UPFRONT: LATEST NEWS



Panto is back again

ACTORS from the Leigh Park area will present this year's Christmas pantomime in December. Sleeping Beauty is the latest panto to be staged at St Clare's, Warren Park. In previous years, the community group has performed Cinderella, Aladdin and Dick Whittington (pictured above).

Covid safety measures mean the capacity has been reduced from 120 to 70 people, so there will be four performances on December 3rd (7pm), December 4th (2pm and 7pm) and December 5th (2pm). Tickets are £3 (adult), £1.50 (child) and £7.50 (group), and can be booked via www. portsmouth.anglican.org/panto



Poppy cascade on show

AN IMPRESSIVE exhibition of poppies at a historic church helped worshippers and visitors to mark 100 years of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

St Michael and All Angels, Chalton, hosted a two-week Remembrance exhibition which included cascades of poppies inside and outside church. The programme of music, talks, workshops and worship climaxed in a Remembrance Sunday service.

Visitors found out about the origin of the poppy, which animals helped the war efforts, and about those from the village who served their country. There was also be a chance to make a dedication to a loved one who had died in active service.



Funding joy for minster

NEWPORT Minster has been allocated a grant of £584,000 to help keep the church at the heart of the local community. The funding has come from the government's Cultural Recovery Fund via the National Churches Trust.

It will help to pay for extensive roof and stonework repairs, the installation of four toilets, a kitchen and new flooring, which will safeguard its unique heritage. It will also help remove the minster from the Heritage at Risk register.



Fridge marks 15 years

A PROJECT that welcomes vulnerable people into church for café-style food, hot drinks and conversation marked its 15th anniversary.

Friday Fridge, based at St Jude's, Southsea, attracts guests who may be homeless, vulnerable or live with addictions. Over the pandemic, it operated as a takeaway service with guests collecting food and groceries from the front door each Friday. To mark its birthday, it reverted back to its original café-style format.