



Pompey Chimes

Free of charge



NUMBER 162

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

OCTOBER 2017

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Project aims to provide shelter for the homeless in winter



We aim to launch our new magazine

FROM the start of next year, we're aiming to bring you news from around our diocese in a different way.

After 16 years and more than 160 editions, the *Pompey Chimes* will end as a monthly diocesan newspaper with its December 2017 edition.

Our Bishop's Council has approved plans for us to investigate the development of a new, more glossy magazine from 2018, potentially on a quarterly basis.

The idea is that this can include longer features, can reproduce our stunning photos more effectively, and can provide more reflection and theological depth than a newspaper can bring.

It also reflects the changing way in which many of us receive information. In many cases, we read about what's happening in our neighbouring parishes online, pick up details of events by email, and see photos of what's happening via social media. Sometimes the *Pompey Chimes* ends up duplicating what some of you may have already read or seen.

However, we are committed to retaining a written publication. The idea of a more glossy magazine is to provide something that might last longer on your coffee table than a monthly newspaper could ever do.

The new magazine may retain some of the features you have valued within *Pompey Chimes*. There will also be some new features which aim to inspire and inform you about the great work happening across our parishes.

HOMELESS people will be invited to sleep inside Portsmouth churches to stave off the chill of winter.

Worshippers at churches of different denominations will throw open their doors to show Christian compassion to those who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets.

They hope to pilot the project, called Open Church, for four weeks in January and February 2018 with the support of the Society of St James. Among the churches involved are St Jude's, St Simon's, Immanuel Baptist and Kings Church in Southsea.

The idea is that each church opens its doors on a different day of the week. So volunteers from one church would feed and host homeless people overnight on a Monday, another church would open on a Tuesday and so on.

Areas will be set aside in each church building for the guests,

VOUCHER SCHEME LAUNCHED

CHURCHES Homeless Action, which keeps issues regarding homelessness on the agenda of the city's churches, held a day at St Mary's Church last month called Reaching the Margins.

It brought together agencies helping those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

It also launched its annual Christmas voucher scheme, which allows churchgoers to donate £5 gift vouchers that can be used

at shops such as Argos, Tesco and Boots. These are given to the homeless, those in women's refuges, disadvantaged families and asylum seekers, so they can buy themselves a Christmas present.

Over the years, the scheme has raised more than £130,000. To contribute, please send donations to St Mary's Vicarage, Fratton Road, PO1 5PA or contact Canon Bob White on vicar@portseaparish.co.uk.

who will be given camp beds, sleeping bags and blankets. Each guest will be referred to the project by the Society of St James (SSJ), which last winter provided shelter for between 35 and 45 homeless people each night.

SSJ operations director Jane Smith said: "We plan to provide a similar service this winter and are delighted to be supporting the churches in Portsmouth. We are proud to be able to offer training and practical help to the dedicated group of volunteers

who have agreed to provide this much-needed facility for those experiencing homelessness in Portsmouth."

The project is being led by the Rev Adam Denley, curate at St Jude's Church, Southsea, and Lorna Sandland, community development worker at St Simon's Church, Southsea.

It seeks to complement the work churches already do in the city with those who are homeless, or face addictions or mental health issues. That includes the annual

Christmas voucher scheme, Sunday Suppers and Breakthru at St Simon's, and the Friday Fridge at St Jude's.

Adam said: "The number of people who are actually sleeping rough on our streets has increased over the past few years.

"We want to break down barriers between those who attend our churches and those who happen to be homeless. Our aim is to effect permanent and positive change in the lives of those who are in difficult circumstances for whatever reason.

"Many people in our churches want to help those they see on the street, but aren't always quite sure what to do. Hopefully this will give them a really practical way of showing God's love to those who are among the most marginalised in our society."

Any church that is interested in being involved can contact Adam via St Jude's parish office on office@stjudes-southsea.org.uk or 023 9275 0442.