



Parish plans decided

THE Church Commissioners have said yes to some proposals to reorganise parishes within our diocese, and no to others.

The national Church of England body – which is responsible for legal changes to parish boundaries – held a public hearing to hear about plans to reorganise parishes in central Gosport, the Leigh Park estates, and Newport.

After reading written submissions and hearing in person from a variety of people, they agreed to revised versions of our diocese's proposals for central Gosport and the Isle of Wight, and said no to proposals for Leigh Park. Details on our website.



Pupils see Parliament

STUDENTS from Charter Academy were given a tour of Parliament as they learnt how to engage more effectively with our political system. Bishop Christopher welcomed nine Year 9 pupils from our diocese's only mainland C of E secondary school.

He took them into the Queen's robing room, the royal gallery, central lobby and Westminster Hall. The students were able to see debates in progress in both the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Education staff then led them in an hour-long workshop, which included an in-depth look at the suffragette movement and the campaign for votes for women a century ago.



New Canons created

BISHOP Christopher has appointed three people to be Canons of Honour at our cathedral. These appointments highlight Christian service both in the diocese and further afield.

The three recipients are (pictured, left to right) Professor Graeme Smith, from the University of Chichester; Canon Angela Tilby, radio broadcaster and *Church Times* columnist; and the Rev Dr James Grenfell, director of Portsmouth Pathway, our training course for lay and ordained ministers.



Church path resurfaced

THE grounds of St Mary's Church, Brighstone, are now easier to access thanks to a staff volunteering project by Island Roads.

Eight employees resurfaced the pathways in the churchyard to create smooth, flat surfaces to help those with wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs.

The church secured a grant from Brighstone Parish Council to cover the cost of materials, which were laid free of charge by Island Roads.