

# New bishop in week-long visit

**A NEW bishop from Ghana will visit us for a week this month.**

The Rt Rev Alex Asmah, Bishop of Sekondi, will be in our diocese from February 6-13, visiting churches and helping us to understand the Anglican Church in Ghana.

He will particularly spend time in the Fareham deanery, which has been linked to Sekondi diocese – previously called Takoradi/Sekondi – for many years via our Inter Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL).

He will be welcomed to our diocese in our cathedral by the dean, the Very Rev David Brindley, on February 6, before settling in with his hosts in Fareham deanery.

Bishop Alex will follow in the footsteps of St Wilfrid as he walks along the River Meon from the beach near Titchfield on February 7, after which he'll meet Fareham deanery clergy over lunch and visit Titchfield Abbey. That night he'll take part in an evening event at Holy Rood Church in Stubbington.

On February 8, he'll visit Portchester Castle and St Mary's Church, after which he'll visit Fareham College's two sites with the Rev Bruce Deans, from St John's Church,



**The Rt Rev Alex Asmah, Bishop of Sekondi**

Fareham.

He'll visit St John the Baptist School in Locks Heath with Bishop Christopher on February 9.

He will be back in our cathedral for a Eucharist on

February 10 with members of the IDWAL committee, and enjoy lunch with them before heading to the Isle of Wight.

The chairman of our IDWAL committee, Canon Graham Morris, will host him

on the island on February 11.

Then on Sunday 12 February, from 2pm, there will be displays of the various projects that link our parishes with deaneries in Ghana, and light refreshments, in St Peter's Church, Titchfield.


The two bishops will lead a celebration evening service together there at 4pm. This service will include a question-and-answer session with the bishops, and all are warmly welcomed to come and find out more about Ghana for themselves.

Bishop Alex was ordained last July at Sekondi Cathedral by the Archbishop of West Africa, the Most Rev Daniel Sarfo, taking over from the retiring bishop of Takoradi/Sekondi, the Rt Rev John Otoo. IDWAL was formed in 1978 and is the umbrella organisation that maintains friendship and co-operation between Anglicans in West Africa and the Portsmouth, Chichester and Guildford dioceses.

Since 1998, Portsmouth's links have primarily been with Ghana, and each of our deaneries is linked to a different diocese in Ghana.

For details about our links with Ghana, see [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/idwal](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/idwal).

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**Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?**

Ex 15:11

## Young Muslims support needy families



**Worshippers from the Al Madhi centre with Bob Thomas, from Friends Without Borders, and the Rev Steve Dent, from Fareham Basics Bank**

**THESE** young people from a Muslim community near Wickham organised a special collection of food for needy families.

The donations were shared between the Friends Without Borders drop-in for refugees and asylum seekers – which happens in All Saints Church, Portsmouth – and the Fareham Basics Bank.

They were collected by young people from the Wessex Jamaat Community based at the Al Mahdi mosque in Funtley. The donations were collected to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husayn, who is an important figure in Muslim history.

Lay minister Bob Thomas, from St John's Church, Locks Heath, said: "These generous gifts were gratefully received and immediately passed on to some very needy people.

"It is wonderful to see such an expression of God's love in our local sisters and brothers in the Muslim community."