



Festive trees on show

WORSHIPPERS at St John's Church, Locks Heath, will showcase more than 50 decorated Christmas trees, as they host a three-day festival.

Bishop Jonathan will open their Christmas Tree Festival, and the church will be open for visitors to see the illuminated trees from 10am-7pm on December 1 and 2, and from 1pm-4pm on December 3. Entry and refreshments are free.

It's the church's fourth Christmas Tree Festival. In 2019, more than 3,400 people visited. The theme is celebrations, and church groups will display their activities. Choirs, community groups, care homes and schools will also take part.



Founder steps down

A FOUNDER of a volunteer counselling service based in one of our churches has retired after 30 years. Jackie Brookfield retired from the All Saints Counselling Service over the summer.

It was the vision of Jackie and the Rev Len Fox (pictured above) – the then vicar of All Saints – to provide affordable counselling to local residents. Two rooms in the church provided the ideal space to see clients. It's also a space where clergy can talk through the challenges of their vocation.

The voluntary counselling service operates within BACP guidelines. Find out more on www.allsaaintscounselling.org.uk



Teenagers worship God

DOZENS of teenagers from church youth groups across Portsmouth and Havant came to Crookhorn for a special worship session.

The monthly youth service – called High Tide – met at the Church of the Good Shepherd in October for the usual mix of games, worship, prayer and discussion. The worship and talk were led by a group from Youth With A Mission (YWAM), who inspired the young people to go deeper with their faith.

Details on www.portsmouth.anglican.org/hightide



Help with our toddlers

A SUCCESSFUL toddlers' group based at St Cuthbert's, Copnor, is looking for more volunteers.

Stay and Play attracts dozens of parents with pre-school children once a week. Each Wednesday from 9.30am-10.30am, they gather on the top floor of the St Cuthbert Centre. They play, enjoy messy activities, and the session finishes with a Bible story and some nursery rhymes.

If you're interested in helping, ring the vicar, the Rev Allie Kerr, on 07387-278555.