

# Walking where Jesus walked

**PILGRIMS from the Isle of Wight saw the gospel stories come alive as they explored where Jesus lived.**

The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Peter Sutton, led a group of 38 pilgrims to the Holy Land with the Rev Veronica Brown and the Rev Jane Isaac.

The group, mostly from Isle of Wight parishes, brought together worshippers from different parishes, helping them to understand each other better and to share their faith as they explored the places of Jesus's earthly life.

They travelled from the place of his birth, in Bethlehem, to the site of his burial in Jerusalem. They also visited important sites along the River Jordan and around the Sea of Galilee, as well as following the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem.

Norman and Karen Cave, from St Blasius, Shanklin, said: "The pilgrimage was a most rewarding time for us both and continues to enrich our personal faith journeys.

"The range of experiences, sometimes challenging and uncomfortable, often inspirational and wonderful



The Isle of Wight pilgrims stopped on their way home from the Holy Land at the Roman capital of Caesarea Maratima

and always thought provoking, forged lasting bonds of friendship with our fellow pilgrims from the island and beyond."

Joanna Athey from Seaview, said: "I expected nothing life-changing but wanted to erase the images of the children's book versions of all the Bible stories that were etched in my mind from primary school.

"I had experienced several 'Road to Damascus moments'

already in my life, and so I was totally unprepared for the softening of my heart that leaves me speechless and in tears with each hearing of the Gospel as it is read in church.

"It has resulted in a deeper commitment and focus each day since, as I make radical changes in my life to a call of living more simply, and serving more freely in a hurting, growing complex world."

Sue Ashby from Portsmouth

said: "For me, the pilgrimage was a deeply spiritual and thought-provoking experience, in a land of contrasts, unexpected beauty and great historic and religious significance, shared with a lovely group of warm and caring fellow travellers."

And Pam Clements from St Saviour's, Shanklin, said: "A day never goes by when I don't recall our journey and I now realise how blessed I am to be a child of God."

## Retro-gaming session runs in church

**MORE than 150 people visited a Portsmouth church for a retro gaming session.**

Gamers came to St Peter and St Paul's Church in Wymering to play games such as Super Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog.

Volunteer Jamie Barnes offered to organise the retro games day in aid of charity. It took place over 12 hours and saw families pay £5 to play on the games consoles for three hours. It raised £500 in a day.

They used retro Playstations, XBoxes, a Wii, Sega Megadrive and a Virtual Reality headset. Portsmouth's Lord Mayor Cllr David Fuller paid the event a visit and played some of the games.

Jamie said: "We'll reinvest into the church and charities and give something back to the people who helped us.

"Everyone engaged so well



Jamie Barnes with Barbara Bowers and Gillian Coles at Wymering church

and that's what I want for this community."

The event promoted the IT walk-in workshop held at the church

on Mondays and Fridays at 10am until 2pm. To get involved with future game days, contact Jamie on saintgamesplay@gmail.com.

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