



Bishop enters the Lords

OUR bishop has taken his seat in the House of Lords as one of the 26 most senior bishops in the Church of England.

Bishop Jonathan was formally introduced to the upper chamber in October. He presented his summons from HM the King and swore his oath before taking his seat on the benches as one of the Lords Spiritual.

Bishop Jonathan will continue to be the lead for the Church of England on education and intends to work particularly on areas of legislation related to schools, children, and special educational needs.



Welcome for homeless

OUR cathedral is opening its doors to offer beds for the homeless for five months this winter.

It is joining forces with Portsmouth City Council and the Society of St James (SSJ) to provide a warm, safe place for people experiencing homelessness. Until March 2026, its Becket Hall will offer shelter and support for to up to 12 guests.

All guests are referred and assessed in advance by the council, ensuring that those who stay are low-risk and suitable for this setting. Two trained SSJ staff members will be present throughout each night, creating a calm and well-managed environment.



New members enrolled

ST Nicholas Church in Bedhampton hosted a special meeting of its branch of the Mothers' Union.

Diocesan president Sheila King and members from other branches heard a talk by Bedhampton curate the Rev Jo Lorimer about different kinds of 'mothering' that had impacted on her life and led to her becoming a priest.

The group enrolled three new members - Jo herself, curate the Rev Emily Ashworth, and Suzy Cross, wife of the rector, the Rev Max Cross.



Poppies on display

MORE than 17,000 poppies were on display at St Peter's Church, Petersfield, as part of a Remembrance project.

Poppies were knitted, created by schoolchildren, and hung over the church porch, within the chancel, and around the nave. The 'Crafty Codgers' created the structure to hang them around the porch, and many volunteers tied poppies onto the structures. The display attracted many visitors into the church over Remembrance.