



Clergy aim to pioneer

CHURCH leaders met for a two-day conference exploring church planting and pioneer ministry.

The Reach Conference, at the Old Thorns Hotel in Liphook, involved input from experts in planting new congregations and pioneering new styles of ministry. Bishop Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington, and the Rev Ed Olsworth-Peter, the C of E's national pioneer development adviser, led sessions exploring some of the principles behind church planting and pioneering.

There was also practical input from those within our diocese who have planted new churches and engaged in pioneer ministry.



Birthday celebrations

ST Margaret's Community Church in Southsea celebrated its second birthday with songs, smiles and cake.

Created by 15 people from nearby St Jude's Church, the congregation is now around 70. They crammed into its partially-refurbished church building for a birthday celebration with Bishop Christopher.

The church invited the Tonic Ska Choir (*above*), which holds midweek rehearsals inside their church building, to launch and close their service with uplifting songs. The choir helps those with mental health issues to recover confidence by performing.



Chaplain pens book

HOSPICE chaplain the Rev Rosie Deedes has written a book about her work. *Into the Depths: a chaplain's reflections on death, dying and pastoral care* was written as she sat on her rocking chair looking over the bay at Ventnor.

Rosie, who was also a prison chaplain, wrote about the attentive listening that is important in both settings. She also hopes it will help people face the taboo of death. It is now available from Sacristy Press or Amazon, priced at £12.99.



Launch for 900th year

ST Nicholas Church in Wickham will celebrate its 900th birthday next year with a series of events.

The year of celebration will begin with a special service for St Nicholas Day, featuring Bishop Christopher and children from Wickham C of E Primary School, at 10am on December 8.

Other events throughout 2020 include a Valentine's special weekend, a gospel jazz concert and a trip through 900 years of English music. More on www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk.