

Synod to hear our response to strategy

MEMBERS of our Diocesan Synod will hear about the range of mission and worship opportunities across our diocese at their meeting this month.

Our three Archdeacons will provide feedback from the three Archdeaconry consultations that took place at the end of September and start of October.

These consultations were looking at how parishes might respond to our diocese's 'live, pray, serve' strategy. Clergy and lay leaders heard some of the principles behind the strategy and how it was being implemented in neighbouring parishes. They were given a chance to discuss their own parish's response.

Synod members will be asked at their November meeting to debate a motion calling for each deanery to provide a report addressing the challenges posed in our strategy.

The synod will meet in St Luke's Church, Southsea, from 9.30am on November 4. It will also debate our 2018 budget, which includes a proposed increase of two per cent in total parish share to be collected next year – a reduction from the three per cent originally proposed.

Over lunch, synod members will be able to meet students from the Portsmouth Pathway, which is based in St Luke's, and also look at potential design plans for the church's redevelopment.

Islanders enjoy walk and cycle

WORSHIPPERS enjoyed a day of bracing walks and pleasant cycles as they raised funds for their churches.

The annual Ride and Stride day involves churchgoers being sponsored to walk, cycle or travel to as many churches as possible in one day. And islanders were at the forefront of this year's efforts.

Worshippers at Holy Trinity, Bembridge, raised more than £1,000 between them. Much of this was down to the vicar, the Rev Amanda Bloor, and her husband cycling around 14 churches, with many in the congregation sponsoring them.

Parishioners from St John's Church, Newport, supported one couple – Flora Harbidge and Steve Smith – in a tandem ride, in costume, around Nine Acres Field.

They raised £300 towards the St John's 20/20 Vision Project for improved community facilities, and the Historic Churches Trust. A cycle skills circuit was also created on the field, so that children and young people could have a go for themselves.

Hampshire and the Islands

Historic Churches Trust organises the annual event. Those who take part keep half of the sponsorship money for their own church and donate the other half to the trust.

It then makes grants to historic churches in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that are in need of repair.

The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Peter Sutton, and the area dean, the Rev Allie Kerr, visited every single island church over the space of two days.

They discovered that almost all the churches were open. They prayed in each one, met fellow worshippers and left an invitation for each church to apply for an A-board to tell passers-by that

their church is open.

Churchgoers from St John's, Ryde, visited 41 churches, drove 95 miles and walked more than 20 miles between them on the day.

Bevaly Rackett and Christine Brooke visited 34 churches in all four corners of the island by car and on foot, and went into Newport along the Medina Valley.

And Clive Theobald and John Flynn walked more than 14 miles, visiting the seven churches in the north-west cluster – they began



Flora Harbidge and Steve Smith ride around Nine Acres Field on their tandem

at Bembridge and finished back in Ryde. They all enjoyed their journeys and gained a real sense of satisfaction, having raised more than £280 in sponsorship.

Similar fundraising initiatives happen in around 30 other counties across the UK, often on the same Saturday in September.

For more details, see www.hihct.org.uk

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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AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 26 November

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All photos and details of children and young people in the *Pompey Chimes* are published with the informed and express written permission of those who have parental responsibility for them.

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The cathedral is full for the Come and Sing day with John Rutter

Cathedral full for day with Rutter

MORE than 350 people packed into our cathedral for a singing day with renowned composer John Rutter.

The day-long event gave those with different singing abilities the chance to make music together.

It was organised by the Portsmouth branch of the

Royal School of Church Music (RSCM).

RSCM member Rachael Newman said: "One couldn't fail to be inspired by his energy and enthusiasm and the choice of music was well balanced and reasonably well known."

"The Lord bless you and

keep you sounded particularly good and *For the beauty of the Earth* with the man himself at the helm really has to be the definitive version!

"All of the hard work was definitely worth it – everybody went home with a smile on their face and some felt spiritually moved."