



Church offers free food

ST Matthew's Church in Bridgemarky threw open its doors every weekday during the summer holidays, as it offered free food to those in need.

Families and individuals who are struggling with the cost of living were able to eat meals inside the church, or take food home. The church also offered games for children to play, and sessions where they could learn about baking (pictured above).

Mum Chelsea Fitton, whose came along with her children Tommy, George and Alice, said: "It's taken a lot of pressure off. The children get to meet friends, and lunch is provided. And it reduces my shopping bills, so I can pay my electric bills."



Parties marked jubilee

CHURCHES across our diocese marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with worship, parties and fun days.

There were services of thanksgiving, flower festivals, outdoor parties and community fairs over the four-day Bank Holiday weekend. Among the events was a summer fair at St Luke's, Southsea, (pictured above) as well as a concert hosted by refugees and asylum seekers.

Meanwhile, Denmead villagers knitted and crocheted around 2,700 red, white and blue flowers, which were cascaded around All Saints Church ahead of the village's jubilee celebrations – which were attended by more than 4,000 people.



Youth holiday inspires

TEENAGERS from church youth groups across Portsmouth came together for a High Tide holiday in August. Young people from nine churches went to a school in Surrey for a four-day break, which included baking, craft, games, lasertag, a waterslide, hunting 'fugitive leaders', a silent disco and more.

The 11 to 18-year-olds also spent time in worship, prayer and learning more about God. It was run by Scripture Union, alongside the youth leaders behind the monthly High Tide youth services.



Choir's tribute to June

THE choir of St John's, Newport, gave a concert as a tribute to the work and memory of the well-loved June Cox. She had been musical director at the church from 1977 to 2006, and died in June 2019.

It included sacred and secular music associated with June, including from a team of handbell ringers. Jo Dover, the current musical director, gave a moving tribute to June's work. A plaque in her memory was dedicated by the Rev Roger Whatley, who was a member of the choir.