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 APPROVED CHARITIES

WROXALL: Around 50 people braved wet and windy weather to celebrate Harvest at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary.

The event was led by the Rev Keith Adlam, priest-in-charge of St John's, Wroxall, and Rita Goddard, licensed lay minister, with music provided by the Wight Accordion Group and Marie Smith on saxophone.

Staff and volunteers at the donkey sanctuary had prepared displays focussing on Harvest, and a collection point for the Isle of Wight Foodbank.

Competitions included the wonkiest vegetable and best-baked item. A traditional harvest loaf had also been baked by one of the sanctuary's staff.

EMSWORTH:

Worshippers from St James, Emsworth, and St Thomas, Warblington, contributed to a 'book harvest' this year.

They collected books to send to Africa – alongside their traditional harvest collection – after discovering about the famine of books in many countries. The books were blessed during services in each church for their onward journey.

They were sent on by the charity Book Aid, which has sent shipments of new and second-hand Christian books and Bibles to needy areas. When they reach their destination, they are sold at affordable prices by Christian bookshops and churches, and the money raised can enhance local literature initiatives.

Smaller shipments of more scholarly books are regularly made to equip Bible College libraries where they are used to train a new generation of ministers. Since 1988, more than 32 million Christian books and Bibles have been shipped to book-hungry areas thanks to the generosity of British Christians and publishers.

CURDRIDGE: St Peter's Church in Curdridge will host an



Tony Harris, the Rev Julie Price, the Rev Damon Draisey and Pauline Nelson with some of the books collected in Warblington and Emsworth



The story of bread explained at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary

news from the pews

exhibition of illuminated Bible verses this month.

Churchwarden Simon Powell started to create illuminated Psalms and chapters from the Bible last year.

He's now displaying them in church from 9am-5pm, from Saturday 18 November to Monday 20 November.

There's also a reception on the Saturday evening from 6pm with bubbly and nibbles.

FAREHAM: Worshipers at St John's Church, Fareham, were pleased to see the refurbishment of their church hall.

The well-used hall in Upper St Michael's Grove was renovated with a grant from Hampshire County Council to enable the church to serve its local community more effectively.

The £50,000 project included a complete refurbishment of the hall

floor, a total replacement of the main hall ceiling, including brand new efficient lighting – and a full renovation of the hall kitchen to a commercial standard, including the installation of a commercial dishwasher.

This wouldn't have been possible without the £25,000 grant from the county council, and the support from MP Suella Fernandes and local councillors Dennis Steadman and Keith Barton.

Once the work had been completed, worshippers opened their new hall with a community coffee morning with the proceeds going to a local charity, the Rainbow Centre. It was attended by around 65 people, including the Mayor and local councillors, during which they raised £235 for the charity.

Vicar the Rev Bruce Deans said: During

the event, we stressed the importance of community, and that we want to welcome as many people from the local area to make use of the facilities that we have.

"We have some gaps in the regular weekly schedule, and we can also accommodate one-off events like birthday parties or receptions after weddings or baptisms in church. Just get in touch if you are interested."

LOCKS HEATH: A Reader who serves at St John's Church, Locks Heath, was recently made a full member of the Iona Community. Bob Thomas was 'hallowed' as a member over the summer.

The community is a dispersed, ecumenical community working for peace and justice, based on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland.

Members share a common rule of life which includes daily prayer and Bible study, and accountability to each other.