



Churchyard landscape

THE churchyard at St Catherine's Church, Ventnor, has been landscaped to provide a contemplative garden where bereaved families can reflect and pray (pictured above with the Rev Hugh Wright).

The £60,000 revamp also included the creation of a separate area for outdoor worship or social events, as well as extra parking spaces. Some older gravestones were also re-positioned or tidied up to make them more accessible.

It was the third of a three-phase project to open up the church to the community - the first two phases involved redeveloping the exterior and interior of the Victorian building.



Service recalled D-Day

BISHOP Christopher preached at a service held on the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Southsea.

Veterans, military personnel, residents and visitors gathered for a service at the D-Day Memorial Stone, opposite South Parade Pier. Canon Bob White, vicar of St Mary's, Fratton, and chaplain to the Royal British Legion, led the service. Veterans paraded behind Portsmouth Cathedral Choir, the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and a platoon of Royal Marine Cadets, and were applauded by onlookers.

The exhortation was read by Alexander Doherty, from the Royal British Legion, before the last post, two-minutes silence and the Reveille.



Church annexe opened

A NEW annexe to St Mary's Church, Hayling Island, was formally opened by the bishop - providing extra facilities for the historic building.

Called 'The Lantern', the annexe includes a meeting room, kitchen, toilets and storage space. It can be used for PCC or synod meetings, for refreshments after funerals and weddings, and for Sunday School groups. Its design bridges between historic and modern styles, and it includes under-floor heating. The project cost £375,000.



Ride and Stride launch

THE Rev Clive Todd was among those helping to launch this year's Ride and Stride fundraising event - by trying out a penny farthing.

The West Wight team rector was at a launch event organised by Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. It is encouraging us to be sponsored to walk or cycle between as many churches as possible on September 14, to help raise funds to preserve our church heritage. Find out more on www.hihct.org.uk.