

Huge gift for new Hayling annexe

A PROJECT to build an extension on a Hayling Island church can go ahead after an unexpected donation.

Worshippers at St Mary's Church on Hayling had been fundraising for an annexe to include toilets and a community meeting room.

The church was recently visited by a generous couple – Ali and May Mosawi – who fell in love with the church and unexpectedly offered them more than £100,000 from the Mosawi Foundation towards their costs. The foundation supports organisations that help their communities to rebuild, regenerate and re-energise, and actively looks to serve their local communities.

Work can now start next year on the annexe, which will be situated to the north of the current church building and will accommodate around 40 people.

The vicar, the Rev Jenny Gaffin, said: "That gift was huge and will be transformative for St Mary's Church and the local community, and we are immensely grateful to Ali and May Mosawi for their generosity."



An artist's impression of how the new annexe will look next to St Mary's Church

"Our congregations had been faithfully fundraising for many years, and I'm delighted that all their hard work will soon be rewarded."

The historic 13th century church was given a stunning internal makeover in 2010 to make it more accessible and

almost ready for community use. The floor was relaid, a new dais created and portable chairs installed.

The building can now be used for concerts, education and art events and conferences as well as a base for people exploring family history,

visiting war graves in the graveyard or viewing its 2,000-year-old yew tree.

The new toilets and meeting room will complete the transformation, and the church looks forward to opening the new facilities by the end of 2018.

Mark's gospel will be brought to life



Stefan Smart

THE Gospel of Mark will be brought to life in Portsmouth Cathedral via a stunning one-man show.

Actor Stefan Smart will recite the whole of Mark's gospel, word-for-word, at 7pm on Sunday 10 December, immediately after Evensong.

The solo dramatisation of the gospel includes an up-to-date setting, plenty of action, many moving moments and some humour.

There will also be the opportunity for a question and answer session after the performance to find out more about the play and the way in which it is staged. There is no charge but there will be the opportunity to contribute to a retiring collection.

Stefan Smart is an actor with

30 years' experience as a teacher of English and Drama. Over recent years he has put on various productions of St Mark's Gospel in churches and youth camps in the South of England and abroad, as well as performing on *Songs of Praise*.

Recently he completed a tour of Speakers' Corners across the country and was invited to return to some of the venues including St Mary's Church, Lichfield, and Bristol Cathedral.

Ian Hayter, chairman of Lichfield Speakers' Corner Trust and pastor of Wade Street Church, called the performance: "Captivating, bringing the Gospel alive. Stefan Smart is clearly a master of his art."

And a BBC *Songs of Praise* spokesman said: "Stefan's performance was very strong."



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