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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.