

Students making church candlestand



The Rev Susan Allman with apprentices from CEMAST

A GROUP of apprentices from Fareham College are making a votive candlestand for worshippers at St Peter's Church, Titchfield.

The students are from the college's Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST), campus in Lee-on-the-Solent.

The vicar, the Rev

Susan Allman, visited the college to see how work is progressing. They are hoping to have the finished product ready for Easter.

Susan then hopes to invite the students into the church to see it in place, and to thank them personally.

A votive candlestand is often used to prompt visitors to light a small candle and say a prayer.

Couple mark 73 years together

A COUPLE who were celebrating their 73rd wedding anniversary returned to the church where they were married – with all nine of their children.

Ted and Bet Smith joined the congregation at All Saints Church, East Meon, for the parish Eucharist as part of their anniversary celebrations.

Clergy and worshippers were pleased to see them, and there was a chance for some reminiscing before the family went out for a celebratory lunch.

The couple first met at a dance in Ropley in 1942. Ted was about to enlist in the army, when Bet's mum invited him to tea. They then regularly met and danced together each Saturday night. They both lived in the village of East Meon – Bet at South Farm and Ted at Hillhampton Farm, working for Mr Jones.

Ted was about to be sent to France to fight in the Second World War when Bet proposed to him. They were married at All Saints Church in February 1944 and set up home at South Farm with Bet's parents.

After the war they moved to Warnford where Ted worked on a farm. They had their first daughter in 1946, and their ninth child – another daughter – was born in 1964.

Between those girls, they managed to alternate boy, girl, boy, girl throughout all nine of



their children.

They now live at Lovedean and all their children live fairly locally. It means that Bet and Ted can keep in touch with most of their 21 grandchildren

and 22 – soon to be 23 – great grandchildren and seven great, great grandchildren.

When asked what was their recipe for a long and successful marriage, Ted replied it was



Left: Ted and Bet Smith mark their 73rd wedding anniversary at East Meon church; above: their wedding day back in 1944

based on plenty of give and take: "Bet giving and Ted taking."

Their son-in-law Richard Oates said: "After 73 years it seems to have worked out quite well!"

New website lists music concerts

A NEW website listing all the amateur classical music concerts around Portsmouth has been launched.

'Music in Portsmouth' provides comprehensive listings of concerts, with details of performers and venues.

Concerts can be filtered by the type of music and there is also the facility

to subscribe to a monthly email newsletter.

This may be useful for churches that regularly host organ recitals, classical concerts or choral performances.

It has been created by Simon O'Hea, and covers the areas of Fareham, Petersfield, Chichester, Havant and Hayling Island, as well as Portsmouth itself.

He said: "I hope this website will encourage more people to take advantage of the great classical music scene in our area."

Find the website at www.musicinportsmouth.co.uk, or contact Simon on 01243-379724, 07767-230389, or info@musicinportsmouth.co.uk to add details of your events.