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PORTCHESTER:

October is Reformation month at St Mary's Church, Portchester, with a series of talks and special events.

It marks 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Wittenburg Church in October 1517. This ultimately led to the creation of the Protestant Church.

A series of talks about various doctrines of the Eucharist continues through the autumn. These are happening on the first Thursday of each month, at Portchester Parish Hall, from 10.30am-12noon. Speakers from different denominations will share their take on what it means to them.

The 2003 film *Luther*, starring Joseph Fiennes and Peter Ustinov, was due to be shown at 7.30pm on September 28 at Portchester Methodist Church.

This leads into a seven-week series of illustrated talks on the history of the Reformation, led by the vicar of St Mary's, the Rev Ian Meredith. These talks are on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church.

There's also a series on Sunday evenings looking at five theological aspects of the Reformation, each week from October 8.

The Rev Tapani Simojoki, pastor of Fareham Lutheran Church, is the guest speaker on October 5 and October 29.

On the latter date, Pastor Tapani will talk about the influence of Martin Luther on church music, which will be followed by JS Bach's cantata *Gott der Herr ist Son und Schild*, composed in 1725 to celebrate the Reformation.

This will be sung by the St Mary's church choir, augmented by singers from other Fareham choirs.

And on October 31, St Mary's hosts the Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Servers at



The open garden in Wroxall



Noah Chamberlain before and after his haircut

news from the pews

7.30pm for their annual mass. The Guild's chaplain will preside and the vicar of St Mary's will preach on 'The Catholic Luther after the Reformation'.

WROXALL: More than 100 people visited an open garden to help raise funds for Wroxall Church.

Box Cottage in Beachfield Road opened its garden to visitors one Saturday, giving them the chance to admire its flowers.

The quarter-acre garden surrounding this 18th century cottage has been developed over the past 10 years, with lawns, herbaceous borders, shrubs and an ornamental pond.

There was a huge array of home-made cakes as well as jams, plants and second-hand books for sale. The event

raised £760 for St John's Church.

HAYLING ISLAND: Members of the Girls' Brigade in Hayling Island were given the chance to see behind the scenes in the Houses of Parliament.

The girls visited with associate minister the Rev Tim Wood and met Bishop Christopher there. They were able to watch him in action in the House of Lords and also saw a lively debate on student loans in the House of Commons.

The bishop gave them a behind-the-scenes tour and they also enjoyed enacting a debate.

DIocese: Churchgoers across our diocese will celebrate One World Week from October 22-29 this year.

The annual event gives us a chance to

learn more about global issues. This year's theme is 'Good Neighbours – My World Depends on Us'.

The programme of local events includes an event at the university from 7pm on October 19 looking at how we can fix our food system.

There's a talk on Fairtrade gold at Gosport Discovery Centre on October 24, and a Christian Aid quiz and ploughman's supper from 6.30pm on October 28 at St John's Church, Fareham.

For more details, see www.oneworldweek.org

LEE-ON-SOLENT: Vicar's son Noah Chamberlain had his haircut for charity.

The 10-year-old, whose dad Paul is vicar of St Faith's Church, had been growing it for the past couple of years.

He raised over £700 for charity to share between the Ellenor Hospice in Gravesend where his grandmother was before she died, and WaterAid.