



Toddler group packs nave with families

Little Shipmates: page 5

Ten days praying for others to find faith

Thy Kingdom Come: pages 8-9



Men's fitness group is part of drive to revitalise parish's mission

WE WILL RELAUNCH OUR LOCAL CHURCH

WORSHIPPERS are aiming to re-launch a Portsmouth parish – with an influx of Christians from a nearby congregation.

A group from St Jude's Church, Southsea, aims to begin a new congregation in the church hall of St Margaret's Church, Eastney.

St Margaret's last hosted a Sunday service in December 2015, after its PCC had asked Bishop Christopher to officially move the church towards closure.

But a group from St Jude's feel called to serve the community that lives around the church in Highland Road. Although the church building itself remains closed for use because of safety concerns, the church hall can now be used by worshippers and community groups.

The congregation planting team are already meeting regularly in the hall for midweek prayer and worship, as they work out how best to serve the local community.

They held an open day last month with a jumble sale, bouncy castle, coffee and cake, and invited local residents to meet them.

And they hope to get to know men who live nearby by offering weekly fitness training. The 'Relentless' circuit training sessions on Friday nights are led by a qualified fitness instructor.

The vicar of St Jude's, the Rev Mike Duff, who is overseeing the new congregation, said: "The deanery has asked St Jude's to take the lead in starting a new



Darren Brewer and Fran Carabott outside St Margaret's church hall in Eastney

ministry at St Margaret's – so for the foreseeable future it will be an outreach congregation of St Jude's.

"We are so pleased to have been offered the opportunity to re-open St Margaret's hall, and rebuild a congregation that can respond to the needs of local residents.

"It's in a part of the city where some of our members live, and I'm really excited that a group of them have felt called to reinvigorate the Christian outreach in their area.

"The team has agreed to oversee the bookings for the church hall, which can now be opened to community groups again. And

they are trying to work out what kind of regular pattern of worship would be best for those living nearby – so that might or might not involve Sunday services."

The team is being led by Fran Carabott, who lives in nearby St Augustine's Road, and has been part of the evening service leadership at St Jude's for several years. The team have already introduced themselves to local residents and tidied the church garden and churchyard.

"It is an exciting opportunity," he said. "Every local resident who we've spoken to seems really positive about the church hall opening again. And we feel God

have a physical workout, and then we can talk to them and ask if there is anything they would like prayer for."

The fledgling congregation planting team includes one person from the old St Margaret's congregation. Jill Chalmers was elected to the PCC when all the others resigned.

She said: "I was sad when the previous congregation finished because there was no Anglican church in the Eastney area of Portsmouth between Albert Road and the Eastney shops.

"I'm excited about the new ministry beginning at St Margaret's, as this will create something totally new and fresh and bring new life to this area."

And former St Margaret's member Liz Bradbury said: "Obviously it is sad when a church closes and those of us left in the dwindling congregation have to find new parishes. But Steve and I have been welcomed at St Peter and St Paul, Wymering, which was the parish where Steve grew up. God must have great plans for St Margaret's and I know that the new team led by Fran will bring vibrancy and a strong faith to a new congregation."

Other former St Margaret's congregation members are also currently at other city churches. Their request for the bishop to close the church in 2015 was in part down to major structural problems with the church building that would cost £1m to repair.

No decision has yet been taken about the future of that building.

is calling us to do this – we've only recently moved into this part of the city, but believe that it's a great place to be."

He has recruited another St Jude's worshipper Darren Brewer, who works as a fitness instructor in Havant, to lead Relentless sessions from 7pm-8pm on Fridays.

Darren said: "The idea is to provide something different that might bring men in. It's circuit-based, so they spend one minute on each activity, then move on to the next. But it's for all abilities – we've had everything from teenagers to men in their 60s.

"We invite men who wouldn't normally go to church. They can

Dozens of sheep will flock to cathedral

DOZENS of fibreglass sheep will flock to our cathedral this month - along with some of the children who have decorated them.

The sheep are part of our diocese's Ewe Matter project, which involved the lifesize sheep being delivered to C of E schools in Portsmouth and Winchester diocese.

Staff and pupils were invited to decorate their sheep in a way that reflected their school's ethos and identity. And they'll reunite the flock at Portsmouth and Winchester Cathedrals this month at our Leavers' Services.

The annual event sees Year 6 pupils who are just about to leave C of E primary schools enjoy workshops and services of thanksgiving. This year, they are taking place at our cathedral on July 3, 4 and 5.

Bishop Christopher will be among the bishops and archdeacons leading services on a sheep theme.

Ewe Matter was devised by our director of education Jeff Williams as a way of linking parish churches and C of E schools.

The fibreglass sheep can be used by worshippers who lead collective worship in schools on Biblical themes, and brought by the school on visits to their local church. They can also be used as part of science, English or RE lessons.

See www.portsmouth.anglican.org/ewematter for more.



Above: The Rev Mark Williams with his wife Sarah and their children Layla, 5, Malachi, 3, and Rosie, 9, in Shanklin Chine; right: the Rev David Lawrence-March at Ardingley College ahead of his move to the Isle of Wight



New team with a vision for the Bay

THE Rev Mark Williams felt called to Christ Church, Sandown, more than a year ago - now he is going to be its new priest.

He is just one of a new team of three clergy who will take charge of the six parishes around the Bay on the Isle of Wight. They'll be given freedom to create a new vision for ministry and mission in the area.

Mark, who is currently curate at St Mary's, Portchester, will be licensed on August 20 as priest-in-charge of St Paul's, Shanklin, and

Christ Church, Sandown.

He said: "I actually preached in Christ Church on Vocations Sunday in May 2016. I was by myself in church beforehand and a quiet voice said that this was the place I should be. I had a sense that this was where I was called to be, but I was still only a second-year curate. But by the time the job was advertised, I was coming towards the end of my curacy."

"It will be the start of a new season at St Paul's and Christ Church, and we need to discern where God is leading us. Of course I want to get to know the parishes first. And it will be good to work as part of a team - it's about learning to worship God in our different traditions, and recognising each other's gifts."

The Rev David Lawrence-March, who is currently chaplain at Ardingley College in Haywards Heath, will become priest-in-charge of St Saviour-on-the-Cliff, Shanklin, and Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake.

He had never been to the Isle of Wight before May, but will be moving there this month ahead of his licensing by Bishop Christopher and Bishop Norman Banks, the Bishop of Richborough, on July 13.

He said: "Of course, there is an element of trepidation, not least as it will entail a move back in parochial ministry after 25 years of chaplaincy in a variety of schools in both the maintained and independent sectors."



The Rev Terry Wilke

"The warmth of welcome I have already received from the diocese and parishioners in both parishes, and above all the prayerful support that has been forthcoming from so many quarters convinces me that the hand of God is at work."

"I look forward enormously, not only to the challenges ahead, but also to getting to know the people and clergy of the diocese, and ask for your prayers for all of us at the Good Shepherd and St Saviour's."

And they will be joined by the Rev Terry Wilke as priest-in-charge of St Blasius, Shanklin, and St John, Sandown. Terry is currently chaplain at Diocesan College in Cape Town, South Africa.

He was born and brought up in Soweto and served in the South

African Navy, and then trained and worked as a teacher.

He trained for ordination under Bishop Desmond Tutu and then ran a parish as a non-stipendary priest while also running a psychology practice. He has been married to Rosemary for 34 years and they have three children.

He said: "I have been in school ministry for the past eight years and have realised that I am a pastor at heart. I look forward to becoming rooted in the island communities that I have been asked to become a part of and to get to know the people of both churches."

"I hope to offer the communities I serve a time of quiet growth, a deeper sense of the Lord working in their lives and a sense knowing that each person is loved, cared for and is welcomed as a person into the community of the church."

The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Peter Sutton, said: "We were delighted with the quality of the applicants for these three posts, and very happy with those who we have appointed. They will be a strong team with many gifts to share in the Bay."

"We wanted to create a brand new team, spanning different traditions and working together in an area that is rich with potential. There are plenty of opportunities for effective ministry and mission in these lively seaside towns, and I'm confident that God will renew and equip these parishes for the task."

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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Target is twice as many disciples

HE has set himself the target of doubling the number of Christian disciples within our diocese.

The Rev Andrew Hargreaves has been appointed as our diocese's new mission development officer, with a brief to inspire and support our parishes in evangelism and discipleship.

The 43-year-old will move from his current position as vicar of St James and St Luke's Churches in Glossop, near Manchester, and take up his new role in September.

He will replace the Rev Charlie Peer, who started working in Bath and Wells Diocese last October after four years as our diocese's mission development officer.

Andrew lived in Portsmouth for four years in his 20s, working as a primary school teacher and in community regeneration until he felt God calling him to ordination. He studied at Trinity College, Bristol, before becoming a curate in Southampton and then a vicar in Glossop.

"I'm looking forward to being back in Portsmouth, living and working in a city that has been close to my heart," he said. "I loved living there in my 20s and it was an important time for me,



The Rev Andrew Hargreaves, our diocese's new mission development officer

when I grew as a person and started to really discern God's call on my life.

"The thing that most excites me is joining in with the diocese's vision to live, pray and serve.

I'm excited about joining in with the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ and seeing those disciples grow. I would love to see the number of disciples in the diocese double over the next 10

years – that would be my aim.

"I want to see Jesus making disciples of people who are at all stages of life, and across all cultures.

"That might be through the ministry of church plants, pioneer ministers or new forms of church that meet the needs of modern people. Or it might be through refreshing and revitalising parish ministry, developing parishes and groups of missional disciples.

"I understand that there are many demands and pressures on churches, and engaging with mission and making disciples can feel like yet another challenge. But I believe that telling other people about Jesus in word and deed is the primary arena for us to grow as disciples ourselves. One way we grow in God together, and know him more deeply is by sharing the good news about Jesus."

Andrew will move to our diocese with his wife Miriam and their children Grace, aged 13, Bethany, 11 and Charis, 9. He will be based in our diocesan office and will be working full-time.

He will become part of our Mission, Discipleship and Ministry team, which includes advisers in stewardship, spirituality, discipleship and youth and children's ministry.



James Burke-Dunsmore

Passion Play will tell story of Jesus

WORSHIPPERS from churches around Havant will stage a second Passion Play in two years this August.

Churchgoers will perform their open-air play telling the story of Jesus's ministry, death and resurrection three times over one weekend in Havant Park.

Jesus in the Park takes place on Saturday 12 August at 12noon and again at 3pm, and on Sunday 13 August at 3pm. The performance will be free of charge, and there will be a tea tent and prayer tent.

Director James Burke-Dunsmore, who plays Jesus in the acclaimed *Life of Christ* on the Wintershall Estate near Guildford, is leading rehearsals after writing a brand new script.

He directed and played Jesus two years ago when churchgoers worked together on a Passion Play which was also performed in Havant Park. Crowds of passers-by were captivated by its large cast, authentic costumes and real animals.

For the 2017 Passion Play, he is still keen for people of all ages to join the cast.

"Novices will be supported and nurtured, and those with experience will be developed and encouraged," he said.

Cast members and supporters have also been raising funds for the play via a series of events.

Among the events still to take place is a tea dance from 2pm-4pm on July 14 at St Joseph's church hall. Havant. The theme is 'Henley Regatta' and tickets are £5, including sandwiches and cream tea.

For details, please email kaznowskipauline@gmail.com

For more information, see www.havantpassionplay.co.uk.

Scaffolding comes down to reveal newly-restored minster

THE scaffolding has come down on Newport Minster to reveal a newly-restored building.

For the past five months, builders have been working on Phase 5 of the restoration of Newport Minster, and also started the reordering of the interior of the church.

During this time the work was hidden, but last month all was revealed as the scaffolding came down.

The east side of the church is now completely restored and watertight, together with the kitchen and Horsey Chapel and all the windows.

The large east window and main lights of the Horsey Chapel window were removed and repaired in a specialist workshop. They only returned to the church just before the scaffolding came down.

beneath the organ gallery have been removed and a new stone floor has been laid to create a light, open space to welcome people into the church.

This is the latest phase of a long-running campaign to restore and renew the minster building, so that it can serve the whole of the island.

The first four phases of the renewal campaign saw the restoration of the Lady Chapel and Horsey Chapel, in addition to the cleaning and repairing of the tower stonework with the refurbishment of the clockfaces and work on the roof.

The Minster would like to thank everyone who has supported this recent work, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Churches Trust, the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust, Allchurches Trust, the Masons and individual donors.



The restored east window at Newport Minster

Inside the west door, the pews

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IDSWORTH: St Hubert's Church was filled to capacity for a Poetry and Prosecco evening organised as part of the South Downs Poetry Festival.

The first half of the performance was devoted to Edward Thomas, remembering the centenary of his death. A selection of his work was movingly spoken by actors Susan Jameson and Alan McMahon.

Local singer-songwriter John Butler and his daughter Sophie performed some folk songs. And the audience enjoyed their Prosecco and breathtaking views of 'the little church in the field' outside in the interval.

The second half performance was given by the Chalk Poets, with some contemporary poetry reflecting what is special about living in the South Downs countryside. The trustees were grateful to Tim Dawes and the festival for organising the evening. More than £500 was raised.

VENTNOR:

Worshippers at St Alban's Church marked 100 years since an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to children near Fátima in Portugal. The appearances



The Rev Jane Isaac with the Wickham Silver

news from the pews

there began at the height of the First World War, when three young children reported that Our Lady had asked them to pray for peace, forgiveness and holiness. It happened each month from May to October 1917.

Word spread until 70,000 people were present for the final appearance. Fátima became a place of pilgrimage and two of the three children were canonised by Pope Francis in May this year.

The service at St Alban's included a short film of the events, and refreshments from

Portugal. Further events are planned for the coming months.

WICKHAM: After the installation and induction of the Rev Jane Isaac as vicar of Wickham and Shedfield, she presided over her first Communion for the benefice the following Sunday.

The significance of the occasion was enhanced by the generous loan from Hampshire Cultural Trust of the Wickham Silver.

This is a rare 17th century Communion set, which is kept normally

only for display at Westbury Manor Museum in Fareham.

WOOTTON:

Churchgoers and villagers from Wootton have continued to collect 5p pieces for a scheme to help children in developing countries.

They're doing so as part of the Mite Scheme, which is run by Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund.

It helps to pay for oral rehydration sachets for distribution in areas where there is severe dehydration. Thousands of lives have been saved by the scheme.

The latest contribution of £50 in 5ps means that the parish of Wootton has now contributed £4,400 to the scheme over the years.

SANDOWN: Bishop Christopher visited the Bay C of E Primary School last month for worship and to unveil a plaque.

The collective worship was on the theme of friendship, and the Bishop shared a story of how four friends took their one friend to see Jesus.

The bishop met pupils for a question and answer session, which touched on recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, as well as other religions.

And he then went outside to bless the new school building for current and future generations, and to unveil a plaque.



Bishop Christopher at the Bay C of E Primary School

the school report

Bishop Christopher was also invited to sit

on the school's newly created 'friend bench'

which has the hand-print of every pupil in school painted on, to encourage friendship.

The morning concluded with the bishop, his chaplain and others being given a tour of the school.

Families fill nave at toddler group

IT'S a group that attracted just two families a couple of years ago. Now up to 60 families pack into church for Little Shipmates.

The toddler group run by St Simon's Church in Southsea expanded rapidly after the church removed its pews and opened up its nave.

Dozens of pre-schoolers can now bounce on the trampet, drive toy cars and sing action songs in the main part of the church. The parents and carers who come love the friendliness and home-made cake, while the children enjoy the space they have to play in.

The group meets each Monday morning in term-time from 9.30am-11.30am. Children can pick up storybooks, play with tea sets, build with Lego, or bounce on rocking toys. The morning ends with 'rhyme time', when adults and children sing songs together and celebrate birthdays.

The group was relaunched by mums Amy Allen and Jo Crawley, who are both part of the St Simon's congregation.

"When I started coming to the toddler group, we were in the hall," said Jo. "But once the pews were removed, we asked if we could go into the church as well, and that gave us so much extra space.

"We used Facebook groups and word-of-mouth to reach other parents and quite quickly more began coming.

"Amy and I take it in turns to bake cakes and I'm sure that helps. We also wanted it to be a place with free play, not too many rules and to provide a good experience for the parents.

"There are a few church families here, but mostly they are from the wider community. We advertise our church events here at Christmas and other times, and some families do come. But the primary aim is just to give families a good experience each week."

Mum Selvi Jose, whose son Ethan, aged 2, attends, said: "I've been coming for six years, so I was able to tell others what a good group this is. They have something for every age from babies to four-year-olds, and we take it turns to lead the singing."

Ruth Willis, who brings her daughter Chloe, 2, said: "It is a



Above: the toddler group in the nave of St Simon's; right: Selvi Jose with Ethan, and Julie Willis with Chloe at the group

relaxed atmosphere and a safe environment, and good to socialise with other parents – sharing problems you have and possible solutions."

Childminder Vicky Nicholls said: "Some other groups are more structured, but I like the fact that children can play freely – they can see what activities are going on and join in. It's a nice big room, and there are no cliques."

Mum Rabia Harper, whose children Lara, 3, and Mira, 1, are part of the group, said: "People are really friendly, and it's a warm environment, especially the rhyme time at the end. I liked it so much, we had my little girl's birthday here."

And Josette Tucker, who brings her nine-month-old daughter Lila Knight, said: "We like the fact that it's a big open space for them to play, and the toys and the floor are really clean! The tea and cake helps too."

The church also holds monthly 'Shipmate Sundays' – family-friendly, 45-minute Sunday services.

And it is now hoping to launch a second children's group, which would include soft play and a bouncy castle for slightly older children. For details, see www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk



Abseil raises funds for MS Society



Penny Candlin on her abseil

SHE is scared of heights, but Penny Candlin abseiled from the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth to raise funds for those with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Penny, from St Mary's Church, Hook-with-Warsash, was diagnosed with MS – an incurable disease that attacks the myelin around the nerves – 13 years ago. Before her diagnosis, she was a graphic designer and photographer and lived an active life.

Her MS has got progressively worse, but she enjoys the support of her church community.

Review to examine our parish support

BISHOP Christopher has announced a review of the work of two of our diocesan office teams that support the work of parishes.

The review will take place over the summer into the work of our Mission, Discipleship and Ministry team and our Mission and Society team, which are based in our diocesan office.

The former includes advisers in stewardship, spirituality, vocations and work with children and young people, as well as those who organise clergy and lay training courses.

The latter includes advisers in communications, urban and rural ministry, IDWAL and interfaith issues, as well as our support for parishes as they tackle issues of social justice.

The review will examine how these teams can support parishes most effectively in future as they implement our diocese's live, pray, serve strategy.

Two of our archdeacons, the Ven Joanne Grenfell, Archdeacon of Portsdown, and the Ven Gavin Collins, Archdeacon of the Meon, will undertake this review over the summer with the lay chair of our Diocesan Synod, Debbie Sutton.

To discover more about how these teams support the work of parishes, see www.portsmouth.anglican.org/whatwedo.

If you have any views to share with the review team, you can reach all three of them via the email mdm.msreview@portsmouth.anglican.org

She said: "Dangling on a piece of rope, with paralysed limbs being blown around by the wind 100 metres up, looking around taking a video with the camera on your helmet while fending off the wall and releasing the rope with your one good hand is not what I call enjoyable. Quite a crowd came to watch the spectacle."

She raised funds for Gosport and Fareham MS Society and MS research.

You can still donate to her appeal via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Penny-Candlin.



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We'll help city groups to care

WE'LL be helping neighbourly people to care for one another in the city of Portsmouth in future.

The Good Neighbours Network, which is based in our diocesan offices, already supports more than 120 different care groups across Hampshire – in both Winchester and Portsmouth dioceses.

These groups offer practical help, such as transport to medical appointments, and emotional support to those who might be housebound or lonely. Each is staffed by local volunteers who give their time for free.

Our Good Neighbours Network supports those independent groups by taking care of much of the bureaucracy associated with running a care group. This network has been going for more than 40 years and has been funded by Hampshire County Council and the NHS.

Now it is set to expand into Portsmouth after the city



Left: Vicky Halliday; above: the network helps groups to care for others

council confirmed funding for a year. The network will support

care groups in the city who are doing similar work to those in Hampshire.

Our Good Neighbours Network is employing an adviser with responsibility for Portsmouth to work for two days a week. Vicky Halliday

will take on this role.

Our director of social enterprise and engagement, Canon Nick Ralph, said: "As the city council knows, helping us to support and enable volunteers to do very practical tasks to help individuals is not only cost-effective for them, but it also helps to build real community spirit. That's because it is local people volunteering to help those who live near them.

"We have always thought that this model worked and could be exported to other parts of the country anyway, so we're sure that it will make a difference in the city and it will also complement and support those groups already set up here."

Vicky will work alongside network guru Angela Smith and network adviser Debbie Sutton. For details about their work, see www.goodneighbours.org.uk.

Musical tells story of Pentecost

IT was an uplifting occasion that told the story of the birth of the early Church.

Choristers from the Havant area gathered at St Faith's Church last month to tell the story of Pentecost through songs from the Roger Jones musical *Saints Alive!*

Pentecost is a festival commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Christian composer Roger Jones wrote his musical in 1981.

The 10 songs tell the story of the birth of the Church and the dramatic change in the apostles, from frightened, hopeless men to people who turned the world upside down. The 45-minute cantata was performed with gusto by singers at St Faith's Church



Saints Alive in St Faith's Church, Havant

to an audience of over 50 people.

It took place the day after the London Bridge terror attack, which prompted the rector, Canon Tom Kennar, to say in his opening speech: "The Pentecost story has

something to say to us in a community that is fractured by division."

Bill Jones, who sang two solos in the performance, said: "I love these songs. Roger Jones' music has such nice harmonies – and I think we could all do

with a little harmony at the moment."

The choir was made up of churchgoers of many denominations from the Havant area. They were brought together for two special performances – one at St Faith's, and one at St George's, Waterlooville, earlier that day.

Tom Kennar provided the piano accompaniment, and the congregation were encouraged to join in with songs, with hymn sheets provided by the church.

The choir was led by Geoffrey Porter, deputy director of music at St Mark's Church, who told the congregation: "I've always wanted to do *Saints Alive* on the day of the Pentecost, and finally here we are."

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Above left: Daniel Vartan, Ella Clarke and Lucy Clarke pray in Whiteley's Church Without Walls garden; right: the Rev Philippa Mills and Bethany Vartan with the bonfire

Creative prayer lit up



Arnold the Praying Penguin in one of the Instagram posts

Arnold the Penguin is our prayer partner

A TOY penguin became an unlikely inspiration for prayer in St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain.

Intern Jenny Dickin decided to utilise the parish's social media platforms to encourage people to pray during Thy Kingdom Come.

The idea was to reach those who weren't sure about visiting the prayer stations in church or couldn't make it.

Jenny had been given Arnold the Penguin earlier this year, and felt he would be the perfect creature to catch people's attention.

So each day, Arnold the Praying Penguin featured in a photo that suggested

people to pray for or a way in which to pray. People interacted with his posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Jenny said: "Lots of people were able to use Arnold's posts as guidance for their prayers, especially those who weren't quite sure where to begin."

"A firm favourite was Arnold's photo with Bishop Christopher, as he asked people to pray for church leaders as they welcomed new people coming to know Christ."

Arnold enjoyed it so much, he has now launched a blog all about different ways of praying. It's at: www.arnoldprays.co.uk

ALL over the diocese, we got on our knees in response to the call for Christians to pray.

We heeded our Archbishops' prompting to spend 10 days praying for more people to hear the gospel message. It was part of their Thy Kingdom Come initiative which urged us to pray in new ways between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

Worshippers in our diocese prayed individually at home, at school and at work. Parishes organised extra prayer meetings, created innovative prayer installations and even took turns to pray for 24 hours in a row. Some congregations did prayer walks, or took part in fasting, while others used specially-written liturgy in services or kept their church buildings open during the day so people could pop in to pray at their convenience.

And it was all sparked by an event in **Portsmouth Cathedral** ahead of Ascension Day which showcased some innovative ways to pray. Clergy and prayer champions gathered to pick up ideas to use in their own churches during those 10 days.

The prayer stations on display involved using maps and newspapers to pray for local and national issues; ropes in which to tie knots to represent each prayer; and ink pads to print the names of individuals to be prayed for – among many other creative ideas.

There was also a giant map of Portsmouth diocese laid out on the cathedral floor, with 139 Thy Kingdom Come candles – one for each parish – placed on the map. Representatives from each parish took home their own candle, which worshippers lit each time they prayed as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

The cathedral event on May 20 also involved different styles of worship being showcased, from contemporary guitar-led worship to silent meditation, and from all-age worship to chanting in the style of the



Above: Parish representatives pick up their Thy Kingdom Come candles in Portsmouth cathedral; right: Evie Watson, 7, prays with the Rev Amy Webb using the Taize Community in France.

Taize Community in France.

Among those attending was Clare King, from **Holy Trinity, Bembridge**, on the Isle of Wight, who said: "I think this is fantastic and gives us some ideas that we can use. It's really encouraging being here with people from all over the diocese learning about creative ways to pray. We did Thy Kingdom Come last year, opening the church up for people to pop in and to pray at various prayer stations."

And Joyce Seaman, from **All Saints Church, Botley**, said: "It's great to be here, and lovely to see so many ways to pray. I think this is a great initiative by Archbishop Justin and by our bishop, and we're taking part in Botley, Curdridge and Durley."

Worshippers at **Whiteley** pitched a tent in their Church Without Walls garden next to Cineworld for hours of prayer, from the Sunday afternoon to the Bank Holiday Monday.

The vicar, the Rev Philippa Mills, and churchwarden Jo Vartan committed themselves to spending 24 hours in prayer, with others joining them for all-age activities and two sanctuary spaces for quiet individual prayer. Unfortunately, it rained for 19 of those 24 hours.

Philippa said: "In the dry fire we enjoyed great fellowship round the bonfire and barbecue, beginning with the Prayer and ending with Night Prayer. The Hopeweavers Community. We used glow stick crosses to add to our



Above left: Jane and David Isaac collect the candles for Shedfield and Wickham from our cathedral; right: students from Charter Academy pray in St Luke's Church

Thy Kingdom Come



Candles from the giant map of our diocese in the cathedral's Pentecost-themed prayer station

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prayers and hung them in the trees.
“The remaining rather soggy 19 hours gave plenty of chance for reflection on the importance of a quiet sanctuary space so close to the commercial busyness of the shopping centre. We had some good conversations with our few visitors and watched spectacular lightning during the night time thunder storm!”
Those from **St Peter's, Titchfield**, also held a 24-hour prayer vigil, which began with a short service of Compline on the Tuesday, which was well attended and provided encouragement as the vigil started.
The church had been prepared with five prayer stations, each of which included a different opportunity to engage



with prayer, including one for children. Three people per hour were available to pray and greet people during the day in church. Prayer continued overnight, when the church was closed, in the chapter room. It concluded with a short service of thanksgiving on the Wednesday evening.

The curate, the Rev Janet Trevithick, said: “It was a wonderful and encouraging 24 hours as Titchfield came together in church to offer ours and community prayers. Those who took part all felt truly blessed themselves in adding significantly to the worldwide wave of prayer.”

It was definitely Pentecost at **St Luke's in Southsea**, with a massive installation taking over the church space, bringing visual, audio and creative engagement into the prayer life of the church.

RE classes from Charter Academy visited in the week before half term, and the church was open for public prayer every lunchtime and evening.

Pioneer minister Susie Templeton said: “There were six different prayer stations, picking up on themes from the Pentecost story and the growth of the early church. We were encouraged to think about the story and the issues it raised, and respond in a variety of creative ways - drawing our

vision for the future, building a flame of prayers, praying in different languages, writing a letter to God or even using glow sticks! Once half term arrived, we laid out a labyrinth of fairy lights as a reminder that prayer is a journey with God in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

And those from the parishes of **Soberton and Newtown** held a simple Communion service in a marquee. More than 50 worshippers helped to celebrate the theme of Thy Kingdom Come and give thanks for the community fete held the previous day, which attracted more than 1,500 people. Both events took place in the garden of a Newtown parishioner.

Hundreds of thousands of Christians of all denominations across the world are thought to have joined in Thy Kingdom Come this year.

More than 250,000 resources were ordered to help churches take part, including family-friendly kits, gospels, prayer journals and formal liturgies. Thy Kingdom Come prayers are still available online, and participants are also being encouraged to post their own prayers and images on social media using the hashtag #thykingdomcome. For more details, see www.thykingdomcome.global.

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Helping others to worship for 50 years

HE became organist at St Mildred's Church in Whippingham back in 1966 – and he's still doing it today!

Les Snow, 72, has been organist and choirmaster at St Mildred's for more than 50 years, and has performed the same roles at nearby St James Church in East Cowes for 47 years.

Music has been an integral part of his life, from his experiences as a young chorister to teaching schoolchildren to play the piano, singing on cruise ships, and leading choral groups.

And it's also been an integral part of his Christian faith. He expresses his own faith through hymns, anthems and organ recitals, as well as helping others to worship God.

Les calculates he has played for more than 6,000 church services and 900 weddings.

For much of that time, he has dashed from the end of the 9.30am Sunday service at St James to be there in time for the 11.15am service at St Mildred's. For 10 years he was playing at a third Sunday service in Newport as well.

"For me, the music helps to enliven the words of the hymns, and helps people to worship," he said. "I have had a wonderful musical life, most of it working for the Lord.

"There has been so much joy teaching church choirs, schools choirs and the local Wootton Choral Society."

Les was baptised in St Mildred's Church in 1944 and was in the Sunday School, Junior Church and church choir. He played hymns for all three on the piano and organ before his teens, and for a full church service in 1956, aged 12.

His parents were staunch believers, and he grew up knowing about the faith and gradually came to make it his own. At the age of 19 he started playing the organ regularly for a Unitarian church in Newport, which gave him sufficient experience to take over as the St Mildred's organist in 1966.

"The previous organist died,



Les Snow at the organ in St Mildred's Church, Whippingham: (right) the church itself

and they asked me if I could take over," he said. "My dad said I should take this opportunity, and I'm still there now! In February 1970 I took over playing the organ and leading the choir at St James's too."

He studied the organ in the early 1970s with Christopher Gower at Portsmouth Cathedral, and his choirs sang Choral Evensong there.

He played for several important services broadcast live on BBC Radio Solent in both churches, and St James Church choir also made recordings of hymns for them.

The St Mildred's choir and later

point, it was a convalescent home for armed forces officers.

Les worked as an engineering design draughtsman for a variety of firms, including Vosper Thornycroft. In 1976 he became personnel officer there, which involved a lot of responsibility, and was also involved in teaching music to children at church.

"I felt a great satisfaction about teaching, and it felt as though the Lord was calling me to become a schoolteacher," he said. "I also had a friend that also worked

was calling me to do something different."

He applied to King Alfred College in Winchester and studied for a three-year degree in education. His first year was delayed as he and his wife Pat had just had their only child Mark.

He ended up studying in Winchester

forecaster, and can repair cars, as well as doing other DIY jobs.

He has been a member of the PCC, regularly leads intercessions and reads the lesson at both churches. And because of St Mildred's royal connections, he has shook hands with Lord Mountbatten, then governor of the Isle of Wight – whose parents are buried in the churchyard – as well as Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Prince Edward when they visited the church over the years.

"My faith had developed gradually over the years, but there have been several crossroads in my life, such as when I decided to go into teaching," he said.

"I have felt the Lord guiding me to do the right thing. I have led some services in church and wondered about ordination, but I think I would miss leading the music.

"I like to play quietly before the service to help people to concentrate on God. I try to play softly and loudly at various points during the hymns, to help emphasise the words, and I play rousing music at the end of the service to send people away feeling uplifted.

"I sing solo during Communion these days at St Mildred's, although at St James I still have a small, very experienced adult choir, nothing like the choirs we used to have."

In the past 11 years, he has been on several cruises, singing on board, and also visiting churches around the world to play their organs. He has played organs as far apart as Greenland and New Zealand.

To mark 50 years as organist and choirmaster at St Mildred's, he held an organ recital there last November.

Les managed to inadvertently reveal the bronze plaque in his honour before it was supposed to be officially unveiled. It's now on the side of the organ loft.

"I'll never retire from music," he said. "I still feel spiritually uplifted by hymns, and I still think others get a lot out of it. It's a privilege to help people worship in this way."



my faith

Les Snow recently celebrated 50 years playing the organ at St Mildred's Church, Whippingham. He feels privileged to be able to lead worship there and at St James, East Cowes

choirs sang carols each Christmas at nearby Osborne House, which became famous as Queen Victoria's island home. At that

at Vospers and who committed suicide at around that time, and I arranged and played at his funeral. It felt as though the Lord

during the week and only returning to the island at weekends to see his family and play in church.

"It was a bit of a struggle, as I was 35 and up against 18-year-olds, as well as being away, but I enjoyed it," he said. "I then taught in schools in Southampton, before I got a job at my son's school – Newport C of E Primary.

"I took assemblies there, played for school services in St Thomas's and St John's Churches. Later I did supply teaching at Carisbrooke C of E Primary and so played in St Mary's Church too."

Les was also a peripatetic music teacher, teaching piano at home for 40 years, singing for 30 years, and recorder and keyboard. He has been a cricketer, a table tennis player, and now plays golf at Osborne. He is also a weather

The handyman who fixes things for others

unsung hero

WHO is our unsung hero this month? John Baldwin, a former churchwarden and worshipper at Christ Church, Totland.

Who has nominated him? His wife, Jenny Baldwin.

Why is he a hero? John has helped out countless neighbours and friends, both in the church and the wider community.

Because he built the house that he and Jenny live in, word spread that he was something of a handyman. Locals now ask him to help fix their boiler, look at their electrics, or do simple DIY around their home.

He has also found himself filling out forms or writing letters for people, advocating for people's legal rights with large firms, or being given power of attorney to act on their behalf.

He is also carer to Jenny, who said: "Our congregation say how lovely it is to have my husband around. If he can't help them, he knows who can. And he doesn't just answer pleas from congregation members - they tell their friends and neighbours and he helps them too."

Why does he do it? Helping other people is part of his

We're highlighting those unsung heroes in our congregations, who volunteer to do the behind-the-scenes jobs in our churches, like cooking, cleaning and tidying. Do you know someone in your church who you could nominate to be featured on this page?

Christian faith, which he has held for more than 50 years.

"My Christian faith is the driving force to do things for other people and not to seek anything in return," he said. "I am retired and seem to spend quite a lot of my time doing various odd jobs for church members and others.

"It is local knowledge that I built my own home in 2003/4 and so people seem to think I have some skills in building, plumbing, and electrics. Many people on the island are elderly and need help.

"A neighbour who recently was 100 had been living alone and most weeks, especially during the winter, she would call me to repair her boiler. I also did numerous other repairs for her, as well as sorting out forms, and nuisance calls etc. I am often

contacted at odd hours by various folk to sort out water leaks, electrical failures, as well as more major jobs such as relaying an elderly lady's drains which were backing up.

"It is rewarding to see people being helped, and with some people I do have discussions about my faith."

● Is there someone in your church who works hard behind the scenes, but rarely gets any public thanks?

Why not nominate them as an unsung hero in the Pompey Chimes?

Fill in the form here and send it to Pompey Chimes, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB, or email neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org.



John and Jenny Baldwin

I'd like to nominate _____
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as my **unsung hero**. This is why: _____

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Friday 30 June - Saturday 1 July
TITCHFIELD, St Peter's Church
(Friday: 10am-4pm; Saturday: 10am-3pm, Sunday: 12noon-4pm): *Flower festival*. Theme: 'Our Heritage in Flowers', to mark the opening of the Historical Heritage Church Walk. Entrance: £3. Includes official opening of the project on **July 1**, at 3pm, with Lord Montagu of Bealieu.

Saturday 1 July
PORTCHESTER, St Mary's Church (10.30am): *Friends of St Mary's AGM*. **PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (11am):** *Ordination of deacons*; (4pm): *Ordination of priests*. By the Bishop of Portsmouth. **PURBROOK, St John's Church (11am-2.30pm):** *Summer fete*. With 'superhero' scarecrow competition, entertainment from Singing for Fun and St John's ukelele group. Details: Pat Wootten (023-9279 8215). **IDSWORTH, St Hubert's Church (5.30pm):** *Summer concert and picnic*. Ensemble Moliere perform *Air de Versailles*. Tickets: £15, available on 023-9241 3410.

Sunday 2 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*; (6pm): *Evensong*. **CROOKHORN, Church of the Good Shepherd (6.30pm):** *Portsmouth New Wine Network celebration*.

Monday 3 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10am-4pm): *Workshops and service for those leaving C of E schools in our diocese*.

Tuesday 4 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10am-4pm): *Workshops and service for those leaving C of E schools in our diocese*.

Wednesday 5 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10am-4pm): *Workshops and service for those leaving C of E schools in our diocese*. **PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (12noon):** *Mass and charity lunch*.

Thursday 6 July
PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (7.30pm): *Organ recital*. To help raise funds for organ repairs.

Saturday 8 July
PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport (10am): *Coffee morning and mini-market*. **COWES, St Mary's Church (10am-3pm):** *Summer fair*. **SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (10am-4pm):** *Quiet day*. Led by Angela O'Donoghue. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks and tea provided. Cost: £6. Please let the Sisters know if you wish to attend on 023-9283 3498 or ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk. **WARSASH, Strawberry Fields (12.30pm-4pm):** *Warsash Festival*. St Mary's Church will have a display tent, plus strawberry cream teas, handmade crafts, bookstall and children's activities. **RYDE, St John's Church (1pm-4pm):** *Summer fete*. With barbecue, stalls and entertainment for the family. **IDSWORTH, St Hubert's Church (2pm-4pm):** *Afternoon teas and refreshments*. Cyclists, ramblers and other visitors welcome. **HAYLING ISLAND, St Peter's Church (7.30pm):** *Words and music for a summer's evening*. Tickets: £8.

Sunday 9 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth

PORTCHESTER SUMMER LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

PORTCHESTER, St Mary's Church, Castle Road: Concerts are free with a retiring collection. The tea room is open before and afterwards, serving food and drinks.

Thursday 6 July (1pm): *Ivor Humphreys (flute) and Hilary Needham (piano)*.

Thursday 10 August (1pm): *Baroque Ad Hoc: music for harpichord and recorder*.

Thursday 13 July (1pm): *Grace Yeo (piano)*

Thursday 17 August (1pm): *Peter Gould (organ)*.

Thursday 20 July (1pm): *Fumi Otsuki (violin) with Alessandro Viale (piano)*.

Thursday 22 July (1pm): *Bohuslav Sosna (piano)*

Thursday 24 August (1pm): *Judith Wolpe (violin) and Karen Kingsley (piano)*.

Thursday 27 July (1pm): *Piano Trio: Eunie Pike (piano), Cathy Mathews (violin) and Mikhail Lezdkan (cello)*.

Thursday 31 August (1pm): *The Anemos Trio: Karen*

Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*; (6pm): *Evensong*. **SOUTHSEA, St Jude's Church, Kent Road (10.30am):** *Funday Sunday*. Fun-packed family event, with real coffee, breakfast, craft activities, and a quickfire presentation on 'What is a Christian?'; (4pm): *Come and See*. More traditional service for those looking to explore the faith. Followed by tea and cakes. **WARSASH, St Mary's Church (10am):** *Service of dedication for the new Warsash Garden of Remembrance in St Mary's churchyard*. **IDSWORTH, St Hubert's Church (2pm-4pm):** *Afternoon teas and refreshments*. Cyclists, ramblers and other visitors welcome.

Friday 14 July
PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (7.30pm): *Dance night*. Live music and dancing. Tickets available on 023-9281 4444.

Saturday 15 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10am-2pm): *Grassroots festival*. Day-long event celebrating and promoting eco-friendly projects and organisations. In partnership with Portsmouth Climate Action Network. **HAYLING ISLAND, St Peter's Church (9.30am-3.30pm):** *Spirituality day*. 'To work is to pray' led by the Very Rev Nicholas Frayling. Cost: £8.50. Details: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/spirituality **PORTSMOUTH, St Philip's church hall, Hawthorn Crescent, Cosham (11am-2pm):** *Table-top sale*. Tables to hire for £5, book in advance. Refreshments with bacon rolls and homemade soup. Entrance: 50p. Details: 023-9237 9278. **SOUTHSEA, St Luke's Church, Greetham Street (12noon):** *Summer fair and family fun day*. Cake stall, bric-a-brac, raffle and family games. Entrance: 30p. Details: office.stlukesouthsea@gmail.com. **PORTSMOUTH, St Cuthbert's vicarage garden, Lichfield Road, Copnor (12noon-4pm):** *Sunshine fayre*. Admission 50p. Barbecue and other refreshments, musical entertainment, variety of stalls and sideshows. **PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Penrhyn Avenue, Drayton (2pm-4pm):** *Messy Church*. Families are welcomed with puzzles, followed by variety of craft activities on a Bible theme. Then a short celebration and a simple meal. **SOUTHSEA, Church of the Holy Spirit, Fawcett Road (7.30pm):** *Concert by the Renaissance Choir*. Includes music by Bach, Mozart, Guerrero, Lobo, Victoria, Whitacre, Byrd and Poulenc. Tickets: £12/£10/£2, available on 023-9247 5259.



Nicholas Frayling (Hayling Island, July 15)

Sunday 16 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*; (6pm): *Evensong*. **PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (1.30pm-4pm):** *Music foundation concert*. Musicians perform in the church grounds, including brass music, choral music, instrumentalists and jazz groups. Admission free, retiring collection for St Mary's Music Foundation, which inspires young people in developing their musical skills; (2.30pm): *Strawberry tea and tower open*. Tickets available, priced at £3, on 023-9281 4444. **WARSASH, the Waterfront (6.30pm):** *Service for Sea Sunday*. St Mary's Church leads hymns of praise. Music by Warsash Band and St Mary's Choir. Local uniformed organisations will parade and civic dignitaries will attend.

Thursday 20 July
PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, George Street, Fratton (12noon): *Charity lunch*.

Friday 21 July
VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (7.30pm): *'Merrie England' concert by the Troy Players Orchestra, friends and vocalists*. No admission charge. Donations to church and orchestra.

Saturday 22 July
PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Penrhyn Avenue, Drayton (7.30pm): *Folks in Harmony summer charity concert*. Mixed a capella group. Tickets: 023-9247 7900 or 023-9224 1633 or enquiries@folksinharmony.co.uk

Saturday 22 July - Sunday 23 July
SWANMORE, The Paterson Centre & around the village (1pm-6pm): *Open gardens*. Includes teas at the Paterson Centre, plants for sale and free park and ride. Tickets: £6. Proceeds shared between St Barnabas Church and Rowans Hospice.

Sunday 23 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*; (6pm): *Evensong*.

Monday 24 July - Saturday 26 August
TITCHFIELD, St Peter's Church (10am-4.30pm daily, except Sundays): *Annual summer show*. Crafts, jewellery, cards, jams, chutney, history display, books, stoneware, wood-turning, glass engraving, paintings, textiles and toys. Refreshments available, entrance free. Proceeds to Macmillan Nurses, Rowans Hospice, Earl Mounbatten Hospice and St

BOTLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL: July 3-8

BOTLEY, All Saints Church: Tickets available on 07784-283723. For further details of all these concerts, see www.botley.com/musicfestival

Monday 3 July (12.30pm): *Lunchtime youth*; (7.30pm): *Upham Recorder Orchestra*.

Tuesday 4 July (12.30pm): *Singalong for all*.

Wednesday 5 July (12.30pm): *Trumpet and organ*; (7.30pm): *Southampton Ukulele Jam*.

Thursday 6 July (12.30pm): *Desert Island Discs*.

Friday 7 July (12.30pm): *Harp recital*.

Saturday 8 July (7.30pm): *Last Night of the Proms*.

Peter's Church. climate. Walks, displays, activities and cake. In aid of Christian Aid.

Tuesday 25 July
FAREHAM, Holy Trinity Church, West Street (12.30pm-1.15pm): *Athanasian Consort choral music*. Admission free, retiring collection in aid of church refurbishment fund.

Saturday 29 July
VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (7.30pm): *Music for solo piano and vocal solo*. With Akiko and Dolly Thompson. Admission free, donations appreciated.

Sunday 30 July
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*. With Peterborough Chamber Choir; (6pm): *Evensong*. With Peterborough Chamber Choir; (8pm): *Taizé-style night prayer*.

Tuesday 1 August
PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (5.30pm): *Bellringers' full peal*. In honour of Corporal Frederick Burrow, on the centenary of his death.

Sunday 6 August
VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (9.30am): *Solemn sung mass*. For the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. **PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am):** *Eucharist*. (6pm): *Evensong*. **PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, Fratton (6.30pm):** *Parish mass for the transfiguration*. Celebration of the occasion when Jesus appeared in all his glory to his disciples on a mountain top. It's also a service of thanksgiving for the work of the Rev Sue Whitlock at St Wilfrid's.

Monday 7 August - Saturday 12 August
EAST COWES, St James Church, Church Path (10am-4pm daily, plus Wednesday & Thursdays: 6.30pm-8.30pm): *Jigsaw puzzle festival*. Hundreds of made-up jigsaw puzzles on display and for sale. Admission £1.50 (children 50p). Refreshments in church hall. Details: 01983-294075.

Wednesday 9 August
HAYLING ISLAND, Hayling Park, West Town (12noon-4pm): *Three Churches' Fete*.

Saturday 12 August
CARISBROOKE, St Mary's church and church hall (10am-4pm): *Cakes and*

Saturday 12 August - Sunday 13 August
HAVANT, Havant Park (Saturday: 12noon and 3pm & Sunday: 3pm): *Havant Passion Play*. The story of the last week of Jesus's life, including his death and resurrection. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 13 August
VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (9.30am): *Solemn sung mass*. On the eve of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am):** *Eucharist*; (6pm): *Evensong*. **PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (12noon):** *Picnic in the churchyard*. With the Pompey Pluckers and a treasure trail; (2pm-4pm): *Climb the tower of St Mary's*.

Tuesday 15 August
PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road (7.30pm): *Patronal festival mass*. Celebration and thanksgiving for the life of St Mary's Church. It will also be a service of thanksgiving for the work of the Rev Barbara O'Sullivan at St Mary's.

Sunday 20 August
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*; (6pm): *Evensong*. **VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (3.30pm):** *Annual birthday party for the late poet laureate Sir John Betjeman*. Sung Evensong, followed by birthday tea, and conversazione on his life and work.

Sunday 27 August
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist*. With Beckenham Parish Choir; (6pm): *Evensong*. With Beckenham Parish Choir.

Tuesday 29 August
FAREHAM, Holy Trinity Church, West Street (12.30pm-1.15pm): *Baroque Ad Hoc*. Music for harpischord and recorders. Admission free, retiring collection in aid of church refurbishment fund.

● *Would you like your events for September listed here? Send them to Neil Pugmire on neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org or at Diocesan offices, First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2HB by August 7*. NB: There is no separate August edition.

announcements

Appointments:
The Rev Dominic Jones, curate, St Paul's, Chacewater with St Day and Carharrack, Truro, became police chaplain to Hampshire Constabulary from June 2.
The Rev Corinne Smith, who has Permission to Officiate as a deacon, will become parish deacon, St Saviour on the Cliff, Shanklin, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake, All Saints, Godshill, and St Alban's, Ventnor, with effect

from August 15.

Resignations:
The Rev Phillip Amey, priest-in-charge of Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea, with effect from September 1.
The Rev Robert Wynford-Harris, priest-in-charge, St Helens with Seaview, with effect from August 27.
The Rev Mark Whatson, vicar, Freshwater and Yarmouth, with effect from July 31.

Animals take centre stage for Rogation

WORSHIPPERS from Shalfleet enjoyed a morning with real animals for Rogation Sunday.

St Michael and All Angels Church was full for the traditional service to celebrate this ancient festival, which involves thanking God for the provision of crops.

Tractors were parked on the grass outside the church hall, and a dog, chicken and rabbit were in church for the service, while a goat waited outside.

The service began in the side chapel, in front of the tapestry with the poppies, before moving to the font where the Paschal Candle was lit, the font filled from suitably agricultural watering cans and the congregation heard their first lesson.

They then moved over to the Wade window for the second lesson, before going up to the chancel for Communion, where a delicious home made loaf took



Left: guitarists Michael Croft and Ella Simpson lead worship outside: right: Isabelle Minchin and Kate Bradshaw with the rabbit

the place of the more normal wafers and the rabbit went up for a blessing.

After Communion, worshippers processed out into the glorious sunshine to sing *All things bright and beautiful*, played

by Michael and Ella on their guitars.

They then moved over to the hall to join up with the tractors, the ancient farm equipment, and the goat, where there was a final hymn and blessing.

After the service there were

some delicious refreshments, thanks to the New Inn in the village.

More than 60 people from across the village and beyond tucked in to cake, brownies, sausage rolls and a glass or two.

Churchwarden Nick Oulton

said: "It was a great way of bringing the village together whether they had been to church or not."

"Many thanks, as always, to the Rev Val Hards for organising the service and to everyone who helped to make it such a success."



**Jesus said:
I came to
cast fire on
the earth,
and would
that it were
already
kindled!**

Lk 12:49 (ESV)

Enjoy a relaxing holiday

HOLIDAYS were originally 'Holy Days'. The year was punctuated by religious festivals which gave shape to people's lives, and cemented together their Christian faith and their day to day existence.

Not only were Christmas, Easter and Whitsun times when families gathered and celebrated, but other social and cultural events were focussed on the annual round of faith.

Preparing and sowing the crops, various stages of harvesting and fairs – such as the annual St Bartholomew's Day fairs at the end of August – gave life structure and meaning.

We cannot of course go back to a time when most people's lives were dominated and shaped by Christian faith, but we can ask what shapes and gives meaning to lives in 21st century, apparently secular, Britain.

Well one thing is holidays! Many of us save up time and money and put a huge amount of emotional investment into



the last word

**by the Very Rev David Brindley
Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral**

having a good break, and hope it will recharge our batteries for another years, or at least for a few weeks.

Sometimes it works and we have a wonderfully relaxing time on a hot beach or looking at ruins (my favourite!) Other times it rains, or the car breaks down, or the children all get chicken pox, and we return home thinking it's a whole year until we can repeat the experience!

Other highlights shape and give meaning to our lives too. Sporting events are for some people really important –

Pompey winning promotion a few weeks ago brought huge joy to most people in Portsmouth; the uncertainty about the aftermath of the General Election and the questions over Brexit are events on a different level as they will in some way affect us all - and the effect may be long lasting, not just a week or two of euphoria or regret.

Human beings seek meaning and structure – holidays and Holy Days are all important and wherever you are on holiday this summer I hope you find it relaxing and recharging.