



great that he brought Communion to me on this special day for St Wilfrid's."

The Archbishop was given the chance to experience the high-octane fun at **Christ Church, Gosport**, where they host 'The Four' each Sunday. Families queue up outside before the doors open at 4pm and walk in through a stream of bubbles and a blast of music. They dance and sing high-energy worship songs, prepare some craft and play games before they sit down for a shared meal together.

For this service, the children quizzed the Archbishop with questions they'd prepared, including what an archbishop is and what it's like to crown a King. The archbishop prayed for Christ Church, and two eight-year-olds, Levi Smith and Ruby Kemp, prayed for him.

Kyle Gray, who brings his six-year-old niece Isabella to Christ Church, said: "Our lives have been totally transformed by this church. I came from a background that's not religious, but I felt really welcomed here and it's had a huge impact on me. We've got baptised and I cook the food for the Alpha Courses.

"We're also running a Connect group on a Thursday for people who have addictions or who are struggling and need some healing. It was great to meet the

Archbishop. He was interested in our work and what we do."

The Archbishop completed his three-day visit to our diocese with Evensong at **St Peter's Church, Petersfield**. He met dozens of our Anna Chaplains, who offer ministry to the elderly in care homes and their communities – they'd been taking part in a 'Messy Vintage' session there earlier in the day.

A choir including worshippers from St Peter's and All Saints, Botley, sang Evensong, and two Anna Chaplains read the lessons before Anna Chaplaincy founder Debbie Thrower interviewed the archbishop. They talked about the tragedy unfolding in Israel and Gaza, the role of Anna Chaplains, and the UK's social care system.

And he praised our 41 Anna Chaplains who have been recruited and trained in a very short space of time, in line with Bishop Jonathan's vision that people of all ages should experience the transforming love of Jesus for themselves.

Day Two had included a visit to **St Margaret's, Southsea**, to help them celebrate their sixth birthday at a family fun day. Hundreds packed the church for craft, facepaints, a barbecue and free soft play. Archbishop Justin cut a cake to mark the six years since the



Far left: the Archbishop is prayed for at Christ Church, Gosport; left: being interviewed at Holy Trinity, Bembridge; above: cutting a cake at St Margaret's, Southsea; right: being interviewed by Debbie Thrower at St Peter's, Petersfield



## Focus on chaplaincy and community

**IT'S a cross made from an assault rifle, which Archbishop Justin was given by social activist Shane Claiborne.**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury showed it to inmates at HMP Isle of Wight as he told the story of Shane's community in Kensington, Philadelphia. It helps to transform housing and transform lives in one of the poorest areas of the United States, where people tend to die of drug overdoses or by bullets.**

**Shane's community have a forge and collect guns that they transform into household tools and utensils. They created three crosses out of gun metal, and the archbishop showed one to inmates, prison officers and chaplains, as he explained how God could transform anyone, whatever their background.**

**It was the same cross that he showed to leaders from community groups from across Portsmouth, as they gathered for lunch later at St. Luke's Church, Southsea.**

**The archbishop told those who help vulnerable families, asylum**



**seekers and the homeless that they are the glue that binds our local communities together. And he urged them to be inspired by the story of Shane's community to work collaboratively and make a difference – one life at a time.**

**Archbishop Justin finished the day at HM Naval Base, joining Naval Base Commander Cdre John Voyce and navy chaplain the Rev Ralph Barber on the deck of HMS**

**Victory, at the spot where Admiral Lord Nelson fell during the Battle of Trafalgar. Ralph recited the prayer Nelson prayed on the eve of the the battle.**

**The archbishop then met 10 people who represent a spectrum of personnel in today's Navy, including a rabbi from the USA, a Muslim rating, a civil servant, naval officers and a Royal Marine musician (pictured above).**

congregation was planted from nearby St Jude's Church.

The church benefited from strategic funding from the national Church, which helped them to re-roof the

building, refurbish the inside, and install heating and a new floor. What started as a congregation of only 12 now welcomes more than 150 each Sunday, with hundreds pouring through the doors during

the week to use the community cafe, Pantry and soft play area.

On his first day here, Archbishop Justin met islanders at **Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge**, where

he was asked questions posed by churchgoers, villagers and schoolchildren. A full congregation sang hymns and worship songs the archbishop had chosen, led by a choir and a worship group.

The questions included a discussion about the archbishop's childhood, and his conversion in Cambridge. He also spoke about how his faith helped him when his daughter died 40 years ago in a car crash.

He said: "I held her in my arms as she died, and it felt as though Jesus was stretching out his hands and I was handing her over to him.

"My mother had been an alcoholic, but came to faith and stopped drinking. When she died on July 15 this year, I was with her. We were praying for her and it felt as though we were passing her into the hands of Christ too.

"Grief is utterly devastating, especially the loss of a partner or a spouse. But our hope is that this world is not all there is. Christians have believed for thousands of years that their experience of Christ in this world means that they can trust him to take them into the next world. When everything in this world fails, we need to know that this world is not everything there is."

More details on: [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/archbishop](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/archbishop)