

Academy has a real Christian vision

INSPECTORS have praised our diocese's only secondary academy for re-focusing on its original Christian vision.

Charter Academy in central Portsmouth, was praised by inspectors who were examining its Christian ethos, RE teaching and collective worship. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report graded it as 'good' after an inspection in the summer.

It praised the determined and clear leadership of principal Clive Barnes, supported by insightful governors, and the relentless drive by key leaders to cement its Christian values.

Inspectors also congratulated the school for the remarkable level of attention given by staff to the wellbeing and achievements of all students, in a challenging context. Weekly hot chocolate with the principal and regular phone calls home were effective methods of encouragement and praise.

The report said that the involvement of the Church of England at parish, deanery and diocesan levels was creating an effective pattern of service to the community.

And the introduction of three core Christian values – justice, courage and respect – and changes to the pattern of collective worship had transformed the profile and quality of faith-based dialogue among students and staff.

RE was now being led by a specialist teacher with expertise, energy, passion and commitment, helping students to enjoy the subject.

Inspectors urged the school to consolidate the rapid improvements over the past year, and to ensure that new staff and students are aware of the school's Christian origins.

Charter Academy, which is next to St Luke's Church in Southsea, was originally St Luke's C of E School.

It became an academy, sponsored by Ark Schools, in 2009, and is now over-subscribed. From this year, the number of Year 7 pupils will be increased by 50 per cent to 180. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils is twice the national average.

Heritage project launched in style

WORSHIPPERS were celebrating as they launched a new heritage project to help visitors understand the history of their church.

St Peter's Church, Titchfield, officially launched the project in the summer at an event attended by a wide cross-section of dignitaries, community representatives and businesses.

The St Peter's Church Heritage Project involves promoting the church's history as part of its outreach to the wider community. A church has been on the site since 680AD and includes a number of significant historical features.

It includes the introduction of a Church Walk Map to guide visitors around the church, and the updating and enlarging of a book describing the church's history with new photos.

Visitors will also see a video when they enter the church, charting the church's history from the seventh century to the present day. Future videos may highlight what it has been like to be a Christian in Titchfield through the centuries.

The event on July 1 was opened by Nick Girdler, from BBC Radio Solent, who is part of the Heritage Committee. The Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham



Left: Lady Appleyard speaks at the launch in St Peter's, Titchfield: right: Lord Montagu, the Rev Susan Allman, vicar of St Peter's, and Paul Angelides, chairman of the Heritage Committee

were also present at the event, which took place over the same weekend as a flower festival.

The vicar, the Rev Susan Allman, explained the principles behind the project before Paul Angelides, chair of the Heritage Committee, talked about the practicalities.

Committee member Ken Groves spoke about George Watts, who had died in the past year and for a long time was chairman of

the Titchfield History Society. He explained how George had spent a lifetime helping us to understand the history and heritage of the village.

Lady Appleyard, chairman of the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust, spoke about the trust's work and how pleased she was that it had contributed to the work at St Peter's.

Finally, Lord Montagu

of Beaulieu described how his family had been connected with the village for the last 400 years through the Earls of Southampton, and the Southampton monument and tomb.

He also mentioned how fortunate we are that new technology and techniques are enabling us to better understand our heritage.

For more details, see www.stpetertitchfield.org.uk

Shared meal will help Ugandan children

CATHEDRAL worshipper Sue Tinney hopes to help children in Uganda who are facing a malnutrition crisis.

Sue, who is a World Vision ambassador, will be hosting a 'Share a Meal' buffet lunch in Havant on September 22 to help those in need.

It's part of an initiative by World Vision UK to encourage people to bring together friends and family over a meal to raise funds for those less fortunate than themselves.

Sue's event will happen in the Panel Room, Denvilles House, 33 Emsworth Road, Havant, from 12noon-2pm. Tickets are £10, and you can book via suetinney.worldvision.org.uk or suetinney@virginmedia.com

She said: "Experts already say 29 per cent of all children



Sue Tinney at a mother and baby feeding clinic in Senegal

under five in Uganda are stunted – a figure that is expected to rise as a result of

the worsening refugee crisis from neighbouring South Sudan.

"Together with World Vision, we aim to raise funds to support impoverished communities in Uganda and elsewhere, to alleviate the high levels of child malnutrition.

"With the funds raised, World Vision aid workers will help mothers provide nutritious meals for their children during the first, critical 1,000 days of their life."

Children like three-year-old Betty in Uganda spent most of their early childhoods in hospital due to malnutrition. World Vision is working with her 20-year-old mum Sauda to help her learn to cook healthy meals.

If you would like to host a similar meal, find details on www.worldvision.org.uk/shareameal