

# Pupils thrilled as sheep delivered

**CHILDREN at two Gosport schools were given a big surprise as they saw three life-size fibreglass sheep unveiled.**

Excited pupils at Leesland Infant and Junior Schools got their first chance to look at the sheep during collective worship based around the theme of shepherds. And there were plenty of oohs and ahs from the children as the sheep were lifted out of the boxes.

The schools asked for three sheep as part of the inter-generational initiative across church schools in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight called 'Ewe Matter'. It aims to strengthen links between the schools and their local C of E churches.

Almost 70 sheep have now been delivered to C of E schools across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and more may be ordered. Children will now decorate them in a style that says something about their school's identity and characteristics.

Once decorated, the sheep will be taken to Portsmouth and Winchester Cathedrals in July for Leavers' Services, which are held each year for Year 6 pupils moving on to secondary school. The sheep can then return to individual schools and will continue to be used.

Worshippers from local churches will come into school to lead collective worship, read with pupils, help in the classroom and share their experiences. They will be encouraged to use the fibreglass sheep when leading collective worship, especially when telling Biblical stories about sheep.

Teachers can also use the sheep in lessons across the whole curriculum. Our education team has produced a range of resources linked to all subject areas so that the initiative is embedded in learning as well as being fun.

The Rev Tim Watson, pioneer minister for the Leesland area and a governor for both Leesland Infant and Junior Schools, led the act of collective worship at which the sheep were revealed.



**(Back): Logan Mitchell and Maisie McCormack, both 11, from Leesland C of E Junior School, and (front) Clancy Hamilton and Oscar Kirkham, both 6, from Leesland C of E Infant School with their sheep**

He said: "We have three sheep, which can denote our two schools and the local church. And we have three values at our school, the values of love, grace and respect. Perhaps we could decorate these sheep in that way – one to suggest love, one to suggest grace and one to suggest respect?"

And Jeff Williams, director of education for Portsmouth and Winchester's C of E dioceses, said: "We're really excited about



**Pioneer minister the Rev Tim Watson and chair of governors Peter Metcalf reveal the sheep at a Leesland Junior assembly**

Ewe Matter and I've been so pleased by how enthusiastically students and teachers across the diocese have embraced it.

"These sheep will act as visual

aids in the classroom and will provide impetus for students to think about what makes their community great, and what they can learn from people from other generations".

## Students' workshop on science and faith

STUDENTS from Charter Academy in Portsmouth were treated to a day-long workshop that looked at science and faith.

'God and the Big Bang' was designed to give GCSE and A-level students an opportunity to discover discuss and debate how science and faith interact.

The academy is our only C of E secondary school on the mainland, and this was the first time that the 'God and the Big Bang' team had delivered their workshop on the south coast.

Year 10 and 11 students attended the workshop, which was sponsored by our cathedral, and supported by our deanery youth chaplaincy team who regularly work with Charter students.

It included a lecture by Dr Alison Morgan, formerly of Cambridge University, now an ordained C of E priest.

There were also interactive sessions, each exploring an area of scientific research and its relationship to faith. They included a look at fossils and evolution; the unique qualities of human DNA; and an introduction to the life and evolution of birds.

Steph Bryant, from the Faraday Institute in Cambridge, who led one of the sessions, said: "We strive to create an environment where students can ask questions, and I find the question-and-answer session at the end of the day most stimulating."

Feedback from the students suggested they had been inspired to think that God may be behind the science they had studied.

## Wingwalk will help sufferers of Parkinson's



**Brian Ide and Dianne Timbey at St Francis Church**

DAREDEVIL worshipper Dianne Timbey will do a wingwalk to raise money to help people like her friend Brian Ide.

Dianne, from St Francis Church, Hilsea, will be fundraising and raising awareness about Parkinson's, after seeing her fellow worshipper Brian diagnosed with the disease in 2015.

Brian, who will be 80 in May, receives tablets to help him combat shaking and physiotherapy to help him balance properly.

Dianne will be completing her challenge on May 20,

when she will be strapped to the wing of a plane.

"I am thrilled to be taking part in the Wing Walking event and am really looking forward to this challenge," she said. "It will be exciting to be flying with a bird's eye view of the horizon, the sun on my face and the wind in my hair!"

"Brian is a dear friend. That's why I'm raising money for Parkinsons UK to help them with their research to find a cure for this debilitating disease"

You can sponsor her online at: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Dianne-Timbey3](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Dianne-Timbey3)