



The Rev Nigel Porter and worshippers outside Whitwell church

Lottery funds for church

WORSHIPPERS are celebrating after they were awarded £23,500 of lottery funding towards a project to repair their historic church in Whitwell.

St Mary and St Rhadegund received development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help them apply for a full grant of £181,800.

The project aims to make the 12th century church watertight and leave it in good repair for future generations.

Bishop Christopher said: "Whitwell Church is at the heart

of the village, as it has been for centuries. Each generation has been welcomed there for the momentous events of life – and now for the everyday service the Post Office provides."

The full HLF grant would cover 80 per cent of repair costs. The church is now seeking funding for the remaining 20 per cent, which would also include a disabled-access toilet.

To donate, please contact project manager Rose Ashton on 07818-854470 or whitwellproject2016@outlook.com.

Harbour Church to kick off prayer

A WORSHIP team from Harbour Church will kick off our preparations for Thy Kingdom Come on May 20.

They'll launch the event in our cathedral which aims to inspire our parishes to join the global wave of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost this year.

Thy Kingdom Come is an initiative by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which will see thousands of Christians across the world praying in various ways between May 25 and June 4. They'll be praying for others to know the love of Jesus.

Our special Thy Kingdom Come preparation day, from 11am-4pm in our cathedral, will showcase some of the creative ways of praying suggested by the national organisers. They include prayer installations, special liturgies and innovative resources.

Clergy and lay leaders are invited to drop in during the day, tell Bishop Christopher their plans, and take a candle which can be lit each time their parish prays during Thy Kingdom Come.

And each hour, on the hour, there will be 10 minutes of worship in different styles. We'll start at 11am with a band from Harbour Church, and other worship styles will include the midday office, Taizé-style chants, meditative worship and choral worship.

For details, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/thykingdom.

Pentecost story is told

THE story of Pentecost will be told in a musical staged at two churches in June.

Saints Alive, by Roger Jones, will be performed on Pentecost Sunday at St George's Church, Waterlooville, from 3pm, and then at St Faith's Church, Havant, from 6pm.

The musical tells the story of the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost, showing the dramatic change in the apostles.

Rehearsals have already started, and take place each Friday at 7.30pm in St Faith's Church. But you can still join in. Contact musical director Geoff Porter on 023-9247 6700 for details.

Generous churchgoers from across Portsmouth donated more than 675 Easter eggs for needy families.

Worshippers collected donations of chocolate eggs from their churches, schools, colleges and workplaces to help those who might not be able to afford Easter treats.

The Easter eggs have been donated to help families supported by the Roberts Centre in Landport, Home-Start in Portsmouth and the Southern Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS). And representatives of the three charities involved picked up piles of Easter eggs from St Mary's Church in Fratton, which had been the focal point for the appeal.

Sarah Smith, co-ordinator for Home-Start in Portsmouth, said: "We support families in the PO1 to PO6 postcodes who have children under five and are experiencing problems. They'll appreciate these eggs because some of those families are on low incomes and can't afford treats like this."

And Jo Eamey, who handles business support and development for SDAS, said: "We run refuges and offer support in the community for victims of domestic abuse."

"Money is often tight, often because financial abuse is part of what they have suffered. Often those families have just left a relationship with the person who earns money, so giving them eggs helps them to show they are appreciated."

This is the third year that St Mary's has led an appeal. Easter



(l to r): Lin Kitchener and Mel Goddard from the Roberts Centre; Canon Bob White, vicar, St Mary's Church; Sarah Smith and Maggie Smith from Home-Start, Portsmouth; Julie Minter, student minister, Farlington; and Jo Eamey and Patience Manhovo, from Southern Domestic Abuse Service

eggs were brought to churches throughout Lent. They will be delivered to the families these charities work with before Easter.

The vicar of St Mary's, Canon Bob White, said: "People's generosity has been overwhelming,

as so often happens when we ask for practical help. During Holy Week, we remember Jesus's love for us in his ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Giving these Easter eggs is a very practical way of sharing that love we have received from

Jesus with others.

"We want to say thank you to all those who have been so generous with their donations, whether it was via their church, their school or college, their workplace, or an individual donation."

Donkeys join Palm Sunday procession



The donkeys led the procession through Shorwell

TWO donkeys from the Isle of Wight donkey sanctuary led worshippers through the village of Shorwell on Palm Sunday.

They led the procession from the village hall, where the palms were blessed, to the celebratory service recalling Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, in St Peter's, Shorwell. Worship was led by a joint choir from St Peter's and St Mary's, Brighstone.

Interim minister the Rev Linda Bushell said: "The donkeys behaved impeccably and the choirs were in good voice."