

Help for you to go deeper spiritually

WOULD you like to grow spiritually and enjoy a deeper walk with God?

If so, our Inspire course could help. It is designed for those who want to discover more about prayer and our rich heritage of Christian spirituality.

It will also include the chance to experience a variety of different styles of spirituality, from Celtic to charismatic, and from our most ancient Christian traditions to the most contemporary.

The course consists of 30 Tuesday evenings spread over three terms, starting in September 2017. There is also a week of accompanied prayer from April 22-28 next year.

Participants will be expected to keep a spiritual journal to record their experiences. They'll hear input from guest speakers, share experiences in small groups, and have individual support from a mentor.

There's a taster session on May 13, from 9.30am in Cathedral House behind our cathedral. This may give you the chance to find out if the course is for you.

To book on the taster course, or to find out more, please contact Patricia Gray, from our Mission, Discipleship and Ministry section, on mdm@portsmouth.anglican.org.

You can also read more about the course and download a brochure on www.portsmouth.anglican.org/spirituality.

Ghana team invited to House of Commons



The Project G team outside the Houses of Parliament

YOUNG Portsmouth worshippers who had a life-changing experience in Ghana last summer were invited to Parliament.

The team of 16 youths and adults from four different churches travelled to Ghana as Project G last summer.

They transformed a dreary classroom for pupils with special needs into a colourful learning environment as part of the 10-day trip.

When Flick Drummond, MP for Portsmouth South, heard about it, she invited them to the House of Commons to hear more.

Ben Wilkins, 17, said: "Our time in Ghana was a truly life changing experience, one in which we achieved so much for the school, as well as growing so much as a team and as individuals.

"We told Flick some of our best memories of Ghana along with the happiness and joy we witnessed when working alongside the special needs children. She also gave us an insight into what it is like to be an MP."

The team were given a tour of Parliament, including a chance to watch the House of Commons in session.

Ghanaian bishop had visa refused

A GHANAIAN bishop who was due to visit our diocese last month wasn't able to come after his visa was refused.

The Rt Rev Alex Asmah, the new Bishop of Sekondi, was due to spend a week with parishes in Fareham deanery, which his diocese is linked to as part of our Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL).

He was due to visit a C of E primary school and host an IDWAL celebration service alongside Bishop Christopher, celebrate the Eucharist with IDWAL committee members, and

to visit the Isle of Wight.

He had originally been invited to the Canterbury Conference, which involves bishops from across the worldwide Anglican Communion who are in the early years of episcopal ministry. He was then due to join us after that conference had finished.

Letters were provided stating that Canterbury Cathedral were taking responsibility for his flight and that his board and lodging would be covered while he was our guest.

Unfortunately his UK visa was initially refused, and then the appeal and eventual granting of the visa came too late for his visit to take place.

A large photo of Bishop Alex was created and taken to some of the events that he would have attended. The photo was left in our cathedral to remind people of our links with Ghana, and to pray for Bishop Alex and his ministry.

IDWAL secretary Canon Marion Syms said: "The reasons that were given for the refusal were incredulous. Among them was the suggestion that he would not be able to cover the cost of his visit without working or accessing public funds. They weren't satisfied that he was a genuine visitor who would leave the UK at the end of his visit.

"The route that is open to the Anglican Communion in these circumstances was activated and a commendation of Bishop Alex's visit was subsequently



'Bishop Alex' joins Fareham deanery clergy

sent from the Home Office to the High Commission in Accra with instructions that the visa refusal be overturned. For some inexplicable reason this memorandum wasn't received in Accra until the day the Canterbury Conference was due to close.

"He returned to Sekondi with a heavy heart, having made the journey to Accra four times in a week."

We now expect he will attend a Canterbury Conference in early 2018, and hope that he will be able to join us immediately after that.

Pop-up shop to help play

A NEW pop-up charity shop in Emsworth helped to raise funds for this summer's Havant Passion Play.

Organisers heard that they could use an empty shop in North Street for two weeks, and within days they had printed 1,000 flyers and put up posters to publicise it.

They put up shelves, borrowed tables and collected stock ahead of the official opening on February 6. The Mayor of Havant, Cllr Faith Ponsonby cut the ribbon.

Early indications were that the shop would make around £100 a day from sales. The shop owner then allowed them to stay open for a third week.

The proceeds will go towards the staging of Havant Passion Play this August. There will be three performances on the weekend of August 12-13.

Workshops will start this month at Havant Methodist Church and rehearsals will take place in June and July.

For details, see www.havantpassionplays.org.uk.

Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 parishes in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Its circulation is 8,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each parish pays 15p for each copy, which allows our readers to pick it up for free on the final Sunday of the previous month. Paid-for adverts are dealt with by our publishers, Cornerstone Vision. For a list of editorial deadlines, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/pompeychimes

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AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 23 March

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH:
Sunday 26 March

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