



## Terminal cancer won't stop me being ordained

My Faith: page 12



## Sunday worship is relaunched with a bang

Our new congregation: pages 8-9

## Generous parishes donate a huge sum

GENEROUS worshippers have donated more than £30,000 to help combat human trafficking across the world and domestic abuse more locally.

Our Bishop's Lent Appeal for 2017 raised a record amount – £31,505 – thanks to donations from churchgoers and fundraising events in our parishes.

The annual fundraising drive is normally split 50:50 between a global charity and local good cause.

This year's proceeds will be split between Stop the Traffik, a global movement of activists who try to prevent human trafficking, and several local charities that support victims of domestic abuse.

The national Stop the Traffik charity will therefore receive £15,752, with the remainder split between groups including Yellow Door, Portsmouth Area Rape Crisis Support (PARCS), Southern Domestic Abuse Services (SDAS), Aurora New Dawn, the Hampton Trust and the You Trust. These groups are all based in Portsmouth, Fareham or Southampton.

Representatives from those organisations will attend Evensong in our cathedral on November 19, when they will receive the cheques.

The total raised is slightly more than the previous record for the Bishop's Lent Appeal. In 2015, a total of £31,400 was raised and split between the Bethlehem Arab Society for Reconciliation and local charities helping people with mental health problems.

● TRAINING DAY TO COMBAT MODERN SLAVERY: see page 7.

## We're celebrating 100 years of women in the Royal Navy

# ROYAL VISITOR TO MARK CENTENARY

**A ROYAL visitor will help us to mark 100 years since the creation of the Women's Royal Naval Service.**

HRH Princess Anne will attend a service of thanksgiving in our cathedral as part of the centenary celebrations. The event will also celebrate the continuing role of women in the Naval Services.

Around 1,000 people, including former members of the WRNS – known as Wrens – and serving naval personnel will attend, along with those whose family members were Wrens.

The service, at 2.30pm on November 4, will include the dedication of a commemorative stone which will become a permanent part of the cathedral landscape. It will commemorate both 100 years since the formation of the WRNS and women's service in the Royal Navy.

The service will incorporate stories of former members of the WRNS and their involvement in the Royal Navy during both World Wars and since 1945. A book of Remembrance, listing the names of women who died serving their country, will also be presented.

HRH the Princess Royal will read one of the Bible readings during the service, and unveil the commemorative stone with the dean of our cathedral, the Very Rev David Brindley, and the Bishop to the Forces, the Rt Rev Tim Thornton.

The Chaplain of the Fleet, the Ven Ian Wheatley, who is also an



HRH Princess Anne meets Bishop Christopher during the 70th anniversary of D-Day commemorations in Southsea in 2014

honorary canon of our cathedral, will preach. The service, which is ticket-only, is already full to capacity.

The Very Rev David Brindley said: "As we are the cathedral of the Sea, and our history is so closely intertwined with the history of the Royal Navy, we are delighted to host this wonderful occasion.

"The role of the WRNS and women in the Naval Services is worth celebrating, and it's entirely appropriate for a permanent reminder of their significance to be part of our cathedral landscape."

The WRNS was created in

1917, disbanded at the end of the First World War and re-started in 1939. It remained active until it was integrated into the Royal Navy in 1993. HRH the Princess Royal is Chief Commandant for Women in the Royal Navy, and patron of the Association of Wrens.

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity is among those that have contributed to the cost of the commemorative stone. It was designed out of a single block of Purbeck stone and features carvings of caps and hats worn by former Wrens and serving naval officers.

After the service on November 4, congregation members will

enjoy afternoon tea at Portsmouth Guildhall. Many ex-Wrens will be in the city as part of a reunion weekend, staying in Mill Rytte on Hayling Island. And the National Museum of the Royal Navy, in the Historic Dockyard, is marking the centenary with an exhibition on 'Women and the Navy'.

The cathedral service is one of several events taking place during 2017 to mark the centenary. It was part of the annual Seafarers' Service in St Paul's Cathedral last month, and the Scottish celebration later this month includes dinner on the Royal Yacht Britannia. For more details, see [www.wrns100.co.uk](http://www.wrns100.co.uk)