



Bishop Christopher speaks to worshippers at the Al Mahdi Centre (above left) and greets the imam Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datto

Bishop's mosque visit after attack

BISHOP Christopher spent time in prayer and visited a mosque in the wake of the Westminster terror attack.

He urged local communities to demonstrate their shared values of respect after the horrific events on Westminster Bridge and outside Parliament.

The bishop prayed at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham, for those who were killed and injured, and for their families and friends. He also prayed that the terror attack does not provoke division within our society.

And he visited the Al Mahdi Centre, home of the Weseex Jamaat Shia Community, to reassure local Muslim worshippers of his prayers and support for them.

He said: "As someone who regularly works in the House of Lords, I was shocked to hear of the attack in Westminster and saddened to hear of those who died and were injured. Our churches are praying for them and for their families.

"My thoughts are particularly with the family of PC Keith Palmer, who died defending the people and Parliament that symbolise our democracy, and with the families and friends of the other innocent victims.

"Although the attacker may have been influenced by jihadist extremism, I want to show my support for Muslim friends and colleagues, who do not recognise this barbarity as any part of their faith.

"The vast majority of Muslims in the UK live peaceful lives, devoted to their local communities, and the actions of one man are



The bishop lights a candle as he prays for the victims and their families at Holy Trinity, Fareham

not representative of what they believe.

"I am here today to say that fear and hatred will not defeat the values we share. Those who died and those injured were denied the respect, dignity and sanctity of life which we believe is God-given.

"It is suggested that the actions of the perpetrator may have been inspired or orchestrated by IS. IS is not Islamic; by using Islamic in its name it misuses your faith.

"Actions like those seen on Wednesday do not honour the tenets and doctrines of faith. He is not representative of Muslims, and no motivation can justify what he did."

Khalid Masood is thought to have acted alone in driving his car at pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing five and injuring 50. He then stabbed PC Keith Palmer, who was trying to prevent him gaining access to Parliament, before Masood was shot by police.

Bishop's award for faithful stalwarts

ELEVEN faithful worshippers will be given a special award to mark their commitment to the Church and the wider community this month.

Bishop Christopher will present each of them with a St Thomas Award, named in honour of St Thomas a Becket, patron saint of our cathedral.

It's the second year that he has made these awards. The recipients will be presented with their badge during Evensong at our cathedral, at 6pm on May 7.

Among the recipients are Rose Ashton, recognised for her role as churchwarden and fundraising for Niton and Whitwell churches, and Alan Hoad, for his service as churchwarden at St Mary's, Hayling Island.

Marion Syms, from our cathedral, is recognised for her role with the Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL), which links us to Anglicans in Ghana, and the All Saints Counselling Service.

Jenny Tait, from Clanfield, is rewarded for her commitment to youthwork and discipleship, and the Rev Michael Harper, from Leigh Park, for his long service as a deacon.

The other recipients will be Brian and Beulah Walters, from Copnor, Buntly Alderton, from Freshwater, and John and Linda Green, from Gosport.

Sculpture is now on display

AN internationally-renowned artist is displaying new sculptures in our cathedral.

Rafael Klein has unveiled his new sculpture and graphic work *Family Tree* jointly at our cathedral and at the Jack House Gallery in Old Portsmouth.

The sculptures – which are made from steel, copper and bronze – explore the ways in which we are all connected, using the tree as its central metaphor.

They went on display in our cathedral on April 18 and will remain there until May 19. Rafael will be in conversation there with the Very Rev David Brindley, dean of Portsmouth Cathedral, on May 2 at 7pm. He'll also speak at the Jack House Gallery on High Street



One of Rafael Klein's sculptures: Family Sky

at 7pm on May 12.

Originally from New York, now living and working in London and Italy, Rafael Klein exhibits across the world,

exploring our spiritual inner life and how this unifies us with the world around us.

He said: "Sculpture feels right in the grand open spaces of a cathedral. This sacred refuge can remove us from practical cares and invite a consideration of matters spiritual, whatever our religious beliefs might be. The marriage between the architecture of sacred buildings and the sculpture within them has a long history.

"My sculpture can be both heavy and still let the sky through. The Family Tree sculptures are open, transparent. Despite their great size, they remain light. These works are a transformation of the tangible into the spiritual."