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BRIGHSTONE: The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight was given a chance to try bellringing at St Mary's Church, Brighstone.

The Ven Peter Sutton attended a Tuesday evening ringing practice there, the night when they use a simulator to practice with.

Viv Nobbs from the Winchester and Portsmouth District Guild of Church Bell Ringers said: "In the ringing room, much training activity was going on and obvious progress was being made by the locals, including three young ringers.

"Peter seemed to enjoy soaking up the positive atmosphere. One of the young ringers gave him an enthusiastic and informative lesson explaining call changes, using the little wooden templates.

"Peter was intrigued by the use of computer and simulator – permitting a full ringing practice but with no outside noise from the actual bells that would have disturbed the choirs downstairs.

"He had several rings including rounds at the end of the evening. He did very well indeed, ably coached by Steve Noyes."

PORTCHESTER: St Mary's Church is running a course to help those who have been bereaved.

The eight-week course, called Living



The Ven Peter Sutton with Steve Noyes in St Mary's, Brighstone

news from the pews

With Grief, is designed to help those who have been bereaved to explore their feelings and emotions in a safe place.

It starts on February 12, from 2.15pm in the parish hall in Assheton Court. It's not limited to those who have been bereaved recently, and is open to anyone wanting to explore this issue.

Participants will watch short segments of a DVD called *Changed Forever*, which looks at areas such as the death of a loved one, the difference between grief and depression, and the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of grief.

It is being run by the church's curate, the Rev Mark Williams. Anyone who would like to book a place can contact the parish office

on 023-9232 1380 or stmaryoffice@btconnect.com.

GOSPORT: Generous worshippers attending Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services at Holy Trinity Church collected £400 for Yemen.

The cash has been donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) for the Yemen Crisis Appeal.

The DEC had announced that more than seven million people in Yemen didn't know where their next meal was come from and children were dying from malnutrition.

The DEC brings 13 leading UK aid charities together in times of crisis. See www.dec.org.uk for details.

WESSEX: A pilgrimage organised by cathedral worshipper Terry Henderson will include tours of churches in our diocese.

'Christian Wessex' is a seven-day tour which starts on September 9 and takes in the Christian and pagan heritage of the ancient kingdom of Wessex.

It will include a day exploring the heritage of Winchester, a day on Salisbury Plain, including Stonehenge, plus time at Romsey Abbey and in Chichester.

The penultimate day involves time in the Meon Valley, including visits to the Norman church of East Meon, the Anglo-Saxon church in Corhampton, and the chance to explore Portchester Castle, which was built by the Romans.

It will cost £690. Full details are available on www.christianwessex.co.uk, or from Terry directly on 023-9282 0060.

TITCHFIELD: St John the Baptist School in Titchfield is celebrating after being rated as outstanding.

It was given full marks by an inspector in a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The school was praised for the respect with which children treat each other and adults, and their commitment to the school values, reflecting its Christian ethos.

SIAMS inspector Andrew Rickett commended the school for its environment "in which children are happy and



The Nativity play at St John's School, Titchfield

the school report

do well in their learning because they have positive attitudes towards

their work."

Headteacher Elaine Merriman said: "We are

extremely pleased that the hard work of staff, children and governors has been acknowledged. Our key values of loving, thankfulness and hope enable all of our children to flourish in their learning, wellbeing and relationships."

The new vicar of St John the Baptist Church, the Rev Gavin Foster, said: "It has been a pleasure to get to know St John's school, its children and its dedicated staff. I entirely agree with the inspection's findings, which describe what I see every time I step into the school."