



Island school stays open

AN independent government adjudicator overturned a decision to close Arretton St George's CofE Primary School on the Isle of Wight. The Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) ruled that the closure process followed by the council was flawed – there was no clear and transparent way of identifying which island schools should close.

It said the council offered misleading and incorrect information, and those procedural flaws are likely to have made a difference to the outcome. It therefore ruled that the school should remain open, in a vindication of the stance taken by the diocese.



Matt leads lay ministry

THE Rev Matt Grove has started work as our diocese's Lay Ministry Discipleship Officer.

Matt had many years' experience in lay ministry in Winchester diocese before being called to ordained ministry. He then served as curate in the parish of Portsdown and Purbrook.

For the past two years, he has inaugurated and managed a new lay ministry programme across Guildford diocese, and will bring this experience to his new role in our diocese. Matt will take overall responsibility for the training, development, and ministry of licensed lay ministers (LLMs) and look to start and develop other training programmes.



Marking a milestone

SEVENTY years on from his ordination, it was a proud moment for the Rev Arnold Bennett.

The 95-year-old marked seven decades since he was ordained priest in Portsmouth Cathedral by visiting again for Evensong with members of his family. Arnold's first job as a minister was as a curate in Hayling Island, so it was fitting that the current interim priest-in-charge of Hayling Island, the Rev Nick Todd, welcomed him and presented him with a framed photo of St Mary's Church.



Celebration for John

AFTER 70 years as PCC secretary of Nettlestone and Seaview, John Cheverton has put down his pen and put away his notebook.

He was 21 years old when he first took up the post. Since then he has served 10 vicars and 12 priests in total. Worshippers held a celebration in church to mark the milestone.

John is also a long-serving organist and will continue to play the organ for services, as well as remaining on the PCC itself.