday.

The second follow-up meeting will happen in May. The Ven Bob Jackson, who is a national expert on church growth, will speak on 'Creating a Culture of Welcome' on May 19 and 20, at St Jude's Church. The Friday evening session from 7pm-9.30pm will be a condensed version of Saturday's 10am-2pm session.

To book sessions in February or May, contact Helen Young on mdm@portsmouth.anglican.org or 023-9289 9678.

Our diocese's Mission, Discipleship and Ministry team are also helping parishes that were part of the LYCIG conference to implement those strategies in their own parishes.

Pupils perform dazzling Biblical musical

PUPILS from Hook-with-Warsash Academy staged a dazzling performance of everyone's favourite Biblical musical.

They filled theatre seats at Fareham's Ferneham Hall for three successive nights as they performed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The stage was awash with colour as pupils dressed up for this special show in a range of Egyptian outfits and sang their hearts out throughout the whole performance.

More than 300 pupils from the school were involved, with Year 6 pupils taking the lead roles performing on stage.

Children from Years 3, 4 and 5 sang in the choir, and pupils from Years 1 and 2 were also invited on stage to join the



Academy pupils perform Joseph at Ferneham Hall in Fareham singing and to perform some Egyptian-style moves during Pharaoh's song.

And the band which accompanied them included teachers, governors and ex-pupils.

Joseph was played by year 6 pupil Daniel Mills who learnt all of the songs off by heart and was absolutely word perfect all three nights.

Headteacher Sara Willoughby said: "The

school's performance was truly remarkable. I am normally racing about backstage putting on microphones, but I was able to watch at the front this time and the overall effect of the show was breathtaking.

"The children sang their hearts out and their energy was inspiring. The show really is a true example of team work, as members of staff and children throughout the school worked together to make it such a success.

"I would like to thank everyone: parents, children and staff for their support; not many children get the opportunity to perform on a real stage like this and it is the hard work and dedication of all the staff and children that makes such a wonderful opportunity happen."