UPFRONT: LATEST NEWS



Minster funding boost

MAJOR donations of more than £1.5m mean work to restore and refurbish Newport Minster can be completed. The National Lottery Heritage Fund will contribute £869,000 towards the building work, alongside a grant from the National Churches Trust of almost £586,000 and a donation from a private benefactor of £100,000.

The cash will be spent on plugging leaks, repairing stonework, cleaning stained-glass windows, restoring monuments, and refurbishing the cafe, church and facilities. This will enable the building to be used more often by local schools and community groups.



Set aside a year for God

ARE you a young person who is looking for some experience serving in a local church? Why not enrol on our diocese's Ministry Experience Scheme?

Those aged 18-24 can work for a year at churches including St Luke's, St Jude's or St Margaret's, all in Southsea; Crofton parish; or North End Baptist Church. It's designed to be cost-neutral, with interns housed and fed by local church families.

Former intern Davita Vrolijk said: "I was blown away by how much I grew in my faith and relationship with Jesus, my knowledge of the Bible and God, all while serving in a local church."

See www.portsmouth.anglican.org/MES for more.



'Bread Church' thriving

WORSHIPPERS at St Andrew's Church, Hayling Island, started Bread Church last year, which involves baking and eating bread as part of worship.

It happens on the first Sunday of each month, from 10am-12noon, and includes people of all ages mixing ingredients, kneading dough, singing and doing craft, experiencing the aroma of baking bread, and chatting as they eat together.

It has attracted visitors and holidaymakers alike. Find out more on www.haylinganglicans.co.uk



Art project for refugees

AN ambitious art project gave refugees and asylum seekers living in Portsmouth a real voice.

'Tears of Joy' involved providing wooden 3D teardrops and painting materials to refugees, so they could express their feelings creatively.

Groups meeting at St Luke's, Southsea, and All Saints, Commercial Road, took part in workshops and the results were displayed in St Mary's, Fratton over Christmas. A similar project had previously taken place in Chichester Cathedal.