



Paddling pool baptism

WORSHIPPERS at St Hubert's Church, Idsworth, found a creative way to host a baptism service while Covid restrictions were still in place.

Lauren and Stuart Floyd had been married a day before the first national lockdown, and wanted to have their new baby Ivy baptised. The church couldn't safely seat the 30 guests inside and they weren't allowed to sing. So they held the baptism outside, using a pink, sparkly paddling pool, and symbolising prayers with soap bubbles.

The church was also able to livestream the service to family members in Bulgaria who were unable to attend.



Special pilgrimage day

PILGRIMS from St James, Milton, and other local churches travel most years to the ancient site at Walsingham in Norfolk. As this wasn't possible this year, they held a 'pilgrimage at home' this summer. Retired bishop John Hind led the day at St James Church for around 50 people.

Curate the Rev Hugo Deadman said: "The services were similar to those used at Walsingham. This provided stability and space for people to sit before God, to sense and be held by him, feel him at work in their lives and deepen their relationship with him. The atmosphere was one of the most intense and intent devotion."



Help us to raise funds

IT'S the annual chance to stretch your legs and raise funds for historic churches on September 11.

The Ride and Stride event sees people sponsored to walk, cycle or transport themselves to as many churches as possible, raising money for their own church and for Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT). The trust then uses the cash to repair and improve churches across two dioceses.

To take part that day or to welcome visitors to your church, see: www.hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride.



Service marks VJ Day

ST George's Church in Arreton was full as worshippers marked the 76th anniversary of VJ Day with a special service in August. The Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight were among invited guests, and the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Peter Leonard, preached.

There was an Act of Remembrance for which the congregation all faced the church's Burma Star Window, as well as the Last Post, Reveille, National Anthem and an act of commitment to peace.