



John Rutter

Composer to lead choral workshop

THE man behind some of the best-loved choral music sung in our churches will lead a workshop in our cathedral this autumn.

Composer John Rutter will lead a Come and Sing Workshop at Portsmouth Cathedral on September 16, from 9.30am until 4pm. It is being organised by the local branch of the Royal School of Church Music, and will allow singers to rehearse and then perform some of his work.

It is open to new and experienced singers, young and old, and will allow you to brush up on your vocal technique and expand your repertoire.

Tickets are available at the early-bird price of £20 for an adult and £9 for a child until May 31. After that, the price increases by £2.

Cheaper rates are available for RSCM members. For more details and to book, see www.rscm.com/portsmouth or email RSCMportsmouth@gmail.com.

Easter angels appeared around town



Some of the knitters with 'angels' they distributed in Emsworth

MORE than 500 knitted angels appeared mysteriously around the town of Emsworth, thanks to enthusiastic worshippers.

They were challenged to knit angels for Lent that would be distributed around the town for Easter.

It was a joint venture with Emsworth Methodist Church that aimed to bring the true meaning of Easter to the community, plus an invitation to their services.

Both churches organised 'knit and natter' groups, and it caught their imagination. By Holy Week, there were 550

angels to distribute.

Each angel had given a label asking people to take them home, and declaring that 'Easter is when love overwhelmed hate and hope crushed fear'.

They were left around the town from 6.30am on Maundy Thursday morning, and most had been taken home by that afternoon.

The associate minister, the Rev Julie Price, said: "We hope they are a blessing and that will prompt some to think more deeply of what Easter is all about."

Parishes will put strategy to work

WE'VE embraced our strategy as 'live, pray, serve'. Now we need to work out how our parishes will implement it.

Our diocese has tried to capture the essence of what we're about in those three words. It involves living as disciples of Christ; praying, individually and corporately; and serving our local communities and wider society together.

Those three principles are permeating everything we do at diocesan level. From this autumn, we'll be seeking to apply those same guidelines to everything happening in our parishes.

And our Archdeaconry consultation meetings in September and October will give you the chance to hear about and contribute to the plans for support from diocesan staff and to begin to reframe your local mission plans to align with live, pray, serve priority areas.

They have already been arranged and will happen in the Archdeaconry of the Meon on September 27, in the Isle of Wight on October 3 and in Portsdown on October 4. Each meeting will start at 7pm.

Our Diocesan Secretary, the Rev Wendy Kennedy, said: "While it's important for us to have a clear direction at diocesan level, all we do is about supporting the frontline of parish mission."

"Our live, pray, serve strategy aims at enlarging the Church, numerically and spiritually. It has come out of the national Church's Reform and Renewal agenda, which has looked at issues such as funding, training, leadership, discipleship and the easing of red tape, in order to encourage us to step out in mission."

We identified four ways in which those at diocesan level can encapsulate the themes of 'live, pray, serve' in what we do:

- **making Christian disciples**, who can bring Christ to those who they work or study with, consider their own vocations, and



the specific ways in which our parishes are already contributing to that vision – or how they might do so in future.

Our Bishop's Council will be thinking about this in advance at a strategic day on September 16, with area deans, lay chairs of deanery synods and some diocesan staff members.

One of the ways in which we are helping parishes rise to their mission challenges is via a series of viability reviews. Parishes in difficulty are identified and asked to attend meetings at which diocesan, deanery and parish representatives look together at the mission and stewardship priorities of that parish.

One of the first parishes to go through the process was Holy Trinity Blendworth.

Its priest in charge, the Rev Rosemary Donald, said: "It was a slightly challenging, but yet rewarding process, with a very positive outcome."

"We revisited everything we do as a parish with all the documents and statistics on the table, and worked out what we could do better."

"We looked at our mission priorities to see if there were things we could do that would be more outward-focussed and there were some very practical suggestions."

"As a parish we feel encouraged by the support received from the diocese which hopefully will help us to remain sustainable for the future."

be equipped to serve the world;

- **supporting churches to grow**, with training for parishes in mission, community engagement and communications, and the resourcing of pioneer ministry alongside traditional parish ministry;

- **encouraging lifelong learning**, developing schools and colleges as places of encounter with God and helping parishes to re-imagine their engagement with schools;

- **supporting the transformation of society**, by clearly articulating faith in the public sphere, and equipping people to challenging society.

Now we want to discover

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 IN YOUR CHURCH:

Sunday 25 June

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