



Pompey Churches

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MAY 2017



God uses broken people like me as ministers

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LET'S INSPIRE PUPILS INTO REAL PRAYER

YOU could learn how to create a place for prayer inside your local primary school.

Our diocese is offering you training in how to create Prayer Spaces in Schools, to enable children and young people to explore questions of life, faith and spirituality.

It's designed to give pupils the chance to develop skills of personal reflection, starting from a broadly Christian perspective.

It usually involves transforming a classroom-sized area for a few days into a space with a series of interactive prayer stations on themes such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, identity and stillness. Depending on the way the prayer space is managed, pupils can be taught lessons in the space, or visit it voluntarily during breaks or lunchtimes.

Prayer spaces are usually created and run by a specially-trained team from a local church, at the invitation of the school. Headteachers of different faiths and no faith have welcomed them as valuable contributions to the RE and PHSE syllabus.

One of our pioneer ministers, the Rev Tim Watson, will lead a training session how to do this from 10am-12noon on May 13 at Leesland C of E Junior School in Gosport.



Some schools have already created prayer spaces, such as the Garden of Peace at St John's C of E Primary, Rowlands Castle

He said: "Creating prayer spaces is a great way of getting pupils and staff to think about the bigger questions of life, and to learn how to reflect on those questions for themselves. Home and school are often so busy that sometimes it's hard to learn those skills."

"The three great things about Prayer Spaces in Schools is that it is experiential – the pupils get to try it for themselves; it is participatory, and it's multi-sensory. I'd love for local churches to be providing these kind of opportunities to schoolchildren."

Prayer Spaces in Schools was originally set up by 24-7 Prayer, a Christian organisation that helps to resource creative ways to pray.

It is designed not to proselytise, but to allow pupils to draw their own conclusions from what they experience.

It works in both church schools and non-church schools. And it fits in with our diocese's emphasis on helping those in our parishes to serve staff and pupils in their local schools.

If you would like to find out more, do join Tim for his course. It is available for all those who work, paid or unpaid, with children and young people of any age. It will cost £5. For more details, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/prayerspaces.

● Charter Academy launches new prayer room: see page 7.



Chris Coleman and Charlotte Jackson on their wedding day at Holy Trinity Church, Newtown

Wales manager to open church fete

THE man who guided Wales' football team to a historic semi-final appearance at Euro 2016 will open the fete at one of our churches.

Wales manager Chris Coleman OBE and his wife, Sky TV presenter Charlotte Coleman Jackson, will officially open the fete for Holy Trinity Church, Newtown, on May 27.

The couple have an affection for the church as they were married there in 2015. Charlotte has lived in the village all her life.

The annual fete has been held in the garden of Meonwood, the home of

villager Sue Wells, for 40 years. This year's fete begins at 1pm and ends with the grand draw at 4.15pm.

Chris and Charlotte will perform the opening ceremony at 2pm, and the programme includes a brass band, ukelele band, dog agility display, jazz band and country dancing.

There's a display of classic cars and tractors and an auction of promises, plus stalls, barbecue and beer tent, children's craft and pottery painting, treasure hunt, donkey rides, and pet farm. Entry is £2, including entry to the draw. Children can come in for free.