



## Strategic funds success

**OUR diocese has been awarded £122,000 from the national Church of England to help fund the next stage of our live | pray | serve strategy.**

**It will help to pay for a buildings development officer to support churches to maximise potential mission opportunities through their buildings; and a strategic programme manager to help churches plant new congregations or develop existing ones such as St Margaret's Church, Eastney (above).**

**Archdeacon the Ven Joanne Grenfell, said: "Parishes told us they needed help to redevelop their buildings in order to grow, and to reach out with new forms of ministry, so this is timely."**



## Crofton Cat is here

A PARISH in Stubbington celebrated the relaunch of its children's groups with a new mascot. Crofton Cat, a 6ft ginger tabby, helped Holy Rood Church to launch Crofton Kids.

Crofton Kids will include the church's Sunday morning groups for those aged 0 to 16, its dads group Who Let The Dads Out, and Little Fish, for pre-school children.

It has also launched new Family Fun Afternoons six times a year on Saturday afternoons - for those with and without a church background. It includes a glamour zone, craft zones, challenge zone, dance zone and tech zone.



## 70 years as a server

THIS Easter, Colin Judge will mark 70 years as a server. He began as a boat boy at St John's Church, Rudmore, which has now been converted into flats.

"I carried a boat-shaped dish which held incense for the thurifer," he said. "I had to wear slippers to protect the marble flooring from scratches."

He entered the choir there before becoming a full server. He then moved to Cosham and serves at St Philip's: "It has been a privilege to serve all these years and I will continue as long as health permits."



## Lent Appeal launched

**OUR Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is supporting those who help refugees. The annual fundraising drive supports global and local charities and raised more than £31,500 last year.**

**This year's global charity is Christian Aid's work with refugees who have been displaced by violence from places like Iraq. The appeal will also support a range of local charities that help refugees within our diocese. For full details, see [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/lentappeal](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/lentappeal).**