



Minster's lottery boost

NEWPORT Minster has been awarded lottery funding towards its project to redevelop its building and transform its interior.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £130,700 towards plans to complete the refurbishment of the church building. This development funding will help it apply for a full grant towards its £2.5m 'Revitalising Newport Minster' project at a later date.

The vision is for facilities to make the church more accessible, including a disabled WC, new activity spaces and a new kitchen and servery, and for restoration its historic monuments.



Jesus' birth marked

OUR cathedral has held its annual Christian-Muslim celebration of the birth of Jesus. Worshippers gathered with members of the Al Mahdi Centre, based near Wickham, in January - the 24th year in which this meeting has taken place.

They heard readings relating to Jesus's birth, Christmas anthems from the cathedral choir, and addresses from Canon Anthony Rustell and the imam, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo.

Worshippers then discussed the Charter for Compassion, an interfaith initiative that seeks to draw communities together in humanitarian action. The evening ended with sharing food together.



Ringers remembered

OUR cathedral will host a service to recall the role of bell-ringers during the First World War, as part of the 100th anniversary of the end of the conflict. The Evensong service happens at 6pm on May 12.

The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers will present a book, detailing bell-ringers who died in the conflict, and the ringing that has taken place in the past year to mark the centenary. Among the new ringers was Leigh Ruszczyk, aged 5, from Brighstone (pictured above).



Service for 'runaways'

DO you find Mothering Sunday services hard - perhaps because you would like to become a mother, your mother has died, or your relationship with your mother has been difficult?

If so, St John's Church in Fareham is holding a service for those who might normally avoid church on Mothering Sunday. It offers a safe space to meet with God, and to be reminded that you are not alone. The 'Mother's Day Runaways' service happens on Sunday 31 March at 4pm.