UPFRONT: LATEST NEWS



A royal honour for Jim

THE man who leads a church group that fed vulnerable people throughout the pandemic has been honoured by HM the Queen.

Jim Campbell, who leads Friday Fridge at St Jude's, Southsea, was awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours. He coordinates the team who open the church every Friday night – offering café-style food, hot drinks and conversation to anyone around.

When initally launched in 2006, it attracted those leaving pubs and clubs. The project has evolved, and many of its current guests are homeless, vulnerable adults or marginalised.



Bishop dedicates organ

BISHOP Jonathan has re-dedicated the historic organ at St Mary's Church, Fratton, after an ambitious project of restoration.

Hundreds packed into the church for a service of music and dedication, followed by an explanation of the restoration process. It was part of two weeks of celebration, which also included workshops for schools, dance sessions, worship and recitals.

The Organ Project was launched in 2018 to help restore the 1889 J W Walker organ, interpret its history, inspire a new generation of musicians, and engage with the local community. For full details, see: www.theorganproject.org



Cathedral goes wild

VISITORS were given a sensory garden experience inside our cathedral over the summer. Wild Cathedral meant the building was filled with the colours and smells of nature, including flowers made from recycled material by church school pupils.

Wild Cathedral runs until September 3, and includes two late-night sessions with soundscapes and projections. One exhibit, a crab apple tree, will be permanently planted in the grounds as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, marking her jubilee.



Passion Play is on cards

WORSHIPPERS from churches across Havant are preparing for another outdoor Passion Play in 2023 – after performances in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

They hope to tell the story of Christ by staging a production in Staunton Country Park next August. The plans will be launched at an event there at 6pm on September 16, at which director James Burke-Dunsmore – who plays Jesus – will speak, and actors will perform short pieces. For details, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/passionplay