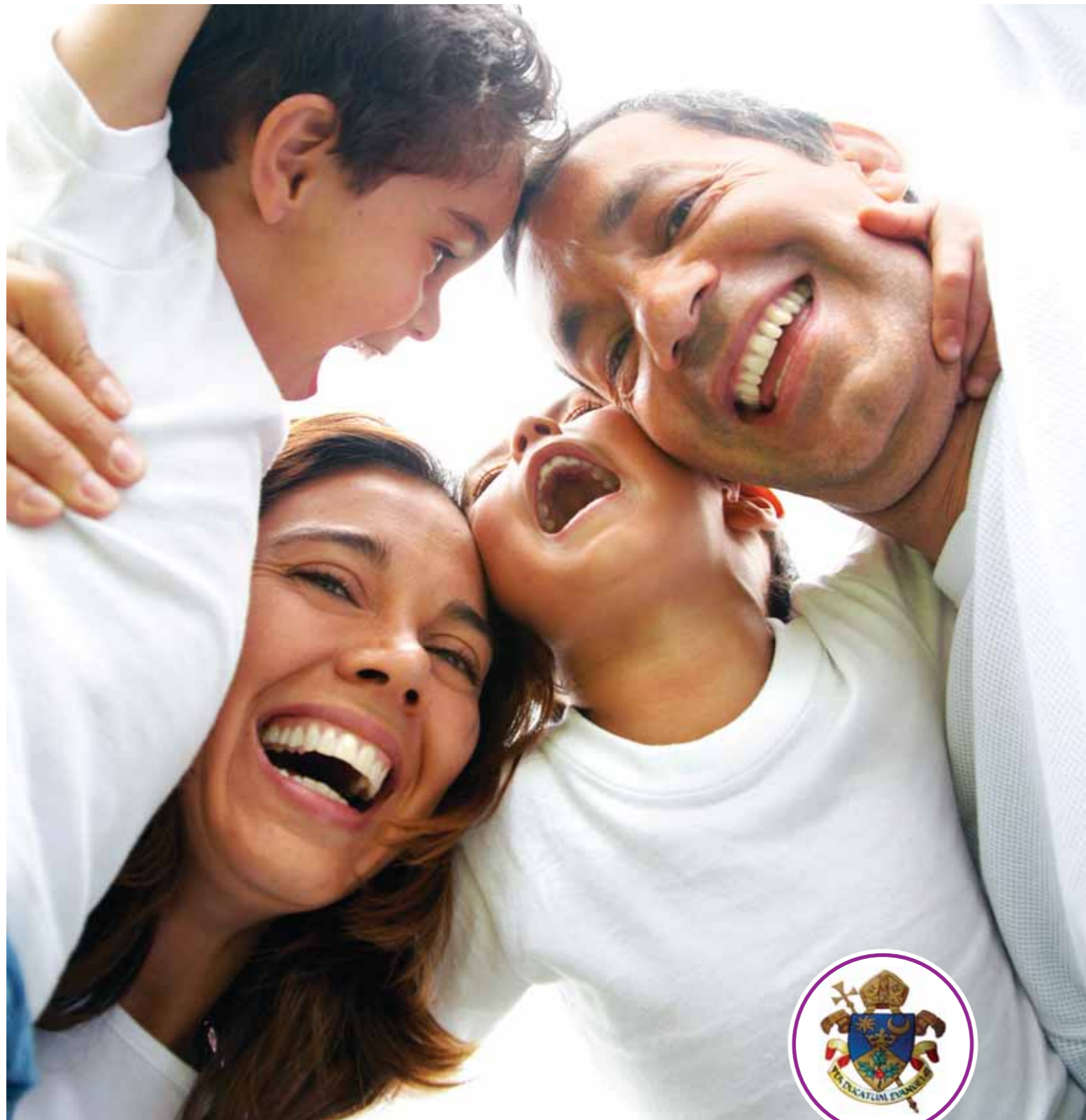
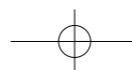


# PORTSMOUTH February/March 2009 PEOPLE



Pastoral Letter | Just for Juniors  
Movers and Shakers | Personality Profiles

Publication of the  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



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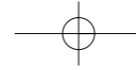
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**Portsmouth People** is the diocesan publication for the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. It is distributed free of charge to parishes and other groups in the Diocese which covers Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Isles and parts of Berkshire, Dorset and Oxfordshire. The Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust is a registered charity (number 246871) with its address at Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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# PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

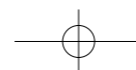
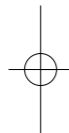


Jesus was certainly one for cautionary tales. He often couched them as parables. Cautionary tales are not to be restricted to Jesus' times. Nowadays we can find them all over the place. You just need to know where to look and what lesson to draw. Cautionary tales are particularly rife in TV soaps as well as the press where we're plagued with tales of Testy Tim, always ready to lay one on you, or Bingeing Belinda intent on self-harm. As in Jesus' day, the problem with the cautionary tale is for the individual and society at large to spot, to have it interpreted and to heed the message. That way nobody puts the cart before the horse and takes things the wrong way. The danger is that the anti-heroism being highlighted can be taken the wrong way: the anti-hero gets taken as an exemplar for role modelling, as a template for a life-style negative in the extreme. For some reason I'm reminded of Jack. They tell me he's doing very well for himself since he moved to London, to Westminster in fact. He's gone into houses ... Happy New Year to you all!

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## Pastoral letter from Bishop Crispian

### THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

In the years when I was a parish priest, I was always delighted when the Bishop offered a Pastoral Letter for this particular celebration coming, as it does, so quickly on the heels of Christmas. It wasn't just that we felt 'talked out' after all the Christmas festivities, it was also that I, at least, felt that preaching about the Holy Family - that almost impossibly 'holy' Family - was a very difficult task.

I can't pretend that today I can say anything new but I do want to offer you a few thoughts, as well as giving you my greetings for today and for the whole Christmas season.

First of all, our celebration today gives us 'family' at its best and we particularly need that at this time when, politically and often socially, family life is being undermined and diminished.

In this celebration, we are offered a supreme example of trust, obedience and generous love. Speaking for myself, I can say that I have been very blessed in a very happy and fulfilled family life, but I am acutely aware that this is not everyone's experience and I both acknowledge and sympathise with the pain that many, who are in broken families, suffer and endure.

The ideals of Christian family life set the highest standards. They challenge us in their fulfilment and they challenge us in the giving of example and encouragement to others. But these ideals are crucial for the well-being of the community as a whole. They are Christian ideals and we, who are Christians, have a great responsibility to demonstrate convincingly that they are not beyond our reach.



Photograph and portrait in oils: Pierre Bamin

Remember always that example is more powerful than exhortation.

Reach out for these values yourselves and encourage others to do so, praying and remembering all the time that 'nothing is impossible to God.'

But it's not just family life that's under threat in today's world - we live today in many ways in what Pope John Paul described as a culture of death. Life itself has become cheap and, as a society, we have become careless and destructive of life, whether that life is found at its very beginnings, in the womb and in the unborn child, or in the old and frail as they approach natural death. To see such persons - for that is what they truly are - as somehow disposable or a nuisance or of no consequence, is to show a supreme disregard for the value and dignity of all who, like ourselves, are children of a loving God.

As Catholics, we pride ourselves on being 'pro-life' and that is true for the diocese, for all of you who form our diocesan family and for myself. We are committed to defending life at all its stages. This commitment is the seamless garment for Christian living, and it means that all, but especially those who suffer from defencelessness and vulnerability of any kind, poverty, disease and conflict, have a right to a special place in our hearts and in the heart of the Church.

This rich vision of life will not necessarily endear us to the culture in which we live but this is where we have to stand if we are to be faithful to the truth that all human beings, our brothers and sisters, are created in God's own image and likeness.

This celebration of this feast of the Holy Family gives us the chance, not only to catch our breath after the Christmas festivities, but also to contemplate something of the reality of the circumstances and family that surrounded the Word made flesh, the Light of the world, Jesus Christ, Son of God, who has lived among us.

In this contemplation and prayer today, we rejoice in the gift of life in all its richness and dignity. Our prayer is also that we treasure and sustain, as best we can, the precious gift of family in which that life is nurtured and in which it flourishes.

I send you all my greetings at this time and I pray that the Lord will continue to bless us all with his love and his grace as we enter into the New Year of 2009.

May God bless you all,

+Crispian

### Bishop Crispian's Engagements

#### FEBRUARY 2009

|         |   |                         |
|---------|---|-------------------------|
| Sun 1:  | St. Patrick's, East Ilsley, Mass  | 11.15 am                |
| Mon 2:  | Winchester, Churches Together in Hampshire and Islands Meeting<br>Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham, Mass            | 10.00 am<br>7.00 pm     |
| Tue 3:  | Living Our Faith event, Maidenhead  | 7.00 pm                 |
| Wed 4:  | Living Our Faith meeting with clergy, Christ the King, Reading<br>Marist Senior School, Ascot, Independent Schools Mass | 12 noon<br>4.30-7.00 pm |
| Thu 5:  | Bishop's House, Portsmouth, Diocesan Trustees Meeting   | 10.00/10.30 am          |
| Sun 8:  | St. Thomas More, Weeke, Mass  | 3.00 pm                 |
| Tue 10: | Bishop's House, Portsmouth, Diocesan Council of Priests Meeting   | 10.30 am                |
| Wed 11: | Basingstoke, Living Our Faith Campaign Advisory Cttee<br>Southampton University, Southampton, Dinner                    | 2.30 pm<br>pm           |
| Fri 13: | Bishop's House, Portsmouth, Diocesan Stewardship Cttee Meeting  | 10.00 am                |
| Fri 20: | Winchester, Hampshire Downs Pastoral Area   | 7.00-9.00 pm            |
| Sun 22: | English Martyrs, Didcot, Mass<br>St. John the Baptist, Wallingford, Mass  | 9.00 am<br>11.00 am     |
| Tue 24: | London, Overseas Mission Cttee Meeting<br>New Forest Circle of the Catenians, Dinner                                    | 11.00 am<br>pm          |
| Wed 25: | (Ash Wed) Cathedral, Mass   | 12.15 pm                |
| Thu 26: | Bishop's House, Portsmouth, Implementation Steering Group Meeting   | 1.00/2.00 pm            |
| Fri 27: | Isle of Wight, Catholic Wight Pastoral Area   | 7.00-9.00 pm            |
| Sat 28: | St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, Rite of Election  |                         |

#### MARCH 2009

|        |  |                     |
|--------|--|---------------------|
| Sun 1: | Our Lady of the Rosary, North Hinksey, Mass<br>Holy Rood, Folly Bridge, Mass | 9.15 am<br>11.15 am |
| Mon 2: | Province Meeting   | pm                  |
| Tue 3: | Province Meeting   | am                  |

|            |  |                              |
|------------|--|------------------------------|
| Wed 4:     | Didcot, Thames Isis Pastoral Area,   | 7.00-9.00 pm                 |
| Thu 5:     | Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, Clergy Study Day,<br>Safeguarding with Confidence,  | 10.00-4.00 pm                |
| Fri 6:     | St Francis de Sales, Wash Common, West Berks Pastoral Area,  | 7.00-9.00 pm                 |
| Sun 8:     | Holy Trinity, Church Crookham, Mass  | 9.30 am                      |
| Mon 9:     | Bishops' Conference Department for International Affairs Meeting   | pm                           |
| Tue 10:    | Bishops' Conference Department for International Affairs Meeting<br>Bishop's House, Portsmouth, Diocesan Education Council Meeting | am<br>pm                     |
| Wed 11:    | Winchester, Bishop's Council Meeting<br>Campaign Advisory Cttee Meeting  | 10.00/10.30 am<br>2.30 pm    |
| Thu 12:    | Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, re Managers Day,<br>Farnborough, North East Hampshire Pastoral Area                           | 9.30-3.00 pm<br>7.00-9.00 pm |
| Fri 13:    | Portsmouth, Pompey Pastoral Area   | 7.00-9.00 pm                 |
| Sat 14:    | Southampton, Diocesan Gift Aid Day   | 10.00-2.00pm                 |
| Sun 15:    | Our Lady, Fleet, Mass  | 10.30 am                     |
| Mon 16:    | London, Bishops' Conference Standing Cttee Meeting   | am                           |
| Wed 18:    | East Hended-East Hended Charities Meeting  | am                           |
| Thu 19:    | Bishop's House, Portsmouth, Lunchtime meeting with Prison Chaplains<br>in the diocese  |                              |
| Fri 20:    | St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, Episcopal Ordination of Bishop elect<br>Seamus Cunningham as Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle       | 12 noon                      |
| Sun 22:    | St. Joseph's, Aldershot, Mass  | 10.30 am                     |
| Tue 24/25: | Wessex Hotel, Bournemouth, Clergy In-Service Meeting   |                              |
| Thu 26:    | Churches Together in Hampshire and Islands Meeting   | 10.00 am                     |
| Fri 27:    | Ashurst, New Forest East Pastoral Area   | 7.00-9.00 pm                 |
| Sun 29:    | Our Lady Help of Christians, Farnborough, Mass   | 10.30 am                     |
| Tue 31:    | Bishops House, Portsmouth, Diocesan Co-ordinating Pastors Meeting<br>Reading, Central and West Reading Pastoral Area               | 10.30 am<br>7.00-9.00 pm     |

### In an informal chat, Bishop Crispian reflects on his 20th anniversary as Seventh Bishop of Portsmouth (installed 27 January 1989)

These last 20 years have gone in a flash. They've been rewarding and I feel ever more privileged to be Bishop.

*Was it like being dropped in at the deep end when you were appointed?*

Not really. Having been an Auxiliary Bishop beforehand in Oxford was good preparation, not that there's anything quite like running your own show. But it was with some trepidation that I arrived during Advent in 1998, on 6 December. Being a West Countryman I already had some affinity with the diocese. So what trepidation I did have was soon tempered with the excitement and challenges that lay ahead.

*So, knowing what you know now, what advice would you have welcomed? What advice would you give to future bishops?*

Take your time. Play yourself in. Don't rush. Look and learn. Listen ... and then make your mark with perhaps just one substantial decision to get matters under way. For me, much of the progress in the diocese during my time - if progress it is - stems from the Pastoral Plan, the energy and enthusiasm with which it has been adopted and carried forward by everyone. The clergy and religious have been brilliant and they are so central to all that we're trying to do. But our laity have been wonderful too and all work so hard to make up the diocesan family which is so important. I think that our achievements have been many. Take, for instance, our network of Catholic schools. You have only to think that some 30,000 pupils receive the fruits of the Gospel every day in our schools. I believe that we are a vibrant Diocese in touch with our people and with the society in which we find ourselves. We are a communion and that's at the heart of being a diocesan family. In this regard, I really welcome the opportunities my week-end visits to the Parishes and our Pastoral Areas, which keep me in touch with clergy and people.

*Do you have any regrets?*

I could always have done more and done things better. My experience as Chair of the Department for International Affairs in the Bishops' Conference has taught me very vividly what a flawed and fragile world we live in. My visits to Zimbabwe have brought me face to face with naked power and human suffering. I feel so helpless in the face of the plight of so many individuals, a plight brought about so often by man's inhumanity to man. On a personal level, ... well, nobody's perfect. I'm only human. My experience has taught me a lot. But do I personally have any regrets? No ... to quote a phrase, 'je ne regrette rien'. And, God willing, I have three more years at the helm.

*What do those three years hold in store for the Diocese?*

Well, we've come a long way, achieved a lot and we continue to achieve a lot. I'd like to secure our position, consolidate where we are - not only with regard to ourselves and our own Pastoral Plan but also with regard to the strong ecumenical bonds we have forged. I want to hand on the best I can to my successor. When that time comes, I hope to remain on call - to continue my ministry helping and supplying where I can. I'm sure I'll miss the rhythm and pace but I will welcome having control of my own diary. Stepping down will give me the opportunity to indulge my interest in sport.

*And that means watching cricket and football?*

Certainly watching, and particularly football, a team sport where you get a result that much faster: 90 minutes. I'm a keen supporter of PFC [Portsmouth Football Club] at the moment but I may just have to transfer my loyalties to Bristol City, as they will be playing nearer home!

But Portsmouth - city and diocese - has become my home and both will always be very close to my heart.

# Spirit of the Rock



Mary Cahill Pastoral Assistant for Youth Faith Formation

Jersey Pastoral Area sent a group of 41 to World Youth Day in Sydney. 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be my witnesses' was the theme of the event. Inspired with this, the group held an amazing witness night on their return attended by 200 people. They shared their DVD, prayerful account of their experiences and personal testimonies of how the Holy Spirit had indeed reached their hearts.

However the journey continues. Do they just separate and meet for Madrid 2011? This would make nonsense of the whole idea of WYD. So the weekend 1st/2nd Nov they decided to reach out to other young people and say to all young people 'Dare U 2 Move'. The weekend, attended by Diocesan Advisor Dave Hill and a group of four from Guernsey Pastoral Area, was over two days based at St. Mary & St. Peter's Church and Beaulieu School. The young people participated in talks and activities on the themes of Time Talents and Treasure and also looked at the concepts of Live Simply as a way of life witness rather than a project. Highlight of the event was the visit of Judy Bailey & Band who the group had heard twice in Australia.

This inspiring band played an evening of Praise & Worship and also led the music for the closing Mass on the Sunday shared with the congregation of St. Mary & St. Peter's. The youngsters also had a 'sleepover with God' something they usually do monthly in Jersey. They slept in the school common room but took hour slots on a rota to pray in Adoration all night. They also experienced Taizé style Night and Morning Prayer in preparation for a planned visit to Taizé Easter 2009.

It was also good to see a steady flow of youngsters taking the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

A good turnout of younger teenagers have now hopefully been encouraged to start being involved in the ongoing opportunities offered by the Jersey Association of Catholic Youth (JaCy).



Judy Bailey in concert

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## Stewardship of Creation

The R.C. Parish of Christ the King, Reading, Berkshire  
As part of their 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebrations

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009**  
10.30am – 4.00pm

A day to come together, meet others and reflect on living simply and being stewards of creation.

The day is free of charge, with drinks & a simple lunch provided of soup, bread & cheese. (Voluntary contributions to CAFOD & to cover expenses can be made on the day.)

| Programme      |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 10.30am        | Arrivals & tea             |
| 11.00 - 1.00pm | Opening Liturgy & Workshop |
| 1.00 - 2.00pm  | Lunch                      |
| 2.00 - 3.30pm  | Workshop & Final Liturgy   |
| 3.30pm         | Tea & departures           |

Workshops will be led by CAFOD

Liturgies supported by members of the Society of St Gregory

Venue: Christ the King Church & Hall (& ample parking) are conveniently situated close to J11, M4, & also easily accessible from Reading Station (No 5 Bus). Please ask for further travel details if needed.

Leaflets will be available in Parishes from late January, meanwhile: Save the date!

Further information from:  
Christ the King Parish (ck.parish@btopenworld.com)  
408, Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 8NR  
(or contact Theresa Conlon Tel: 0118 9968113 or email [theresa@tconlon.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:theresa@tconlon.fsnet.co.uk))

# Priest's Profile



Born and bred in Fordingbridge, Canon David Charles Hoppood was ordained to the priesthood on 21 June 1980.

Fr. David is the middle of three children - 'Still that bit older than Mark and always that bit younger than Jane,' he chuckles. His mother, Ethne (née Coakes) recently moved to the West Country, 'to be nearer to Jane', following the death of his father, Francis.

A man of many facets and dedication of purpose, David is a travel and keep-fit enthusiast with an artistic flair, especially for architectural renovation. 'It's all in the detail,' he explains with a playful twinkle in his eye. 'And I love a challenge. Perhaps that's why I became a priest.' He laughs contagiously.

Fr. David returned to St. John's Roman Catholic Cathedral in 1998. He had been Secretary to the late Bishop Emery from 1982 to 1989 following his two initial years as Curate at St. Joseph's in Aldershot. Since his return to Portsmouth, Fr. David has revitalised the congregation, restored the Cathedral with ambitious works including the acquisition of a new organ and the development of the Cathedral Centre. He had already wetted his appetite for grand design with extensive renovations to the Sacred Heart Church in Fareham where he was formerly Parish Priest (1989-1998).

In Portsmouth as well as in his earlier appointments, Fr. David has worked tirelessly in his vocation. 'These years have just flown by,' comments Fr. David. 'I have loved every minute ... well, at least most of them.' He looks pensive for a moment, then smiles broadly at his comment, highly entertained at the thought of 'all those years on God's mission'.

**Fr Frank McAlinden R.I.P.**

It is with regret that we announce that Fr Mac died during the night of January 10th in the Marie Louise Nursing Home, Romsey, where he had been a resident for some considerable time. He was 89.

He was born in Liverpool on April 4th 1919 and joined the Montfort Missionaries (SMM). He was ordained priest at St Mary's, Chipping in Lancashire in 1944 and worked both at home and overseas with the SMMs for a considerable time.

He became assistant priest in Winchester in 1986 and was incardinated into the diocese in 1990. During these later years he was resident in Weeke until he retired and he looked after the church and community at St Thomas More in Weeke, where he was much loved. May he rest in peace.

### Fascinating Facts and Figures

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>It was in Winchester in 1554 that Philip II of Spain married Mary Tudor.</p> <p>Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, so was Peter Sellars.</p> <p>The expression about the weak going to the wall derives from Churches of old having points on the side walls where the frail could rest their weight.</p> <p>The shortest sentence in the Bible is: 'Jesus wept.'</p> <p>To ensure that people were not mistakenly taken for dead, they used to be buried with a chord running back up to ground level and attached to a bell. Any movement underground would sound the bell and the poor unfortunate could then be rescued: 'saved by the bell'.</p> | <p>It's on 5 November in this country we celebrate a Catholic terrorist attack on Parliament.</p> <p>Literary critics have a theory that Shakespeare may have had a hand in the famous King James Authorised version of the Bible. They say the compilers asked some of the major literary figures of the day to revise the more poetic parts, in particular the psalms. It was all anonymous of course, but backers of the theory say Shakespeare left a clue. In 1610, the year before publication, Shakespeare was 46 years old. If you turn to Psalm 46 in the Authorised version, and count down 46 words, you come to 'shake'. Now go to the end and count back 46 words. You've guessed it: 'spear'!</p> |
|---|---|

| Terminology Databank  |   |
|---|---|
| We continue with part two of our five-part series of ecclesiastical terms |   |
| Catechumen  | Candidate for baptism   |
| Cathedra  | The chair or throne on which the Bishop sits  |
| Cathedral   | The church where the Bishop has his seat or cathedra  |
| Chalice   | Goblet used to hold and dispense the consecrated wine at Mass   |
| Chrism  | Sacred oil blessed by the Bishop and used in Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders  |
| Christ  | The Anointed One  |
| Ciborium  | Receptacle to hold consecrated bread, often lodged in the tabernacle  |
| Commandments  | The 10 Commandments as passed to Moses, the foundation of the moral teaching of Jesus and his Church  |
| Communion   | The act of entering into direct association and partnership with Christ, the Church and each other, especially through receiving the Body and Blood of Christ |
| Confirmation  | When people confirm their membership of the Church  |
| Confiteor   | Latin for the first word in the prayer: 'I confess ...'   |
| Consecration  | When something is blessed in the name of the Lord   |
| Council   | Assembly of the Bishops in communion with the Pope to promote the mission and governance of the Catholic Church e.g. The Second Vatican Council               |
| Covenant  | Agreement as between God and Man  |
| Crucifix  | Cross bearing the image of Christ   |
| Decade  | The Hail Mary repeated 10 times in saying the Rosary  |
| Diocese   | The region under the guidance of one Bishop   |
| Doxology  | Thanksgiving, a short formula of praise to God  |
| Ecumenical  | Concerned with ecumenism  |
| Ecumenism   | Movement to unite the whole Christian Church  |

FEATURE

# Safeguarding in Portsmouth Diocese

You may have noticed that your parish Child Protection Representative has become a Safeguarding Representative. This reflects the change in emphasis in the rest of society. Safeguarding is a proactive approach to making the church a safe place for everyone, not just responding to allegations. In addition, the profile of vulnerable adults is highlighted recognising our responsibility to all vulnerable people. We are well placed within our Diocese to move forward with this wider remit.

Bishop Crispian said: 'We are truly blessed with our Commission. The membership has a wide range of talent and appropriate experience. They give freely of their time to help make the Diocese a safe environment for both children and vulnerable adults. I am so grateful to them.'

The Safeguarding Commission is indebted to all the Parish Reps for their sterling work, as it is only with the support of these dedicated volunteers that we have been able to process so many checks.

Another large part of the work of the Safeguarding Office is organising training for clergy and volunteers. As Safeguarding Co-ordinator, I have delivered training sessions on Child Protection, Vulnerable Adult Protection, Safe Recruitment and Best Practice which over 400 people have attended. Further local sessions are planned and we encourage all those working with vulnerable groups to attend relevant sessions. More training will be rolled out in 2009 - watch this space!

Next autumn the government is introducing the Vetting and Barring scheme which will be administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). It will be a legal requirement for all those working in a paid or voluntary capacity with vulnerable groups to be registered with this scheme and an offence for any organisation to allow an unregistered person access to vulnerable groups.

We are not privy to the details of implementation; however, we anticipate that all those working with vulnerable groups will need to register. This does not negate the need to undergo CRB checks as when the new scheme is introduced only those who have been CRB checked can continue in their roles until registration on the new scheme. If you are unsure if your role requires a CRB check, please either contact your Parish Rep or the Safeguarding Office who will be able to help.

We hope that volunteers and clergy will endure the inconvenience of the checking process in the knowledge that this will enhance the safety of all who come into contact with our church.



Angela McGrory

The Safeguarding Office moved to St Edmund House, Portsmouth in December last year, and can be contacted on 023 9281 6396. A large proportion of the work of the office is the processing of Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) applications. All those working with children and vulnerable adults within the Diocese require these checks as part of a safe recruitment policy and over 5000 applications have been processed including all parish clergy. The largest group is parish volunteers and this is why you may have been asked to complete a check.

The Safeguarding Commission has a unique standing in the Diocese in that it is responsible to the Bishop and Trustees and is independent of the Curia. The members bring experience of Safeguarding from the statutory and voluntary sectors. It consists of Dr Lorna Duggan (Chair), Ms Kate Burke, Mr Barry Hudd, Mr Paul O'Driscoll, Rev Mike Stanier and Dr Anna Wilson. A senior police officer from the Thames Valley will be joining shortly.

## Quotable Quotes

*'A gentleman need not know Latin, but he should at least have forgotten it'*

Brander Matthews

*'I have learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights'*

Maya Angelou

*'Monsieur Wagner a de beaux moments, mais de mauvais quart d'heures'*

Gioacchino Rossini

*'An Ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country'*

Sir Henry Wotton

*'Every ... sin is a variation of theft'*  
from *The Kite Runner* by  
Khaled Hosseini

*'Adam was the only man who, when he said a good thing, knew that nobody had said it before him'*

Mark Twain

*'A chrysanthemum by any other name would be easier to spell'*

William J. Johnston

*'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit'*

Aristotle

*'If I only had a little humility, I would be perfect'*

Ted Turner (attrib.)

*'Behind every successful man there is an astonished woman'*

Cherie Blair

*'Education is what's left after all you've learned has been forgotten'*

Dudley R. Herschbach

*'One word of truth will conquer the whole world'*

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

FEATURE

# Parsons Pointers

*'O wad some Power the giftie gie us  
To see oursels as ithers see us!'*



So said Robert Burns (1759 - 1796) in his poem 'To A Louse'

*I thought of that when my eldest grandchild visited us recently with her daughter. It soon became obvious that my overriding reputation in the family was not about my skill as a parent or grandparent, or about the mellifluous tones of my singing. Nor indeed about the depth of my knowledge and wisdom. Grandpa's reputation is that he makes tasty chocolate sponges! Such moments of self-discovery can be enlightening. As I thought about this not exactly unenviable reputation I pondered on what was involved. The cakes are of*

*course made with Fair Trade Cocoa and with Fair Trade Caster Sugar. They are quite popular with the Catholic Women's League and I have to provide at least two for their cake stall at bazaars etc. I also have to provide one or two at the Christian Aid Plant and Cake Sale in Christian Aid Week. And of course for the annual meeting of the local Talking Newspaper for the Blind.*

*And so I have been drawn rather reluctantly to the conclusion that such skill as I have at making the said chocolate sponges may reveal more about the real me than I normally care to acknowledge.*

*As we are still early in the New Year perhaps it is not too late for more New Year Resolutions. It might be as well to reflect on what others see in us. We all have different gifts but we don't always recognise our own strengths and weaknesses. It might just be the time to sit down and prayerfully reflect on what gifts God has given us and on what we do with them.*

*In my case I am not sure I want it to result in even more chocolate sponges: I can't keep up with the constant drain on my stocks of Fair Trade Cocoa and Caster Sugar! As a footnote on the subject of Fair Trade, however, I was delighted to see in our newest supermarket large notices which declared that all the store's bananas and own brand sugar were Fair Trade.*

John worships at the Church of Our Lady in Fleet and is in the choir there. He is a keen ecumenist and is a former Chairman of the Diocesan Commission for Christian Unity. He has been a regular contributor to *Portsmouth People* for some years with his column Parsons Pointers.



John Parsons

## Letters

### Priests and Priestesses

*In his Pastoral Letter (Portsmouth People Advent 2008) the Bishop asks us to 'implore the Lord unceasingly that he will continue to give us all the vocations to the priesthood, to the diaconate and to the religious life that we need.'* (p.2)

*My first response is to ask whether we do in fact need any more traditional vocations to the male, celibate priesthood. Perhaps the so-called 'shortage of priests' might provide us with a major challenge to engage in bold and creative rethinking about our whole understanding of ministry and callings in the church. Of course priests are needed, but who and what is a priest?*

*As we are told time and time again all of us, by virtue of our baptism, are called to a vocation, whether within the church or beyond it. I feel we should all be 'implored the Lord unceasingly' to open the eyes and ears of the Church to see, hear and respond to the Holy Spirit's call for change - long overdue. I believe we need to stop excluding the very people who could help us meet our needs. For example, call back all those priests who were excluded, and continue to be excluded simply because they wished to get married. Pray for women to follow their vocation to the priesthood or diaconate, and for the church to stop excluding them. God is genderless. Christ did not exclude anyone from anything - in fact his whole mission was to include, not to discriminate. The argument that Jesus appointed 12 men as his apostles, and therefore the church has to continue to do the same, is by no means convincing (for example, the gospel refers specifically to Peter's mother-in-law, yet this has not prevented the church from insisting on priestly celibacy, which contradicts the evidence of the New Testament and the early church).*

*How on earth have we got ourselves into the unjust situation whereby married Anglicans are welcomed as priests in the Catholic church whereas Catholic candidates for the priesthood are still required to commit themselves to lifelong celibacy?*

Sue Oakley  
Hampshire

*(I'm reminded that the Orthodox and the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches have married as well as celibate clergy. Ed.)*

### Paddington Five-O

*It's fifty years now since Paddington Bear stowed away on board ship to travel to the UK from 'darkest Peru'. Apart from popularising marmalade sandwiches, Paddington is known for being polite, well behaved, respectful towards others and speaking correctly in an inoffensive way. 'Please look after this bear' read the label on his coat ... Perhaps we should now add 'and his manners'.*

R Reilly  
Hampshire

### Rallying Cry!

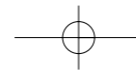
*It has become a tradition on the feast of St Stephen (26th December) at St Bede's church for Monsignor Vincent Harvey to celebrate Mass with all the parish's altar servers and their families. All the servers take part in this celebration from carrying the processional/altar candles, the processional cross, the book of prayers to preparing the altar and ringing the bells.*

*The homily focuses on St Stephen, the first martyr and one of seven called by the apostles to minister to normal people in their everyday lives. The Mass always includes an investiture into the Guild of St Stephen and afterwards there is a social (eats and drinks) at which it's the altar servers who always manage to finish all the goodies.*

*At a time when religion is often called into question and young people often become disenchanted, we need to support our altar servers. That support needs to come from families, friends, parishioners and clergy. Not only do the Guild members provide a service to parish life but they are the future of the Catholic Church.*

Barbara King  
Parent of an altar server at  
St Bedes, Basingstoke

Contributions to the Letters column warmly invited. Ed.



## Personality Profile



Ana Dobeson, Diocesan Webmaster

Ana rightly thinks of herself as 'a Catholic cocktail ... such a mixed ancestry'.

It is 22 years since Ana first came to our Diocese and to Portsmouth, the town from which her paternal grandfather had sailed with HMS Hood on its fateful journey in 1941. Ana had come with her erstwhile boyfriend, Tom Dobeson - they had met in 1985 in London through their interest in scouting - to visit Tom's sister in the maternity wing of St Mary's. As Ana puts it: 'Tom and I, as Mr and Mrs Dobeson, were to get to know that maternity wing quite well!'

'I now have a home with five men to look after,' explains Ana. 'There's Tom and our four sons: Daniel (16), Andrew (11), Thomas (8) and James (coming up to 2) who, we hope, might one day learn to sleep!'

Ana is an IT specialist. Website design is her particular forte and one which she offers professionally to business and individuals. It is as 'webmaster' that she works part-time for the Diocese, responsible for the design, development and maintenance of the diocesan website: [www.PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk](http://www.PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk)

But Ana's life is not restricted to family life and website design. Apart from involvement with the First Communion programme at the Cathedral and being a Foundation Governor at St John's primary school, for which she designed and maintains the website, Ana is a member of the Cathedral's Communications Working Party responsible, as you may have guessed, for designing and maintaining the Cathedral's website.

*Previous issue: Sheila Hughes, Chair of Trustee Communications Cttee*

Born in Bilbao (N. Spain), the fourth of seven children to an English father (born in Southsea) and a mother from Madrid, respectively of English/Irish and Castilian/Catalan descent,

With this issue  
**BEHIND THE SCENES**  
takes a look at ...

## The Diocesan Curia

The Curia is the administrative organ composed of officials whose role is to support the administration of our Diocese.

The term originally applied in Roman times to an administrative body of the state. With the fall of the Roman Empire in the C5th, many administrative functions previously dealt with by the state were passed to the Church. The clergy, under the direction of their respective bishops, assumed the roles formerly occupied by state officials. Functions then developed and changed but the term Curia was retained particularly in those Christian denominations which retain strong continuity with the Apostolic tradition.

Our Curia, consisting of the chief officials of the diocese, supports Bishop Crispian in governing the Roman Catholic church within Portsmouth Diocese. This diocesan curia includes vicars general, one of whom (Rev Mgr John Nelson) is the moderator, effectively the CEO (Chief Executive Officer).

Located at two points (St Edmund House on the Cathedral site in Portsmouth and at Park Place Pastoral Centre in Wickham), our Diocesan Curia is composed of the Department for Pastoral Formation located at Park Place (HoD: Nicky Stevens), the Department for Finance and Property located at St Edmund House (HoD: Rev Deacon Stephen Morgan), the Department for Schools located at Park Place (HoD: Christopher Richardson) and the Diocesan Liturgical Buildings Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Rev Canon Alan Griffiths contactable via the Department for Finance and Property at St Edmund House.

## Just a click away ...

We continue with our compendium of worthy websites:

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

- our Diocesan website

[www.wesleyowen.com](http://www.wesleyowen.com)

- a charity offering Christian resources

[www.fmdminternational.co.uk](http://www.fmdminternational.co.uk)

- Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood

[www.ourladycatechists.org](http://www.ourladycatechists.org)

- postal tuition in Catechesis etc.

[www.landmarkfs.co.uk](http://www.landmarkfs.co.uk)

- financial advice on ethical investing

[www.bamendaandportsmouth.com](http://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com)

- our Bamenda connection

[www.graceandcompassionbenedictines.org](http://www.graceandcompassionbenedictines.org)

- supports the vulnerable in 3rd World

[www.flinthouseart.com](http://www.flinthouseart.com)

- courses in icon painting, mosaic etc.

[www.fmsj.org.uk](http://www.fmsj.org.uk)

- Franciscan Missionary Sisters of St Joseph

[www.christianevidencesociety.org.uk](http://www.christianevidencesociety.org.uk)

- supports Premier Radio, Urban Angels etc.

[www.whatsonwhen.com](http://www.whatsonwhen.com)

- international events calendar

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

- to search for extracts from the Bible

(Submissions for 'JACA' warmly invited. Ed.)

## Vatican Connections

With this issue of **Portsmouth People** we offer 'a community communications checklist' for those with Internet access who are interested in the Vatican:

### Useful websites:

#### Country profile:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country\\_profiles/1066140.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/1066140.stm)

#### Vatican radio:

<http://www.wrn.org/listeners/stations/station.php?StationID=31>

#### Tourist and business travel information:

[http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/299/country\\_guide/Europe/Vatican-City.html](http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/299/country_guide/Europe/Vatican-City.html)

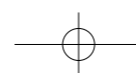
#### Maps:

[http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&q=vatican&cr=countryUK%7CcountryGB&um=1&ie=UTF-8&split=0&sa=X&oi=geocode\\_result&resnum=11&ct=title](http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&q=vatican&cr=countryUK%7CcountryGB&um=1&ie=UTF-8&split=0&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=11&ct=title)

#### Vatican news:

[http://212.77.1.245/news\\_services/press/vis/englindex.php#start](http://212.77.1.245/news_services/press/vis/englindex.php#start)

(Contributions for this feature are warmly invited. Ed.)



## The Year of St. Paul



Fr. Jeremy Corley (scripture lecturer at Ushaw College) introduces the Sunday lectionary year of St Paul

This description was written many years after Paul's death. In fact, almost everything we know about Paul comes from his letters and the Acts of the Apostles. While seven of the Pauline letters are 'undisputed' in their authorship, others are often thought to have been written by his disciples.



Statue of St Paul, Rome

Archaeology also offers some surprising sidelights on St Paul's life, especially his missionary visit to the Greek city of Corinth in 51 AD. The Acts of the Apostles records a legal case against Paul that was dismissed by the Roman governor Gallio. A Greek inscription from Delphi mentions Gallio as governor at that time.

Between the marketplace and the amphitheatre in the ruins of old Corinth, a first-century inscription has been found on a limestone pavement: 'Erastus laid the pavement at his own expense when he was appointed aedile (city official).' St Paul's Letter to the Romans mentions Erastus 'the city treasurer' as a member of the church in Corinth.

Many good books exist on St Paul. Jerome Murphy-O'Connor - a relative of Cardinal Cormac - has written *Paul: His Story* (Oxford: OUP, 2005), recreating Paul's life of missionary travel and writing during his journeys from city to city between Jerusalem and Rome. Anglican bishop Tom Wright (an ecumenical observer at last October's synod) has also presented a fine summary of the apostle's teaching in his book *What St Paul Really Said* (Oxford: Lion Hudson, 1997).

'For me to live is Christ.' These words sum up St Paul's Christian life that began with his conversion on the road to Damascus. He encountered the risen Christ and felt a call to dedicate his life as a witness. If Saul the rabbi could turn from persecuting the church into preaching Christ, salvation was possible for everyone else. Two thousand years later, we also can be inspired by St Paul's love of Christ.

When Pope Benedict declared 2008-2009 as 'The Year of St Paul,' many people were surprised. After all, while this may possibly be the 2000th anniversary of the apostle's birth, we do not really know when he was actually born. As the year has progressed, the Pope's purpose has become clearer.

The Catholic Church has traditionally emphasized St Peter as founder of the institutional church. By contrast, Protestant churches have often stressed St Paul as the missionary focused on proclaiming God's word. The Pope is surely making an ecumenical gesture, inviting us to seek unity in the common heritage of the scriptures.

Last October the Synod on the Word of God was held in Rome. For three weeks delegates discussed the theological meaning of the biblical message, as well as its practical demands. Various proposals were made, such as having a 'year of preaching' and opening up the formal ministry of Lector to women. The synod topic of the word of God was apt in the year devoted to one of the greatest preachers and biblical writers.

But who was St Paul, and what was he like? The apocryphal Acts of Paul describe the apostle as 'a man of small stature, with a bald head and bow legs. His eyebrows met, and his nose was rather large.'

### Talent in Havant



David Corps, altar server turned cake-maker, took £5 from Fr Tom and turned it into £93

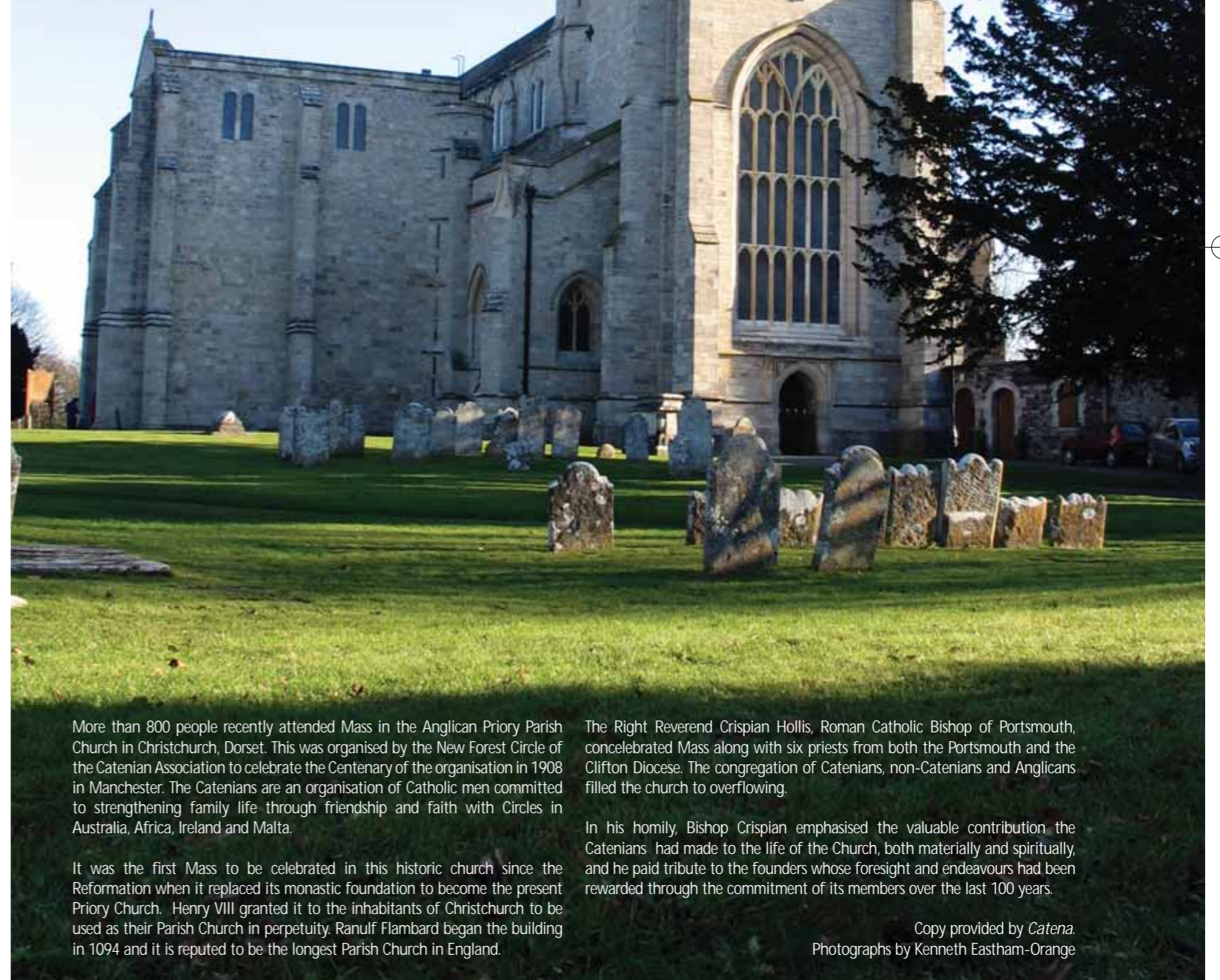
The Parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish (Havant) went into a state of shock when their Parish Priest, Fr Tom Grufferty, handed out £320 during Mass on Parish Talent Sunday (16 November): 'It's not what we're used to,' commented one parishioner. After the Gospel of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), 30 people were each invited to accept £5 in the same way those in the Gospel had received their five talents. By the same token, 30 more were then given £2 and a further 30 were given £1 ('Don't just go and bury it'). The challenge was on. (Note: Parishioners were expressly asked not to contact Bishop Crispian for fear he would think one of his clergy had taken leave of his senses).

All the talented people, not to the exclusion of others, were invited to build on the gifts they had received for the benefit of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. All the profits from the exercise, including the pump-priming £320, were to be passed to CAFOD.

The talents were given on trust - no names being taken - to people of all ages. The talents were put to work, the pace of the return began to snowball and stories of ingenuity spread like wildfire around the Parish: Ciaran aged 11, with permission from his school, made special soft drinks and sold them to his classmates. His five talents rocketed to £75; six-year old Max made cakes and with his cakes made £13; one of the adults' coffee mornings realised £175; the Parish Choir - 'not one of them with any talent, if you know what I mean' - invited everybody to a sing-a-long of Christmas carols with refreshments and competitions. 'That put £250 into the pot!' Then William (5 yrs) made a whole range of cakes, set up a stall after Mass and promptly sold out. His one talent shot to £125. The Parish was mixing, talking and bonding in a new way. A two-fold increase on the original £320 investment was the original hope. 'But so far over £5,000 has come flooding in!'

As Fr Tom also remarked: 'The most encouraging aspect of the exercise was to see how people got involved and how enthusiastic the children and young people were to use their talents for the good of others.'

## Historic Centenary Celebration in The New Forest



More than 800 people recently attended Mass in the Anglican Priory Parish Church in Christchurch, Dorset. This was organised by the New Forest Circle of the Catenian Association to celebrate the Centenary of the organisation in 1908 in Manchester. The Catenians are an organisation of Catholic men committed to strengthening family life through friendship and faith with Circles in Australia, Africa, Ireland and Malta.

It was the first Mass to be celebrated in this historic church since the Reformation when it replaced its monastic foundation to become the present Priory Church. Henry VIII granted it to the inhabitants of Christchurch to be used as their Parish Church in perpetuity. Ranulf Flambard began the building in 1094 and it is reputed to be the longest Parish Church in England.

The Right Reverend Crispian Hollis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, concelebrated Mass along with six priests from both the Portsmouth and the Clifton Diocese. The congregation of Catenians, non-Catenians and Anglicans filled the church to overflowing.

In his homily, Bishop Crispian emphasised the valuable contribution the Catenians had made to the life of the Church, both materially and spiritually, and he paid tribute to the founders whose foresight and endeavours had been rewarded through the commitment of its members over the last 100 years.

Copy provided by *Catena*. Photographs by Kenneth Eastham-Orange

# News and Announcements



At the request of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and the bishops of England and Wales, the relics of St Therese will be visiting the UK from 16 September until 16 October. The venues in our locality will be Portsmouth and Oxford. Full details are available on a specially created website: [www.catholicrelics.co.uk](http://www.catholicrelics.co.uk)

### CUT UP? ... CUT OFF

CUT (Catholics Unplug your Televisions) is a local response to the challenge to family values, bad language, sex and violence on TV. For further information and free newsletter: CUT, Waun Llydan, St David's Well, Llananno, Powys LD1 6YP

### STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY

On 17th October 2008, pupils, staff and parents in a third of the schools in the Diocese took part in CAFOD Portsmouth's Stand Up Against Poverty & Inequality. Many others across the country heard about the idea and signed up - including CoE and non-church schools - making a total of nearly 17,000 among the astonishing total of 116 million people across 130 countries. Even greater demonstrations may come on 16 October, the 2009 date for Schools Stand Up Against Poverty. Bracknell-based Hugh Gibbons, Schools Volunteer with CAFOD Portsmouth, commented: 'Given the inherent enthusiasm in schools, it would be good to think that most would want to take part - not only in the diocese but all the country.' For further details contact Hugh Gibbons on [hugh@just1.org.uk](mailto:hugh@just1.org.uk)

### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

At *Portsmouth People* we are endeavouring to establish a network of 'communication contacts' across our diocese. These people would be responsible (1) as a despatch point for distributing copies of *Portsmouth People* in their immediate locality and (2) as a local focal/generating point for features, articles etc. for onward transmission to the Editor. Please contact the Editor if you can help: [Editor@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk](mailto:Editor@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk)

### BIKE IT YOU'LL LIKE IT

*Christian Aid* invites cyclists, whatever their speed, endurance or experience, to register for the London to Paris bike ride (22-26 July). Registration for each of the 150 places costs £99 and all entrants must agree to raise a minimum sponsorship of £1,100. Further details: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

### LADIES! 'DETOX' YOUR PARTY WARDROBE



Television presenter and *Marie Curie Cancer Care* supporter Julia Bradley is calling on women to donate a party season outfit, that they once loved but will not wear again, to a Marie Curie Cancer Care Shop, to help fund nursing care at home for terminally ill people at the end of their lives: 'Why not clear out your wardrobe after the party season, and help a terminally ill person spend their final days at home surrounded by the people they love the most?'

*Marie Curie Cancer Care* is one of the UK's largest charities. Employing more than 2,700 nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals, it maintains two research centres into palliative care and currently expects on a yearly basis to provide care to around 27,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in its 10 hospices. It is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS. Around 70 per cent of the charity's income comes from the support of thousands of individuals, membership organisations and businesses, with the balance of funds from the NHS. In 2008/09 it needs to raise £115 million. To find out more about *Marie Curie Cancer Care* and your nearest shop: <http://www.mariecurie.org.uk>

### CELEBRATING MARRIAGE 2009

On our wedding day we celebrate the sacrament of marriage in a very public way with family, friends, parish and the whole Church. After that we tend to make the celebration of the anniversary of the wedding a fairly private affair: a meal for two, some flowers, a gift or sometimes a party for the 'big' anniversaries. However, marriage is a sacrament that couples celebrate every single day making their lives a sign of the grace that God has brought through them. Perhaps we renew our vows at certain times but apart from that we tend to keep celebrations of marriage out of the Church, so to speak. Well, it's time for that to change a little. In a time when marriage can feel more and more embattled and under threat it is all the more important that we celebrate this great institution and sacrament publicly. It is especially important to celebrate with those who have lived this sacrament for many years as a sign to us all.

On 25th April 2009 Bishop Crispian will preside at a special Mass of Celebration at St Bede's in Basingstoke for those marking significant wedding anniversaries in Portsmouth diocese. If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th anniversaries during 2009, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that Bishop Crispian can send you an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited.

### WRITERS FORUM

The Editor welcomes offers from suitably qualified, interested and experienced wordsmiths interested in writing and/or sourcing appropriate copy for *Portsmouth People*. The forum invites suggestions for themes on which to work, with due authorisation, on behalf of *Portsmouth People*. The forum similarly invites contributions on any appropriate topic, although no assurance can be given that any submission will be accepted for publication and/or display and/or dissemination. *Portsmouth People* offers no remuneration for contributions.

### CARAVAGGIO DISCOVERIES

Two paintings traditionally lodged at Hampton Court, *The Calling of Saints Peter and Andrew* and *Boy Peeling Fruit*, have long been considered Caravaggio fakes but recent tests have proved them authentic. Both works are on display until March at the Queen's Gallery at Edinburgh's Palace of Holyrood House for the Art of Italy exhibition.

### CHANGE OF NAME

Recent legislation has meant that the 11 Catholic adoption agencies of England and Wales have been faced either with embracing the law and not functioning fully within the Church, or with trying to invoke the much-debated Regulation 18 get-out clause (deemed by many experts as a no-go option) or with opting out of adoption work to the detriment of those whom they protect and support. The development in our region is that the Catholic Children's Society has changed its name to the Cabrini Children's Society with HQ at 49 Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2XB t: 020 8668 2181 f: 020 8763 2274.

### WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Who is My Neighbour? - A Church Response to Social Disorder Linked to Gangs, Drugs, Guns and Knives, a report commissioned by Churches Together in England, is a significant contribution to the debate on social disorder and the tragic effects on individual families and society at

large. Officially launched in the House of Commons in July 2008, the report has received widespread positive coverage in the Secular and Religious Press.

It is now important that the report finds its way on to agendas of local churches. To this end, a series of regional launches is being organised to explore the implementation of recommendations contained in the report. One such event, to which all are invited, is scheduled to take place in Reading: Wednesday February 4th 2009: 6.30 for 7.00pm start (till 8.30pm): Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, Reading, RG1 1EH.

### NEW FUNDRAISING SCHEME

A new fundraising scheme designed to support local Schools, Churches, Children's Charities and other fundraising efforts in the UK has recently been launched. Giving 2 ([www.giving2.co.uk](http://www.giving2.co.uk)) is a ground-breaking new scheme which operates by working with retailers to create a loyalty cash reward programme to provide funding for small local organizations. Further details: [www.giving2.co.uk](http://www.giving2.co.uk)

### QUEEN SOFIA SPEAKS OUT

Greek-born Queen Sofia of Spain, second cousin to Prince Philip, celebrated her 70th birthday shortly before Christmas by criticising homosexual marriage, abortion and the US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The outburst is associated with the publication of *La Reina Muy de Cerca* (The Queen At Close Quarters) based on 15 interviews and written by the Catholic journalist Pilar Urbano. Esteban González Pons of the Popular party reflected: 'The queen is a Catholic woman of 70. She has said what many Spanish, 70-year-old Catholic women think'.

### SNAP TO IT!

*Portsmouth People* welcomes photographs (hires digital). If you have or are prepared to take suitable photographs which could be used to build up the photobank, do please forward them to the Editor. Although full credit will be given for any photograph published, *Portsmouth People* can offer no remuneration for contributions nor enter into contractual discussion.

### ADVERTISE IN PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

Display advertisements of a suitable and appropriate nature are invited for the forthcoming and subsequent issues of *Portsmouth People* (32pp, guaranteed print-run of 10,000). Advertisements submitted must contain accurate, complete and true information and comply with requirements of all relevant legislation incl. the British Code of Advertising and the Advertising Standards Authority. Rate card and further details available from The Editor.

### FACELIFT FOR CHRISTIAN YOUTH WEBSITE

Streetband, the online Christian youth culture magazine, has had a major facelift by way of welcoming in the New Year. Visitors to the website ([www.streetband.com](http://www.streetband.com)) can expect to find a wide range of articles from Christian music interviews, news, music reviews to fashion and style, in-your-face columns, relationships, health and fitness, career, money, positive living, and thought-provoking pieces on current issues. Kofu Baptist, editor of Streetband, said: 'We are very excited about our new website. We know that God is interested in and wants to be involved in every aspect of life. Our prayer is that Streetband will continue to be the place to come to for the total youth experience as God intended it. Our aim is to make Jesus a relevant and very much necessary part in the lives of young people.'

### PRAYER PHONE LINE

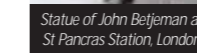
The Providence Convent Prayer Line on 020 8447 8982 is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9 pm with answerphone facility at other times.

### NEW CHRISTIAN MULTILINGUAL SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY

Bratislava-based cross.tv is a faith-based global, multilingual, multimedia community offering a video portal and on-demand web TV with sermons, teaching, videos, blogs and music. Providing an online community for Christians, the new site ([www.cross.tv](http://www.cross.tv)) combines the best of social networking with high quality HD streaming and a multilingual communications platform, making it the first Christian social media community in the world to support multilingual interaction and communication. Users can upload videos and pictures, publish blogs, add friends and even develop their own sub-networks for their families, churches, ministries or projects. All uploads are screened to ensure high standards and conformity with Christian values.

### SPAB AWARD

Entries are now invited for SPAB's (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) John Betjeman Award for outstanding repairs to the fabric of buildings in use as churches and chapels in England and Wales. Entry forms are available from SPAB at 37 Spital Sq., London E1 6DY. Closing date for submission of entries: 27 February 2009. Full details from Education Section on [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)



Statue of John Betjeman at St Pancras Station, London

# News and Announcements

### WIZARD WORDSMITH WANTED

We are looking for a willing volunteer to take over a crossword slot and make it a regular feature of *Portsmouth People*. Offers please to The Editor.

### JUST FOR JUNIORS

Solutions and answers to the posers in the JfJ section. Jumbles: Easter, Candle, Baptism, Confession, Priest. Codebreaker: Replace every letter by the letter preceding it in the alphabet to get Moses, Judas and John.

### TRADE JUSTICE ORGANISATIONS

There are now numerous organisations campaigning for trade justice, operating either only in the UK or internationally:

- [Make Poverty History](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/trade/)
- [Trade Justice Movement](http://www.tradejusticemovement.org/)
- <http://www.tjm.org.uk/>
- [Make Trade Fair](http://www.maketrade.org/)
- <http://www.maketrade.org/>
- [World Development Movement](http://www.wdm.org.uk/)
- <http://www.wdm.org.uk/>
- [CAFOD](http://www.cafod.org.uk/)
- <http://www.cafod.org.uk/>
- [Christian Aid](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/)
- <http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/>
- [ActionAid](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/)
- <http://www.actionaid.org.uk/>
- [Oxfam](http://www.oxfam.org/en/)
- <http://www.oxfam.org/en/>
- [War On Want](http://www.waronwant.org/)
- <http://www.waronwant.org/>
- [Global exchange](http://www.globalexchange.org/)
- <http://www.globalexchange.org/>
- [Fair Deal Trading](http://www.fairdealtrading.com/)
- <http://www.fairdealtrading.com/>
- [Ethical Trading Initiative](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/)
- <http://www.ethicaltrade.org/>
- [Co-op](http://www.cooponline.coop/about_campaigns_fairtrade.html)
- [http://www.cooponline.coop/about\\_campaigns\\_fairtrade.html](http://www.cooponline.coop/about_campaigns_fairtrade.html)
- [CCFD \(France\)](http://www.ccf.fr)
- <http://www.ccf.fr>

### Fr TOM GRUNDY RIP

It is with regret that we announce the death of one of our retired priests, Fr Tom Grundy who died at the McAuley Mount Home, Burnley, where he was living in retirement. He was 87 years old.

Fr Tom was a native of Burnley but studied for the priesthood at Oscott. He was ordained in 1954. During the time of his active ministry he was assistant priest in Basingstoke, Bournemouth, Newport and Andover. In 1967 he was made parish priest of Andover where he served until 1974 when he moved to Highcliffe from where he retired to Burnley in 1997. May he rest in peace

FEATURE

## Live Issues

### Assisted Suicide and Astrourfing.



When an attempt is made, by repeatedly showing a tiny number of rare cases, to give the impression of a widespread grassroots call for some measure, this is called 'astrourfing'. I do not think the British media were guilty of deliberately doing this about assisted suicide and euthanasia, towards the end of last year. It is understandable that one televised suicide is more newsworthy than

thousands of people helped to live out their natural lives in reasonable comfort and happiness by good palliative care, but it gives a very skewed picture.

Pro-euthanasiaists always portray a choice between unbearable suffering on the one hand and a supposedly peaceful death offered by a kindly doctor on the other, and claim that they have public support for the latter. The reality is very different. There is no dignity in the suicide tourism at the sleazy surroundings of the Dignitas flat in Zurich. On the other hand disabled people all over the world, and the selfless doctors and hospice workers who care for them and for the frail and dying, are overwhelmingly opposed to any change in the law which protects vulnerable patients.

Purely as a practical matter, it would be bad law, for the sake of a minute number, to put tens of thousands of patients at risk of being pressured into signing away their lives.

For more detailed discussion of the issues see [www.carenotkilling.org.uk](http://www.carenotkilling.org.uk)

**Dominica Roberts, from the parish of St. Joseph and St. Margaret Clitherow in Bracknell, is an active member of several pro-life groups. She joined the Pro Life Alliance when it started in 1997. Dominica has stood as a pro-life candidate in two General Elections and a European one: 'My share of the vote has gone up from minuscule to minute to tiny on a straight line graph which, if it continues, should see me elected at the age of 130'. Dominica and husband Tim have five children and twelve grandchildren.**

## Hints & Wrinkles Making the most of your money ...

### It's a win-win situation when you GIFTAID

If you pay Income Tax and make any contributions to any Charity such as your Parish Church, the Chancellor actually WANTS to increase your gift by passing to the Charity the tax you have already paid on that money.

Of course, the Chancellor does need to be sure that you have actually made the contributions in the first place. This is very simple to do and you do NOT have to commit yourself to any particular amount over the year. You sign up and continue to donate as usual. At the end of the year, all the amounts are added up. A form is sent by the Gift Aid Organiser to the Inland Revenue, confirming the amounts contributed and requesting all the tax back. Confidentiality is a priority: your identity, the amount you give and your privacy are fully protected.

Your contributions will probably be made up of the ordinary weekly collections plus any other collections made through your Parish Church. These might be the Christmas and Easter Offerings and Special Collections of any sort. Contributions can be made by cash, by cheque or by regular Bank standing order.

If you actually pay tax and contribute to the Parish £100 in the course of the year, your Parish Church will get back an additional £28 without further ado. So, it is worth joining the scheme even for modest sums. If you give, say £500 over the year, this would mean that the Church would get a further £140 back from the Inland Revenue. On £1000 the extra tax back would be £280. The only limitation is that the Authorities do not pay back more tax than you have paid in the first place. The tax can have been paid in any way: stopped from your

wages, from your firm's pension or from interest on savings. No tax is paid back on dividends. If you receive only the State Pension, you will not be paying any tax at all and so this scheme is not suitable for you.

Those tax payers whose income puts them in the higher rate band for tax also get further tax relief which they can keep. They can claim additional tax relief of £18 for every £78 donated under Gift Aid. This tax relief can be as high as £22.50 for every £78 given if they have any dividend income that is taxed at higher rates.

Contact your parish Gift Aid Organiser or the Department for Finance and Property at the diocesan offices for further details.

© jikw

FEATURE

## THE PASTORAL AREAS

### North and Central Hampshire

Alton-Petersfield: Alton - Bordon - Grayscott - Liphook - Petersfield

Hampshire Downs: Alresford - Stockbridge - Winchester

North East Hampshire: Aldershot - Church Crookham - Farnborough Our Lady Help of Christians - Farnborough Our Lady & St Dominic - Fleet - Hartley Wintney - Yateley

North West Hampshire: Andover - Basingstoke Holy Ghost - Basingstoke St Joseph - Hook - Tadley - Whitchurch

Three Rivers: Bishop's Waltham - Chandlers Ford - Eastleigh - Romsey

### South East Hampshire

Havant: Havant - Hayling Island - Horndean - Leigh Park - Waterlooville

Pompey: St John's Cathedral - Corpus Christ with St Joseph - Our Lady & St Swithun - St Colman with St Paul

Solent: Fareham & Portchester - Gosport - Lee-on-the-Solent with Stubbington - Park Gate

Southampton Central and West: Holy Family - St Boniface - St Joseph & St Edmund - St Vincent de Paul

Southampton East: Hedge End - Netley - Christ the King & St Colman - Immaculate Conception - St Patrick

### South West Hampshire and Bournemouth

Avon Stour: Our Lady Queen of Peace & BMP - St Thomas More - Christchurch - Fordingbridge - Highcliffe - Ringwood

Bournemouth: Annunciation & St Edmund Campion - Corpus Christi - Our Lady Immaculate - Sacred Heart

New Forest: Brockenhurst - Lymington - Milford on Sea - New Milton

New Forest East: Lyndhurst - Totton - Waterside

### Thames Valley

Central and West Reading: English Martyrs - St James & St William - St Joseph Great Park: Ascot - Maidenhead St Edmund Campion - Maidenhead St Joseph - Windsor

Loddon Valley: Christ the King - Our Lady & BDB - Twyford - Woodley

North Downs: Buckland & Faringdon - Lambourn & Hungerford - Wantage

South Berkshire: Bracknell St Joseph - Bracknell St Margaret Clitherow - Crowthorne & Sandhurst - Wokingham

Thames Isis: Abingdon - Didcot - East Hendred - North Hinksey - Wallingford

West Berkshire: Newbury St Francis de Sales - Newbury St Joseph - Thatcham - Woolhampton

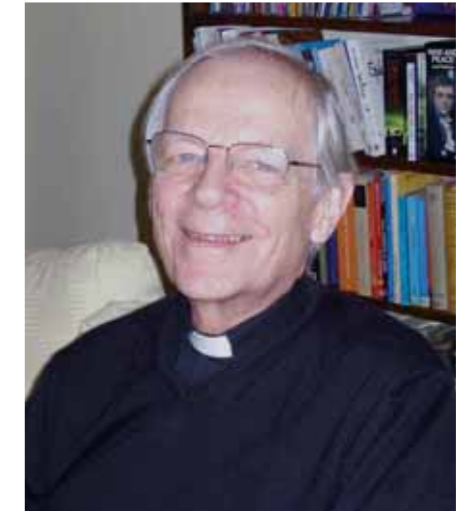
### Islands

Bailiwick of Guernsey: Alderney - Guernsey

Isle of Wight: Cowes - East Cowes - Newport - Ryde - South Wight - Totland Bay

Jersey: East Jersey - St Helier - Our Lady of Fatima - West Jersey

## Retired Priests need our support



Co-ordinating Pastor  
Canon David Mahy

Canon David chairs the management board of the Priests Retirement Fund. It was set up with the proceeds of a very successful fundraising scheme ten years ago, and now helps to look after about forty priests.

Typically, a retired priest chooses where in the diocese he wants to live. The fund buys a suitable property and the priest becomes a tenant at a moderate rent.

Perhaps unfortunately for Canon David, who is originally from Guernsey and who spent 24 years as a priest in Jersey, the fund only buys property on the mainland!

The fund is also able to give direct financial help if needed, but the recent downturn has reduced the value of its property and other assets, so further donations are welcome.

Anyone wanting to contribute should contact the Treasurer, David Morgan, at St Mary's House, Clifton Road, Winchester SO22 5BP.

Email:  
[d1m@campionaccountancy.com](mailto:d1m@campionaccountancy.com)

Tel: 019 6285 2155

Pastoral Area Profile



For this issue our roving reporter Colin Parkes visits N.E. Hants

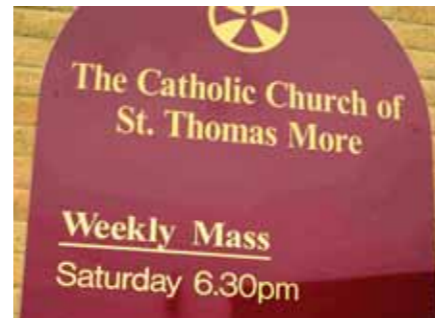
North East Hampshire has Catholic churches in three medium-sized towns - Aldershot, Farnborough and Fleet - and three large villages -Yateley, Hartley Wintney and Church Crookham. The Co-ordinating Pastor Canon David Mahy, has taken a step-by-step approach to building a cohesive pastoral area.

Colin Parkes spent his working life as a journalist. He started on the Reading Evening Post in the 1960's before moving into radio. Between 1990 and 2005 he edited news on BBC Radio 4, and is now a lecturer at the London School of Journalism. He is a parishioner at St Joseph's in Tilehurst, Reading.

## Twinned parishes prepare for the future

'We have eight churches and they're now grouped into four clusters, each with two churches. These pairs are beginning to work more closely together, co-ordinating Mass times and sharing catechetical programmes.' Half the priests are in their seventies or eighties, and Canon David believes the pairing arrangement will help the area to cope when there are fewer to go round.

Already one community has benefited enormously from the new system. Until last June, St Thomas More in Hartley Wintney, had only a Saturday evening Mass, and attendance was down to about 40. Now the parish priest at Yateley, Fr Dominic Adeiza, celebrates Mass at St Thomas More on Sunday mornings, and the congregation has doubled.



Changing the time of Mass at Hartley Wintney doubled attendance



Pam and Gabriel Chevalier at their home in Fleet

## Careful planning brings CAFÉ success

The home of Gabriel and Pam Chevalier in Fleet is the hub of a highly successful adult formation programme. About forty people have become regular attenders on Thursday evenings at the Church of Our Lady.

Over the past six years the group has run a whole series of courses. Some have been based on DVDs produced by CAFÉ (Catholic Faith Exploration) and other church organisations. Others have involved invited speakers. Subjects covered include Personal Prayer, the Mass, the Creed, St Paul, Forgiveness and Scripture Study.

After the talks, there is discussion in groups of six, each round its own table. 'For many people, it's the first opportunity they've ever had to actually discuss their faith,' says Gabriel. 'It makes you think and deepens your understanding of what you believe.'

There's a leadership team of about 20 to help plan events and act as facilitators in the discussion groups, together with a core group of half a dozen to put the plans into operation.

'We always felt it was important to involve as many people as possible,' says Gabriel. 'It's about community building. A lot of people feel more at home in the parish, because they know more people. Even though most of us are friends now, we always wear name labels so anyone new who turns up doesn't feel left out.'

A newsletter is sent out each week publicising forthcoming events. Before a new course, Masses are offered for its success, and it's included in the bidding prayers. Discussion questions are printed and put out on the tables. It's a serious mission for Gabriel. 'We try to do everything as well as we possibly can.'

### Gabriel's tips for CAFÉ success

- Involve as many as possible
- Plan ahead
- Regular newsletter
- Prayers for success
- Food, wine, flowers
- Train facilitators
- Always do the best you can

## A Dynamo of Deacons

North-East Hampshire has no less than seven permanent deacons, more than any other Pastoral Area in the diocese. I met three of them one winter evening at St Swithun's in Yateley to discuss their role. Here are their stories.

Peter Lattey's parish priest at Our Lady, Fleet, suggested he might become a deacon more than 20 years ago. He was working in insurance, and married with two children (his wife, Sue, is now a Church of England priest in the nearby villages of Crondall and Ewshott). Peter spent seven years considering the idea and was finally ordained ten years ago. Now retired, he spends most of his time helping in the parish.

'I do a lot of catechesis - RCIA, Baptism preparation, Confirmation. When I preach, I do both Masses to give the priest a week off. We take turns in writing the Thought for the Week in the newsletter.'

'A deacon is there to help. Sometimes you can be the priest's right hand, absorb his worries. If you have grown up in a parish, you can be more rooted in the community than the priest. If you are around long enough, you can end up burying your friends. I hope the familiarity brings continuity and comfort.'

### I said, 'What's a deacon?'

Scotsman John Cumpsty, who works in IT training, was Chairman of the Parish Council at Holy Trinity, Church Crookham when he had his road-to-Damascus moment.

'At 3 am on December the 16th 1997, I woke from a dream. I felt I was being called, a sensation of overwhelming love running through my whole body. The message resounding in my head was "Go, spread my word."

John talked about his experience to his parish priest, Fr Paddy Gillen. 'He said, "Are you being called to be a deacon?"' I said, "What's a deacon?"' He soon found out, applied that January, and was ordained in 2002.

Fr Paddy, now in his eighties, has difficulty getting about, and John found himself doing a lot of visiting in the parish.



Three Deacons Drinking... John Cumpsty, David Morgan and Peter Lattey at the bar

'We have different experiences of life from priests, ordinary jobs, marriage, parenthood, which make it easier for some people to confide in us. Even if there were enough priests, there would still be a need for deacons.'

As well as conducting services, leading catechetical groups and visiting, John preaches at both Masses every other week. 'But it's not just what we do,' he says. 'It's what we are. We are here to demonstrate to people that you can really live your faith in an everyday way.'

### 'It's good to get variety'

David Morgan is a warranty adviser at a Volkswagen dealership, and sees his relationships at work as an important part of his ministry. 'There was a bit of ribbing when I first became a deacon. People would apologise for swearing. But I find I can help, because I am the only person to do with a church that most of my colleagues know. I have talked to people about family problems, even some worried about ghosts.' David is always busy at St Swithun's. Among many other things he is the licensee of the Parish Centre, and with his comfortable figure and jolly smile certainly looks the part behind the bar. Preaching is a major part of David's ministry. 'It's good for the parishioners to get variety, a different viewpoint,' he says.

Although he was quite involved in parish life, it never occurred to David that he could be a deacon. 'I left school at 15. I didn't think I had the education for it.' The big change for him was The Gathering, the diocesan celebration of the millennium in Farnborough. David was made site manager - a huge job he had never done anything like before. It gave him the confidence to embark on the road to becoming a deacon and he was ordained in 2006. He thinks the experience has changed him for the better.

'I am less judgemental, more optimistic about people and their capacity for change. A lot of people would like to be better than they are now. I try to show them how, with God's help, we can all do more than we thought we could.'

### Becoming a Deacon

Men applying to be deacons must be under 55. Controversially for some, the ministry is not open to women. Once accepted for ordination, candidates embark on four years of part-time study. In the Portsmouth Diocese this includes spending one Sunday a month at St John's Seminary in Womersley, near Guildford. Subjects include Theology, Scripture, History, and how to compose and deliver a homily.

At ordination, deacons vow obedience to the Bishop and his successors, and to say the morning, evening and night office or prayer of the church.

In practice most deacons are attached to a particular parish. They can teach, preach, conduct baptisms, weddings and funerals but not celebrate Mass.

CALENDAR

FEATURE

CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For further information please contact the parties identified

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>February</b> | Tue 3: Eucharistic Ministers Training 1/2 (Bournemouth/Avon Stour Pastoral Areas) e: nina.lake1@googlemail.com   |
|                 | Wed 4: Who is My Neighbour?, Greyfriars Church, Reading (See News & Ann.) t: 011 8926 1062 e: ctberks@resco.net  |
|                 | Wed 4: Preparing for the Rite of Election 2009, Christchurch t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                                    |
|                 | Thu 5: Preparing for the Rite of Election 2009, Winchester t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                                      |
|                 | Mon 9: Preparing for the Rite of Election 2009, Farnborough t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                                     |
|                 | Sat 14: Eucharistic Ministers Training 2/2 (Bournemouth/Avon Stour Pastoral Areas) e: nina.lake1@googlemail.com  |
|                 | Sat 14: Stewardship of Creation, Christ the King Parish, Reading e: clk.parrish@btopenworld.com or theresaj@conlon.fsnet.co.uk                           |
|                 | Sun 15: Healing Service, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                                     |
|                 | Tue 17: Preparing for the Rite of Election 2009, Maidenhead t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                                     |
|                 | Wed 18: Preparing for the Rite of Election 2009, Southampton t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                                    |
|                 | Thu 19: Preparing for the Rite of Election 2009, Reading t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  |
|                 | Fri 27: Lent w/e Retreat, St Cassian's Centre, Hungerford t: +44(0)14 8865 8267 e: kintbury@aol.com  |
|                 | Sat 28: Rite of Election, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                                    |
| <b>March</b>    | Sat 7: Annual Gathering of Friends of St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                        |
|                 | Thu 19: Portsmouth High School Concert, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                      |
|                 | Sat 21: Br Loughlan Sofield: Working Together More Effectively 1/3 St Bede's, Basingstoke t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk       |
|                 | Sun 22: Br Loughlan Sofield: Working Together More Effectively 2/3, St Peter's, Winchester t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk      |
|                 | Mon 23: Br Loughlan Sofield: Working Together More Effectively 3/3, Wisdom House, Romsey t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk        |
|                 | Thu 26: Christian Meditation Talk by Fr Laurence Freeman, St Chad's Church Hall, Shrewsbury t: 017 4324 0401 e: westmids@christian-meditation.org.uk     |
|                 | Thu 26: Christian Meditation Talk by Fr Laurence Freeman, Shrewsbury Cathedral t: 017 4324 0401 e: westmids@christian-meditation.org.uk                  |
|                 | Fri 27: Christian Meditation Talks by Fr Laurence Freeman, Friends Meeting House, Oxford t: 018 6543 4863 e: dicktd@gmail.com                            |
|                 | Sat 28: Lenten Penitential Service, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                          |
|                 | Sat 28: Christian Meditation Talk by Fr Laurence Freeman, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: 017 9451 2006 e: patnash@talktalk.net                       |
|                 | Sat 28: Christian Meditation Talk by Fr Laurence Freeman, United Church, Winchester t: 017 9451 2006 e: patnash@talktalk.net                             |
|                 | Sat 28: Chrism Mass - Diocesan Choir Rehearsal, St Bede's, Basingstoke t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                          |
|                 | Sun 29: Christian Meditation Talk by Fr Laurence Freeman, Sacred Heart Church, Hove t: 012 9352 3291 e: Geraldine.constable@btinternet.com               |
| <b>April</b>    | Fri 3-4: Listening to God - Lenten Retreat by J and D Huggett at Park Place t: +44(0)1293 2983 3043 e: pastoralcentre@aol.com                            |
|                 | Sat 4: Marriage Refresher Day, St Bede's (Basingstoke) t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  |
|                 | Tue 7: Chrism Mass, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk  |
|                 | Sat 25: Bishop Crispian celebrates Significant Anniversaries Mass, St Bede's, Basingstoke t: +44(0)13 2983 5583 www.holygnost.org.uk                     |
| <b>May</b>      | Sat 9: Evangelisation Workshop, Southampton t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk   |
|                 | Fri 22: Family w/e Retreat, St Cassian's Centre, Hungerford t: +44(0)14 8865 8267 e: kintbury@aol.com  |
|                 | Fri 29: Family w/e Retreat, St Cassian's Centre, Hungerford t: +44(0)14 8865 8267 e: kintbury@aol.com  |
| <b>June</b>     | Wed 3: Good Shepherd Mass, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                                   |
|                 | Sat 6: Day for New Catholics, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth t: +44(0)23 9282 6613 www.PortsouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk                                |
|                 | Sat 20: Prayer and Liturgy for Loss and Bereavement, St Bede's, Basingstoke t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                     |
| <b>July</b>     | Tue 7: John's Gospel - a Magic Pool, St Bede's, Basingstoke t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk                                     |
|                 | Sat 11: Day of Reflection for RCIA Teams, Wisdom House (Romsey)  |
|                 | Tue 14: Youth Encounter Session (YES week) for Year 11 upwards, St Cassian's Centre, Hungerford t: +44(0)14 8865 8267 e: kintbury@aol.com                |
|                 | Tue 14: Youth Encounter Session (YES week) for Year 11 upwards, St Cassian's Centre, Hungerford t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk |
|                 | Wed 22: Christian Aid London to Paris Bike Ride (5 days), See News and Announcements. www.christianaid.org.uk  |
|                 | Fri 23: Youth Encounter Session (YES week) for Year 11 upwards, St Cassian's Centre, Hungerford t: +44(0)14 8865 8267 e: kintbury@aol.com                |
| <b>October</b>  | Fri 16: Stand Up Against Poverty day of action. Further details to be announced.   |

Notes: 1/2 = first of 2 parts etc.; announcements subject to variation. The Editor welcomes entries for inclusion in the Calendar of Forthcoming Events

**ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT SCHOOL**  
INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL  
GIRLS 3 - 18 • BOYS 3 - 7  
UPPER REDLANDS ROAD  
READING • BERKSHIRE • RG1 5JT

**OPEN MORNING**  
Wednesday 6 May  
9.15am - 12.15pm

Tel: 0118 966 1000  
www.st-josephs.reading.sch.uk

Diocese of Portsmouth  
Department for Pastoral Formation

**WORKING TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY**

We are delighted that Br. Loughlan Sofield ST has accepted an invitation to come to the diocese. Loughlan is an internationally known speaker and writer, particularly on the subjects of leadership, collaborative ministry and human development. He has been a Brother for fifty years, and spends most of his time "on the road" conducting workshops, giving presentations, and facilitating groups across five different continents. Loughlan will be giving 3 presentations in the diocese during his visit. Each one stands alone. Attendance at any one or all three can be booked as detailed below. The sessions are likely to be very popular. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 10.30am-4.00pm  
**WORKING TOGETHER: SKILLS FOR COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY**  
Cost: £15 (refreshments and light lunch included)  
Venue: St. Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 9DX

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 2.30pm-5.00pm  
**UNWRAPPING YOUR GIFTS AND DISCERNING YOUR CALL**  
Cost: £5  
Venue: St. Peter's, Jewry Street, Winchester, Hants. SO23 8BW

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 10.30am-3.00pm  
**OBSTACLES TO WORKING TOGETHER: MANAGING CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION**  
Cost: £15 (refreshments and light lunch included)  
Venue: Wisdom House, The Abbey, Romsey, Hants. SO51 8EL

The Diocese is committed to involving people with disabilities in every aspect of the life of the Church.

For further information or to book a place visit the website [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or contact Eileen Stephenson by email at [estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or by telephone on 01329 835583. Cheques should be made payable to PRCDTR - Department for Pastoral Formation

A FIRST FOR THE 3 RIVERS PASTORAL AREA



Sheila Keefe

'A super day!', 'I very much want to be a part of this', 'The first KIT meeting I have attended and I would be happy to start a group'. These are just some of the comments at the end of a busy workshop on Saturday, 8th November. 40 people, including representatives from all six Parishes in the 3 rivers' pastoral area, enjoyed a full day together in St Edward the Confessor's church in Chandler's Ford, including a delicious lunch which was greatly appreciated by all. The day was enriched by the presence of 12 members from the Romsey and North Baddesley KIT team, including 2 Catholics who have recently returned to the Sacraments. All were able to share their experience of home visiting and small group meetings whilst their parish priest, Father George Lyons, spoke movingly of the need to offer support and welcome to all who come to our churches. The aim of KIT (Keeping in Touch) is to involve the whole parish in reaching out to, welcoming and keeping in touch with all local Catholics, whether or not they go to church. It was started in 2005 in the Portsmouth diocese as one offshoot of 'Growing Together in Christ'. The programme includes home visiting and small group meetings for those who wish to explore today's Church and their faith. During the morning, those who came were given the experience of a small group meeting; after lunch they explored all aspects of home visiting including the purpose, preparations, what to take and what to say. At the end of the day, the only regret was that there was not enough time for these valuable group sessions. The workshop was presented by Sheila Keefe [see inset], a member of the Portsmouth Diocesan KIT team which now presents workshops in many different parts of the country. Sheila said, 'I am delighted to see such enthusiasm; this is the biggest workshop we have presented and it is largely because of the support given to us by our priests'. Although the priest is not encouraged to come to the small group meetings, for fear of inhibiting returners, his support is absolutely crucial in finding and forming the parish KIT team, in acting as its mentor and guide and in being closely involved in guiding and reconciling Catholics in their journey back to the Sacraments.

Further details about KIT can be found on the KIT website: [www.kit4catholics.org.uk](http://www.kit4catholics.org.uk) If your pastoral area would like a KIT workshop, please contact on [enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk) or phone Eileen Stephenson - t: 013 2983 5583

A Broader View

Lawrence Fullick looks at the wider world

At the start of a new year we all hope that the problems of the past will go away but experience teaches us that life is not like that.



The Israel-Palestine and Russia-Georgia conflicts continue. The horrors of Zimbabwe and Sudan go on. The European Union is still in a state of institutional inertia aggravated by the Irish referendum result.

What signs of hope are there?

The American election result brings a new president and a new team of advisers. The new administration may join the European Union in trying to apply soft not hard power to the solution of problems. Any hope of a settling-in period will disappear in the light of major issues such as the world financial scene, regional conflicts and unresolved environmental questions.

This year's pair of EU presidencies, the Czech Republic and Sweden, will not display the panache with which President Sarkozy sought to lead the EU. Domestic politics in the Czech Republic will make it hard for the country to present a united front in attempting to lead the Union. Sweden has a good reputation for efficiency and democracy but will have to deal with the new European Commission to take office in the autumn, whose composition will be influenced by the June European Parliamentary election and by the elections scheduled for September in Germany which may end the present governing coalition there.

The UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen will open in November but because of intervening elections any European proposal will have to be agreed by March.

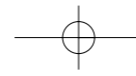
Recently attention has been on the Gaza strip. It is impossible to choose which is the greater evil: Palestinian rocket

attacks which have killed residents of Israeli towns or the Israeli bombings purportedly aimed at legitimate targets but which have killed larger numbers of civilians. In fact it is a circular process not helped by Hamas being an organisation which is unwilling to recognise the legitimacy of the Israeli state. Elections are to take place in Israel this February; if any new government is to have any prospect of a long term peaceful relationship with its neighbours it has to relieve the practical conditions of life in the Palestinian Territories. The walls being constructed along the main Israel-Palestine partition line are seen as a necessary security protection by the average Israeli but as a practical interference with everyday life by Palestinians. If the Pope's visit to the Holy Land provisionally scheduled for May goes ahead issues of this type will be raised, considering the needs of Christian and other residents and visitors, including free access to religious sites.

Zimbabwe seems to be the world's main test-bed for applying the principle of Responsibility to Protect. It looks as if material conditions are so bad that the government will be obliged to allow greater levels of outside assistance. Unfortunately the main neighbour South Africa seems the most reluctant country to intervene.

In spite of all these problems I wish you all a peaceful new year.

Lawrence Fullick, a parishioner in Bournemouth, is treasurer of the Wyndham Place Charlemagne Trust, a charity which promotes discussion of international issues among people of all faiths or none.



# MOVERS and SHAKERS

We pick up on the enthusiasm and achievement across our diocese

## Voice of Angels



Having performed before Queen Rania of Jordan at the Save the Children Awards Ceremony in Madrid, The Angels Choir, from Tiger Kloof (South Africa) visited Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School (Reading).

Renowned for their raw and energetic performance combining beautiful and inspiring Gospel and Choral compilations, The Angels help alleviate

the suffering of vulnerable and disadvantaged children worldwide by encouraging and developing the children's own musical and performing talents.



Photograph: Sally Miles

## Christmas came early



Nora North

Eileen O'Brien

Christmas certainly came early for Nora North and Eileen O'Brien. On 14 December they were both decorated by Bishop Crispian with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice ('For Church and Pontiff') medal in a moving ceremony at St John's Cathedral.

'Not only were we delighted and honoured,' commented Nora. 'But,' continued Eileen, 'it came as such a total surprise!'

The medal, often referred to as the Vatican's 'cross of honour', is the highest award that the Vatican can award a lay person.

In his address at the awards ceremony, Canon David Hoppood praised Nora and Eileen for their dedication and good humour: 'The medals were being awarded,' he pointed out, 'for Nora's and Eileen's tireless dedication over many years to St John's Cathedral where they have been known to generations for welcoming all-comers, for running the Cathedral Repository and for their services to the Cathedral's Discovery Centre.'

## SPONSORED SKIP RAISES £900



Year 4 pupils Stephanie Soza (left) and Armani Harris (right) practice skipping together

Pupils aged 3 to 11 at St Joseph's Convent School's Preparatory Department in Reading have raised a healthy, breathtaking £900 for CAFOD by 'Skipping Round the World', at the same time learning some interesting geographical facts.

St Joseph's pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6 were all challenged to carry out different activities at appointed stations representing the seven Continents of the world, skipping round the school grounds in between each Continent. Various skipping methods were tried and tested, including skipping without a rope in Kindergarten, to skipping with hoops in Reception, to skipping all together as a class under one rope in Year 6. Activities at the various Continents included warming-up exercises in 'Antarctica', a much-needed drink stop in 'Asia' and learning more about CAFOD in 'Africa'. At the end of the day, the pupils were delighted to be presented with a certificate to say they had successfully navigated their way round the entire world.

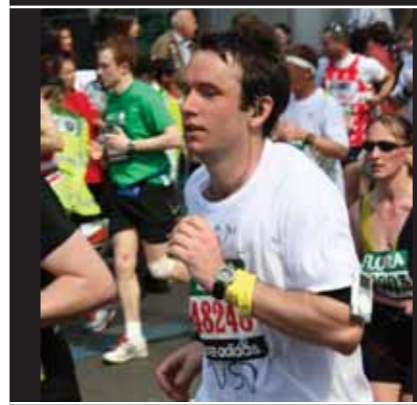
Note: UK-based CAFOD (The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is an international aid agency working to alleviate poverty and suffering in developing countries and is funded by the Catholic community in England and Wales, the UK government and the general public by donations.



## Getting into a Ruck

L to R: Portsmouth-based Andrew Dobeson, Kieran Highgate, Brad Wilkie, Jack Thomson and Thomas Dobeson (foreground), trained by Jack's and Kieran's fathers, have certainly set their sights on getting behind the ball. Jonny Wilkinson, look out!

## Best Foot Forward



Adam goes through his paces

This year Adam Kettle-Williams (Cathedral parish) runs the London Marathon for FARM-Africa ([www.farmafrica.org.uk](http://www.farmafrica.org.uk)), a charity - founded in 1985 with leading patron Michael Palin - which teaches know-how to smallholder farmers, trains vets and helps to manage forests in Eastern Africa. Communities are helped to shed the yoke of dependency, farm and learn self-support/reliance, grow in self-esteem and become their own guarantee for continued existence and well-being. Adam looks to raise £2000 for FARM-Africa. You can help him keep pace with that target by donating securely on line at [www.justgiving.com/adamkw](http://www.justgiving.com/adamkw). No amount is too small.

## Hearty Congratulations!

Cheery Dinah McLaughlin of St Peter's (Winchester) has been awarded the Benemerenti Medal, instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 for conferment on



Dinah McLaughlin with her Benemerenti Medal with its ribbon in the Papal colours

those exhibiting 'long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community'. Commenting on her award, given for her services across a range of activities (including but far from restricted to Child Protection, Catholic Woman's League, the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal ...), Dinah's humility came fully to the fore: 'I am truly delighted and sincerely grateful. But I am mindful of so many others, so many unsung heroes. It is with them in mind that I shall treasure this award.'

## Sister Stanislaus celebrates 90th birthday and award of Diocesan Medal

Beloved Sister Stanislaus 'Stan' Kelly, headteacher at the Marist Preparatory School 1971 - 1989, celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday 29th November. Recognising her years of service to the Marist Sisters and the Marist Schools, the Diocese of Portsmouth awarded Sister Stan a Diocesan medal.



Photo left to right: Mrs Jenny Peachey, Sr. Stan, Mr Karl McCloskey

Mrs Jenny Peachey, current headteacher at the Marist Preparatory School, said: 'Sister Stan is still a very much loved member of the school community and all the children adore her.' Mr Karl McCloskey, headteacher at the Marist Senior School added: 'Sister Stan is cherished by all. She is truly a living legend.'

## LITTLE BOXES ... everywhere! The 2008 Christmas shoe-box appeal seems to have sparked an incredible response:

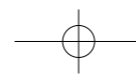
Shoe-shop owners in Portsmouth were shrugging their shoulders, 'Sorry, we haven't got any boxes left. Pupils from Corpus Christi and St Edmund's schools have cleaned us out!'

Parishioners from St Boniface in Southampton joined with senior residents of Oakley Court in response to a Rotary International appeal to cram all manner of goodies into 350 shoeboxes for youngsters of all ages living in orphanages, children's

homes and hospitals in impoverished and developing countries.

Not that the boys at the De La Salle Primary School in Jersey were going to be left behind. Peter Murray, their Headteacher, commented, 'It's a privilege to support the Mustard Seed Appeal. The boys really enjoyed filling their boxes with toys and games as well as the practical things like toothpaste and soap for children overseas. What a brilliant idea!'

- 1: Pupils in Portsmouth with some of the 261 shoeboxes they prepared for Operation Christmas Child. Photograph: Emma Devine
- 2: Maurice Geary and Carole Olding sorting shoeboxes in Southampton. Photograph: Tom Olding
- 3 & 4: The boxing boys of De La Salle Primary School in Jersey with some of the 150 boxes they prepared.



### Three exceptional parishioners

On November 23rd 2008 parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy and St Joseph in Lymington gathered to see three much-loved friends awarded for their service and loyalty to the Church.

Peter Cooper received the Diocesan Medal in recognition of a lifetime of commitment and service to the parish community, expressed in many different ways.

Cathy Pickles also received the Diocesan Medal in recognition of her involvement in

parish life, at the old Deanery level, and for many years as a rep on the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Peggy Walsh, one of the senior parishioners, whose voice still sings out beautifully in the choir, was awarded the Papal Benemerenti Medal. Peggy has devoted her whole life to the service of the Church. As a young woman she was the housekeeper to Rev Abraham Jacob until he died in 1990.



Fr Jamie McGrath pictured with (L to R), Cathy Pickles, Peggy Walsh and Peter Cooper



Tom Cox representing one of the thirteen groups to benefit from the Holy Cross and St. Swithun Wells Wishing Well, the Covenant with the Poor project

### Wishing Well Winners!

which started in 1997, is seen accompanied by Tina Fagan and being presented with a cheque by Fr. Michael Dennehy. Over the past twelve years, parishioners have raised money to support many local groups promoting care and justice in the Eastleigh area. The fund grows throughout the year and nothing is too small as every little has helped to raise the £6,800 shared amongst 13 local groups. Among the groups receiving cheques at the 2008

Presentations were: Open Sight, Home Portage, HighField House, Eastleigh Bereavement Service, Bishopstoke Good Neighbours Scheme, Eastleigh Friends, The Carers Centre, QEII Evening Club, Home Start, The Deaf Children's Society, Wyvern Lunch Club, Access Club and Faith & Light, Eastleigh.

'We are delighted to be able to make a difference to groups in our local area,' said Carole Clarke who coordinates the Wishing Well fundraising team. 'The parish wants to reach out to our 'neighbours', to brighten their lives and help groups that make a difference to so many people'.

### Faith Food Appeal at BHFCs



6th Form students outside Asda in Tilehurst

Once back in school after the half-term break in November, students at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School set to work to support FAITH, a cross-denominational Christian charity helping the poor and homeless in Reading. Each Christmas FAITH collects and delivers food to people on low incomes for whom Christmas can be a miserable time.

Each pupil was asked to buy and bring in one or more items of food. Each tutor group was asked to fill a collecting box and most classes managed two boxes. At the weekend, 6th Form students asked shoppers at Asda in Tilehurst to donate food items for the collection. Sophie Gooding, Year 8 said: 'It was good to get involved and feel that I have helped other people'. Another Yr 8 student Cai Matthews said: 'I thought it was a good thing to do as, coming up to Christmas, some people do not have much extra food'.

### Dressed up, Singing and Collecting for Good Causes



Brigidine School in Windsor has been getting into gear during the school's first year with Elizabeth Robinson, Headmistress (pictured) as Head of Juniors and their Music teacher, Mrs Sarah Whittaker.

entertaining shoppers at the Windsor Farm Shop where they sang both traditional carols and modern Christmas songs. They were accompanied by Mrs Elizabeth Robinson, Headmistress of Brigidine, Mrs Thalia Milton, Assistant Head - Head of Juniors and their Music teacher, Mrs Sarah Whittaker.

Supporting the national initiative of the Girls School Association, girls and boys (in the junior school) made outfits out of recycled materials. A competition was held for the junior and senior school, judged by Sandy Davies - Head of Textiles. Winners included Lizzie Jane Stevens (9 yrs) and Emily Slatter (11 yrs).

Shortly before Christmas twenty-six juniors raised £200 for Shelter by

Brigidine School, with boys from the age of 2 - 7 and girls 2 - 18, is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. Part of the celebrations include renewed focus on the school's charitable work which includes support for the Medaille Trust. Named after the French founder of an order of nuns caring for women on the streets, in prostitution and in poverty, the trust has been set up by a small group including one of the Governors of Brigidine School, Sister Mary Patricia Mulhall.



Lizzie Jane Stevens Emily Slatter (foreground)



## Chicago! My kinda town ...

### Liz Slinn reports on the Chicago conference

Last October twenty-seven of us jetted off to the wonderful city of Chicago for the International Catholic Stewardship Conference. We came from all over the Diocese, part of a world-wide contingent of some two thousand delegates to find out what this 'Stewardship' thing was all about.

Sunday saw the start of the Conference. We began with a Liturgy of the Hours and, as at the end of each day, we then rushed up the 'Magnificent Mile', ignoring the shops, for Mass at the Holy Name Cathedral with its stunning ceiling, only newly renovated. A dozen or so Bishops and several dozen Clergy from all over the world concelebrating Mass every day of the Conference was a magnificent sight to see. The following two days were spent mostly in workshops. We had around fifty to choose from but each of us had only time to attend eight.

'Renewal' was the message, reflecting our own plan to 'Go Out and Bear Fruit'. Find the charisms, talents and gifts of the individual members of this Body of Christ to which we all belong and His body, the Church, will be renewed with energy and Fruits of the Spirit.

I had gone to America on the understanding that 'they' had taken to Stewardship easily and that the Church had been transformed, North Americans being more open to some of the concepts. I came away knowing that, in the areas we heard about, the local Church Communities had certainly seen a change. But it hadn't all been easy. My favourite story was that of a Church in Alaska as told to us by a rather feisty lady. The Parish where she worked had long 'flat lined' in terms of Mass



Chummy Chat in Chicago with (L to R) Rev Bruce Barnes, Catherine Hargaden and Rev Mgr Tom McGrath

attendance and giving. She had recruited volunteers and begun an arduous year of visiting and listening. There happened to be a sizeable Samoan community in the parish. Each Sunday the Samoans would arrive as Mass began and leave the moment it was over. It wasn't until the Samoans were visited at home that people realised that the Samoan adults had not received any catechesis: they felt marginalised. So a programme was put in place culminating in a joyful First Communion celebration presided over by the Archbishop. The Samoan community then formed a choir, which received State press coverage, and even led working parties to repair, renovate and clean the Church and grounds. Giving has now increased in the Parish and there's no longer any need to dip into the capital monies to pay the bills. Energy, hard work and love had energised people, transformed the church and achieved greater social inclusion.

It was on the way home in the minibus that an Eastleigh delegate said: 'Each community needs an integrated plan of, say, three or four things. This could involve prayer, discernment, visiting, welcoming, giving ... whatever feels right and manageable for that specific community.'

The diversity of the Chicago skyline illustrates the beauty and energy to be created when talents, gifts, hopes and dreams are brought together. By the same token those of us who attended the Chicago Conference returned with thoughts and ideas born of an experience enriched by talks, prayer and the joy of getting to know each other, all of us now keen to energise our communities and advance the work of our Diocese as part of the Universal Church.

Liz Slinn from Hampshire Downs Parish is a Diocesan Trustee and member of the Trustee's Stewardship Committee.

### Burma Orphanage Appeal



The Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst continues to help with building an orphanage in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma).

The shell of the building is now complete, as will be seen from the photograph, but to finish the work a further £10,000 is required.

Owing to conditions in the area caused by the cyclone, children are already living in the unfinished building. Contributions please, payable to Burma Orphanage Appeal, to: The Parish Office, Church of the Immaculate Conception, 63-67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 9BS.

FEATURE

FEATURE



## Just for Juniors

*'You are precious to me and I love you'* Isaiah 43:4

### 1: JUMBLIES

See if you can rearrange the following sets of letters to make well-known words:

- 1: Teaser 2: Lanced 3: Bit maps 4: Fine on socs 5: Ripest

You'll find the answers in News and Announcements

### 2: VOCABULARY COMPETITION

See how many words you make out of the letters in the word:

#### CHRISTIANITY

Your words can be as long or as short as you like providing they are proper words and you don't use more letters than the 12 letters you are given.

### 3: CODEBREAKERS!

Crack the code to find the names of these three people:

**NPTFT KVEBT KPIO**

You'll find the answers in News and Announcements



Adam says:  
*'If you're out with someone, perhaps at the shops, and you get separated from them and you don't have mobiles, you should go straight back to the place you last saw them. They should do the same.'*

### 4: WORD SOUP

Reading from left to right, top to bottom and diagonally downwards from left to right, how many words can you pick out of the soup?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | R | M | B | I | B | L | E | L | S | I | S | T | E | R |
| S | J | G | I | R | A | T | E | A | D | D | A | A | T | E |
| H | E | F | S | O | H | O | L | Y | D | A | Y | L | D | A |
| M | S | E | H | S | O | C | U | R | E | D | A | T | I | D |
| I | U | A | O | A | S | H | C | T | P | E | W | A | S | E |
| N | S | S | P | R | T | A | H | O | A | A | R | C | R | R |
| I | N | T | O | Y | S | L | U | R | P | N | Y | O | I | T |
| S | B | D | C | H | O | I | R | E | E | U | E | P | L | L |
| T | E | A | M | B | I | C | A | R | R | A | N | L | E | E |
| E | I | Y | Y | U | L | E | H | O | L | Y | U | P | E | N |
| R | Y | C | A | N | T | S | A | C | R | A | M | E | N | T |
| W | O | R | K | R | O | L | L | W | E | A | A | N | A | E |
| A | G | O | D | T | N | I | B | I | A | L | L | M | V | N |
| T | A | S | K | I | O | P | E | N | P | R | O | B | E | S |
| G | O | S | P | E | L | K | N | E | E | L | T | O | W | N |

To score up to 25 is Very Good, 26 to 50 is Excellent, 51 to 75 is Outstanding, 75 and above ... you're a Genius!

## BOOKMARK

### 'Deeply religious non-believer' issues new riposte to Dawkins



An 'obscure layman', as he calls himself, has published a forceful book-length riposte to Richard Dawkins's controversial best-seller *The God Delusion* which claimed to show that God 'almost certainly' does not exist.

Dr Roger Fallon, 50, works as a publications officer at the University of Hull and is neither a scientist nor a theologian (hence a 'layman' in two senses). He was so vexed by the eminent biologist's 'provocations' - including his 'messianic pretensions' - that he wrote his entire book, *Is Richard Dawkins the New Messiah? A Layman's Critique of 'The God Delusion'*, in his spare time over just three feverish months.

Dr Fallon takes his cue from Albert Einstein, who called himself 'a deeply religious non-believer'. Like Einstein, he believes that true religion has little to do with the myths and superstitions which have traditionally accompanied the great established faiths. To this extent he is happy to concur with some of Dawkins's arguments, especially those directed against literal-minded fundamentalist believers in a

miracle-working personal God. Also like Einstein, however, he is keen to defend the 'reasonableness' of religious faith as such - stripped of all superstitious baggage - and to refute the 'coldly scientific' and 'inhuman' world-view of *The God Delusion*.

He complains that Dawkins fails to respect - or indeed to understand - Einstein's distinction between true (rational) and false (irrational) God-belief, focusing all his 'atheological artillery' on the self-evidently implausible deity that Einstein rejected. 'The trouble is that Dawkins is as literal-minded about God as the religious fundamentalists,' said Dr Fallon. 'Trying to disprove the existence of God by scientifically dissecting the physical universe is like trying to disprove the existence of love by taking a scalpel to the human heart.'

He hopes that his book will interest all readers of *The God Delusion* - for and against - and that his analysis of Dawkins's atheological fallacies will be welcomed as further confirmation of what Einstein believed: that science and religion, both properly understood, are not and need not be enemies.

*Is Richard Dawkins the New Messiah? A Layman's Critique of The God Delusion*, by R. J. Fallon, is published by EKA Books of Hull, through Lulu.com, at £19.99 (hardcover) or £6.25 (download). 274 pp. ISBN 978-0-9559804-0-4.

### HELP STARTS FROM LOVE

#### Lynda Mussel of Cafod reports

As the New Year breaks and we are bombarded with images of horror on our television screens and in our newspapers, it is hard to find any stories of hope and love across our troubled world.

But in a tiny courtyard, thousands of miles away in Cambodia, a family of thirteen happily prepares a meal together against all odds, having lived through difficulties beyond our comprehension.

19-year-old Leaph pours a landslide of rice into a vat of bubbling water and fries fish and frogs legs on a stove. Beside him, 16-year-old Somphea is grinding chilli flakes, spring onion and oil to make a sauce. Kim, 12, dashes in and out of the yard with cutlery, plates and glasses.

Standing in the doorway, Phalla looks proudly at her busy children. A mother to five of her own and eight foster children, she's happiest when surrounded by her family. It's not always easy - escalating food prices in Cambodia have stretched their budget to breaking point - but Phalla wouldn't have it any other way. 'I manage this big family with love from the bottom of my heart,' she says.

All the children that Phalla fosters have been orphaned by AIDS. All have harrowing stories to tell.

Leaph brought his father to Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, for medical treatment. Distraught and penniless, he begged for money to pay the hospital fees. After his father died,



CAFOD/Annie Bungeerth. Phalla's family enjoy lunch together.

Leaph had to fend for himself in a city he didn't know. Somphea left school to care for her mother, nursing her until she passed away. Kim worked in a market selling vegetables to support her parents when they were ill. When they died, she was just ten years old.

Phalla also knows what it is like to lose loved ones. Under the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, her father, a businessman, became a target. In 1975, soldiers broke into his home and executed the entire family - all except Phalla. In the years after, she was imprisoned, tortured, and spent more than a decade in a refugee camp.

Since then, Phalla and her husband Yoeun have committed their lives to helping children with no family and no home. As well as looking after her family, Phalla also works for Maryknoll, a Catholic charity funded by CAFOD. Maryknoll provides shelter, medical treatment, food, education and training for people affected by HIV and AIDS. In Cambodia - a country where some 75,000 are HIV positive and the government is simply not doing enough - it provides a vital, often life-saving, service.

Phalla and her family are helping to pioneer the way for others - with Maryknoll's support. 'Maryknoll gives me an allowance to buy extra food, clothes, medicines and all the things that my foster children need. It is still a big commitment to make, but this eases the financial burden,' explains Phalla.

As they tuck into lunch, sitting in a circle on the floor, the room is filled with the sound of laughter and the clatter of eating. 'Having my family together like this makes everything worthwhile,' says Phalla. 'I have learnt many hard lessons in my life and seen cruelty beyond words. But a positive aspect of this experience is my understanding of how people should be helped. Help starts from love. It's as simple as that.'

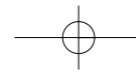
This Fast Day (Friday 6 March 2009), CAFOD asks us all to stand in solidarity with Phalla and her family and remember them in our prayers. Without supporters' very generous donations from this diocese, this work would not be possible.

For further information, please go to

[www.cafod.org.uk/fastday](http://www.cafod.org.uk/fastday)  
CAFOD Portsmouth will be holding a special Fast Day Mass on 6 March at St Mary's, Belle Vue Road, Aldershot at 7pm. All are welcome.



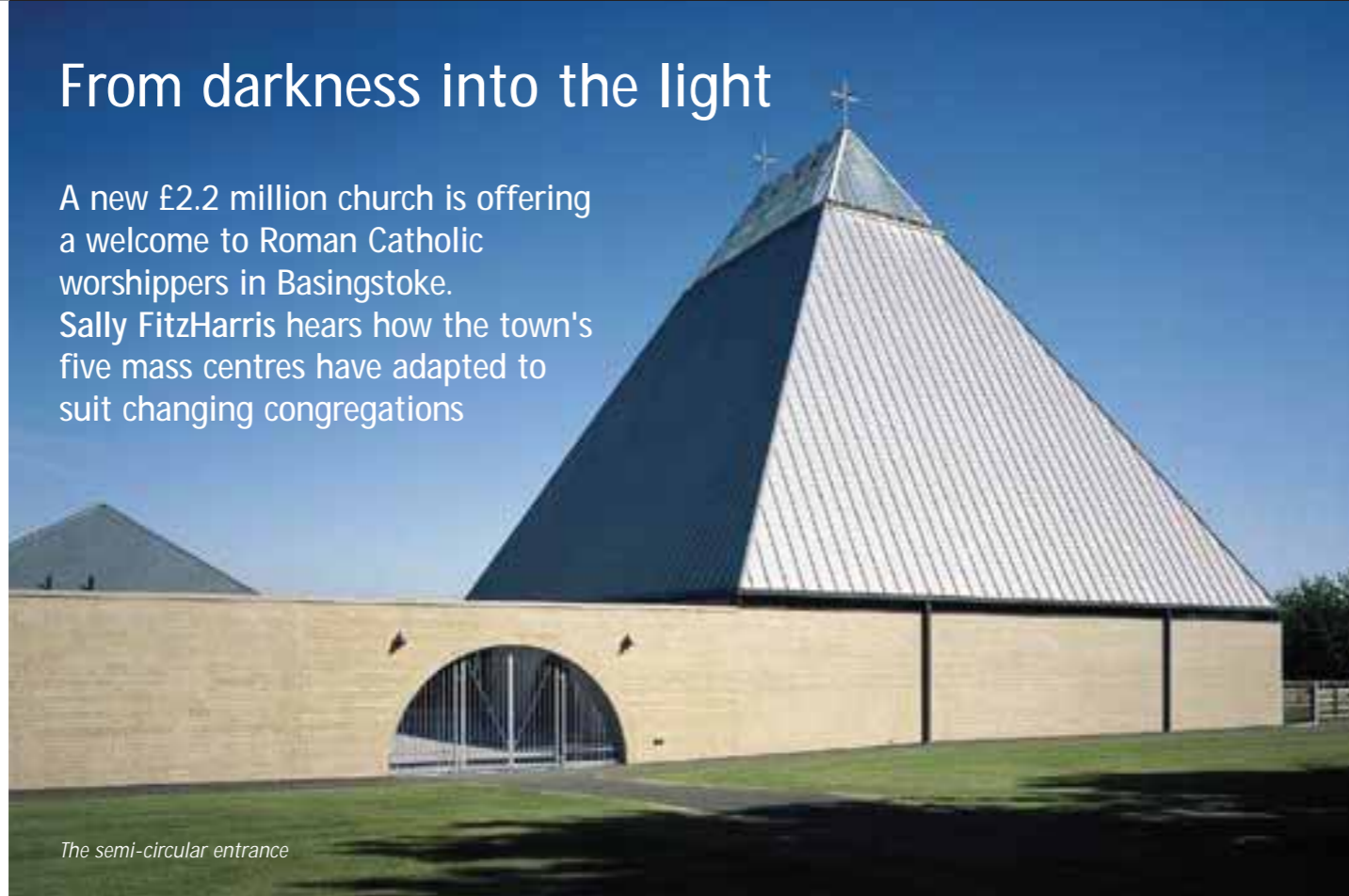
Lynda Mussel is a member of the CAFOD Portsmouth Diocesan Team based at St. Mary's Church, Belle Vue Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 4RX  
t: 01252 329 385  
m: 07920 586 912  
e: [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk)



FEATURE

# From darkness into the light

A new £2.2 million church is offering a welcome to Roman Catholic worshippers in Basingstoke. Sally FitzHarris hears how the town's five mass centres have adapted to suit changing congregations



The semi-circular entrance

FEATURE

St Paul's was redesigned in 1956. It is now a Grade-II listed building,' Mr Bell says. 'There was a lot of forward thinking then, both in this country and Europe. After the war, building materials were hard to come by, so people were trying to find beauty in simplicity.' Mr Maguire and Mr Bell worked together on the original drawings for St Bede's: 'It was Bob [Maguire]'s idea to have a rectangular church with a pyramidal roof and this cone of light,' explains Mr Bell. 'After the initial concept, he retired, and I carried on. One of Bob's rules was consistency. You see that in our materials: slate floor, white walls, maple pews and chairs, clear glass around the lectern, and stainless steel sculpture.' Mr Maguire was also responsible for much of the fine detailed furnishings.

'We have developed a theology of simplicity. The dark and cluttered Victorian Gothic church is loved by many because they can almost enclose themselves into a God-focused cocoon, and it makes them feel good. We don't, in

out everything about the church building that was superfluous to its faith, and in concentrating our minds on the few essentials,' says Mr Bell. He lists these as: altar, 'the focal point of the entire space'; the baptismal pool and font, sited symbolically at the entrance, 'because the water washes you clean of sin and gives access to the Kingdom of Heaven'; the lectern, 'the place of the Word'; and the sacrament house.

This last is perhaps the most radical change for some parishioners. Yet, like the baptismal pool, it also reverts to an older concept. The sacrament house has been renamed and re-sited: visible as you enter the church, it is placed within an apse, built into a modern sculpture depicting the Burning Bush, an elegant design of flamed stainless steel.

'The word 'tabernacle' basically denotes a safe,' says Fr Griffiths. 'But 'sacrament house' suggests something creative, which makes a statement . . . you have put time into thinking about it. Current liturgical legislation says the Blessed

crucifixion: it's Christ saying: 'I've done it.' . . . it's victorious. I did not want a dead body. We satisfied Catholic regulations by designing a processional cross which is an actual crucifix.'

MR BELL was given a budget of £2.2 million. The finished building - which comprises an entrance courtyard with fountain and trees, simple lean-to cloister on two sides, church hall, offices, and sacristy - came in under budget. 'The entire church was extremely economical in terms of construction cost,' he says. 'While the outside walls look like York stone, they are concrete-block sandblasted, which gives the warm appearance. Inside, they are simply rendered blockwork. The dark-grey floor has the appearance of slate, but is made from inexpensive tiles.'

The new church replaces five mass centres. Besides the Church of the Holy Ghost, masses have been held in the adjacent primary school, two Anglican churches, and a Baptist chapel. The number of priests has dropped from three to two, and now Fr Harvey will serve a growing parish on his own.

Popley Way, on the northern edge of Basingstoke, has a new landmark, a pyramidal building that rises to a height of 22 metres. The walls are the colour of Cotswold stone, and the roof, of lead-coloured stainless steel, is topped with glass. Twin crosses denote the new Roman Catholic church of St Bede, which was consecrated on 27 May. Inside are clear walls, clean lines, pale colours, and a space that can seat more than 500.

'It's a lovely modern church,' says one parishioner after the 11 o'clock mass, 'but I don't like modern churches.'

The logistics of an expanding parish have made the Church of the Holy Ghost in Basingstoke redundant as the main mass centre. Designed by Canon Scoles SJ, it was built in 1902, in Early English Gothic style. With its rich decoration, painted ceilings, and stained glass, it is, for many, an interior that typifies the sacred.

'There was a lot of anger to begin with,' says Mgr Vincent Harvey, the parish priest, 'when people thought we were going to close down the Holy Ghost or sell it. . . The initial consultation was a painful period.'



Space age: the modern church interior of St Bede's



Exterior view: the courtyard



Design feature: the altar with Peter Ball's figure of Christ

The Church of the Holy Ghost remains open for some services. But some are still struggling to get used to the plainness, light, and space of their new church, says the architect, Jeremy Bell. Mr Bell's home church is Anglican, but he has studied Roman Catholic theology and its influence on church architecture.

He describes the design as being rooted in the Liturgical Movement of the 20th century, and its questioning of the physical separation of priest and people that characterised earlier periods. The altar is brought in among the people, so that they are gathered around the table, he says.

'The priest used to have his back to the people, and speak to the east window - to the transcendent God beyond it. But now God immanent is in the middle of the people. . . I come from a wing of the Church where God immanent is a reality.'

Mr Bell worked for many years with Robert Maguire, who was famous for designing St Paul's, Bow Common, in the East End of London, after its partial destruction in the Blitz. Mr Maguire was then unconventional in placing the altar in the centre of the church, and constructing a central glass roof so that the building was flooded with light.

any way, want to remove from them the spiritual benefit of that, but the opportunity of worshipping as one body, rather than as an individual, is missed. 'This design is not just for the sake of modernism: it is for the sake of being the unified Body of Christ. Where a group of individuals are indulging in simultaneous acts of private devotion, the Church is a conglomerate, rather than a metamorphosis.'

Decisions about the church building were taken after consultation with Canon Alan Griffiths, Liturgical Buildings Adviser for the Roman Catholic diocese of Portsmouth. 'He was ruthless in editing

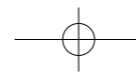
Sacrament should not be reserved upon an altar, but set apart in a place for prayer, and also be prominent in the church interior. In medieval churches, it was often kept in a special shrine, unrelated to the altar.'

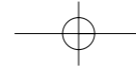
Another feature that breaks new ground for the congregation is the crucified figure that hangs behind the altar. It has been made from a railway sleeper, wood, copper, and paint by Peter Eugene Ball. 'We contacted the artist because we admired a similar work of his in Winchester Cathedral,' says Mr Bell. 'I wanted this figure where the resurrection was evident in the

A far-sighted priest, Fr Tom Grufferty, foresaw this 15 years ago, as Basingstoke was expanding with a large immigrant community. Fr Grufferty made the decision to sell land the church had acquired in the 1960s, while retaining a plot for building. Both funds and land were available for the new project, so the church did not have to seek funding from the Lottery, or other sources.

For Mr Bell and his new firm, JBKS Architects, St Bede's has been its first significant commission since they ceased trading as Maguire and Co. They are currently designing two other new churches. Much of their work is in re-ordering churches, often with the aim of enhancing the effects of light and space. 'There need be no crisis. This is an opportunity,' Mr Bell wrote in his initial design statement for the new church. Bede himself, who saw Christianity as a unifying force for the diverse races in the British Isles, might like both the unity of design, and its single welcome for an expanding parish.

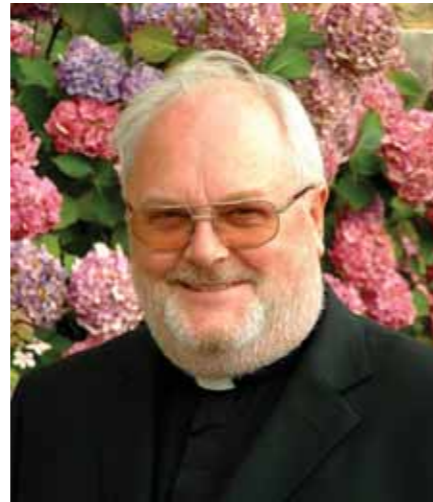
Sally FitzHarris is a freelance writer. This article is reproduced from Church Times with the kind permission of Paul Handley, Editor.





FEATURE

# Spring Again



Fr Denis Blackledge

Loving Lord,  
I'm fed up with New Year resolutions  
as I never get round to keeping them.  
And here we are with Ash Wednesday  
on its way and facing the prospect of  
Lent.  
Aren't I supposed to be making  
resolutions for Lent too?

Help me, Lord,  
to see more clearly how to cope with  
this seemingly endless problem  
of my inability to keep promises  
made with all good intention to you.

So I listened, and I listened deep.  
And then the Loving Lord came up  
with an answer that fairly startled me.  
He told me that I needn't bother  
about resolutions at all if all they were  
doing was to put more distance into  
our relationship.

He told me he wasn't bothered one bit  
about a pile of goodness I could heap  
at his feet.

Nor for that matter a pile of badness.  
He told me deep within me that he's  
only interested in me as a unique  
individual with unique gifts and with a  
unique blend of wonder and wounds.

Now I found this hard to take at first  
because I'm so used to making demands  
on myself.

I'm so used to thinking of religion  
as an obstacle course rather than as a  
relationship with the living, loving  
Father and Mother God whose only  
concern is me -  
not me as a task, but me as a person.

That new understanding fairly gives me  
a new lift and helps me to see Lent for  
what it really is.

After all, Lent simply means Spring.

Given this new insight which  
the Loving Lord has whispered quietly  
into my mind and heart it gives me new  
hope, new vision, new encouragement  
to face this spring.

I can fairly spring into Lent if all I have  
to do is to let myself be loved by such a  
wonderfully freeing God.

So I'm not thinking any more in terms  
of giving up things, because I only end  
up giving up on myself.

This Lent I've got a resolution to end all  
resolutions.

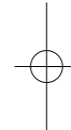
A revolutionary resolution, you might  
say,  
and rightly.

I'm just going to let myself lean up  
against that comforting thought  
that all the Loving Lord is asking of me  
is, in his words, to  
Let me love you.

Happy New Lent!

*Fr Denis Blackledge SJ is Parish Priest,  
Corpus Christi Boscombe and Pastoral  
Co-ordinator, Bournemouth*

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## If

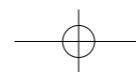
If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

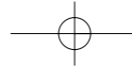
If you can dream - and not make dreams your master,  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: Hold on!

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

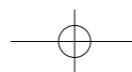
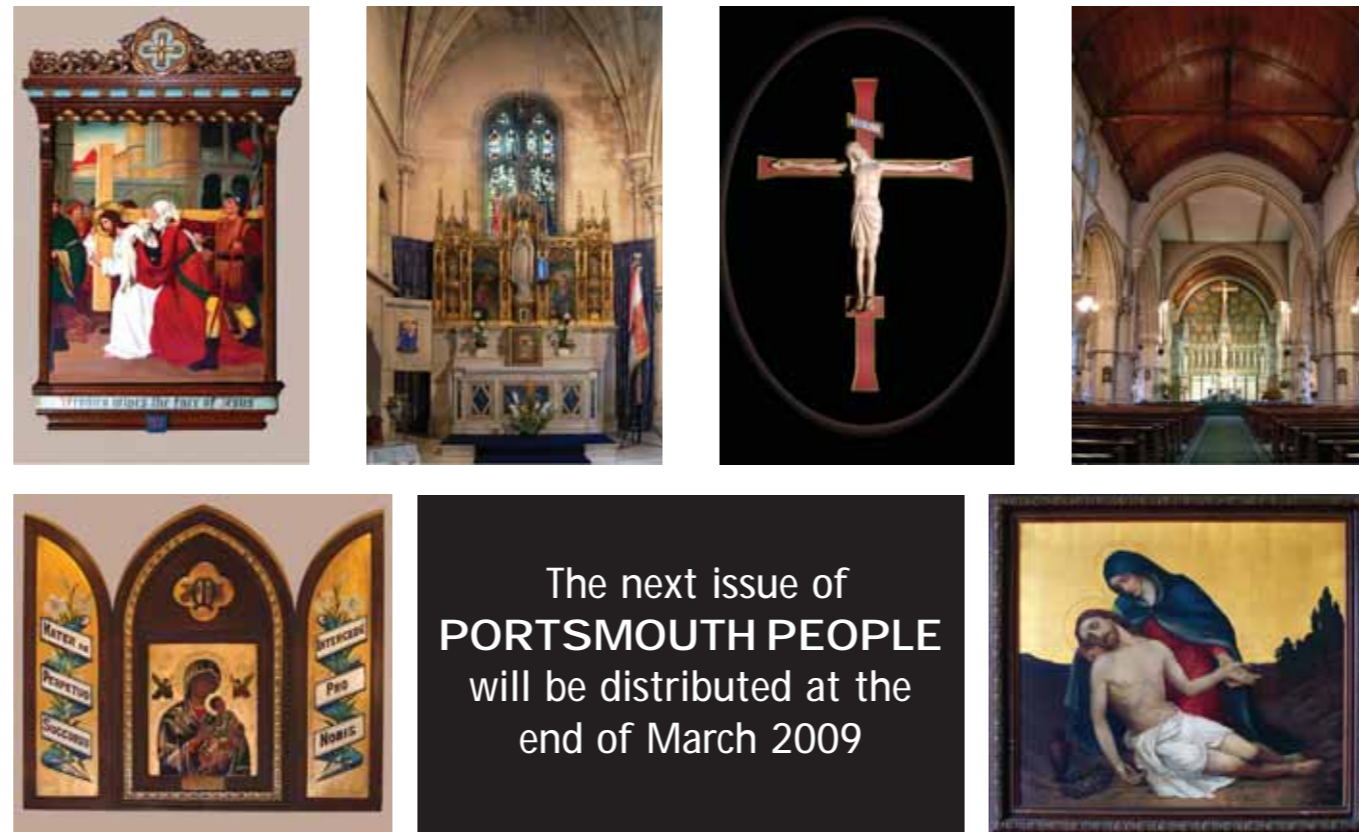
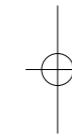
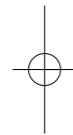
Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

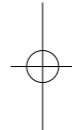
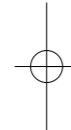
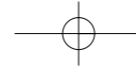




# CHURCH IN FOCUS

With this issue we look at the Church of The Sacred Heart,  
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