

# Conference to aid estate project

**GREEN-MINDED Isle of Wight Christians will support a new project to reduce the impact a Newport estate has on the environment.**

They will do so as part of an environmental conference on the Isle of Wight - entitled 'Our Earth, Our Destiny'. It will take place between November 28-30, 12 months after a similar conference on the mainland organised by our diocese.

The weekend conference will include an event to promote environmental awareness on the Pan Estate in Newport at 7pm on November 29.

The conference will also

involve the return of Sir Ghillean Prance, scientific director of the Eden Project in Cornwall and former director of Kew Gardens.

He came to last year's diocesan environmental conference and impressed churchgoers, campaigners and dignitaries with an informed and challenging lecture at the University of Portsmouth.

He will see green projects along the Medina Valley on the morning of November 29, and give a lecture at 2pm that afternoon at Ventnor Botanic Gardens to members of the Isle of Wight Natural History Society and other guests.

On the previous day he will meet island sixth-formers at Medina High School, then meet professionals, council officials and

interest groups concerned with green issues - they will consider the total impact that the Isle of Wight has on the environment.

And the final event of the conference will be a celebration of creation outside St Thomas's Church in Newport on November 30 at 10.30am.

Conference organiser, Canon Stephen Palmer, the bishop's adviser on ecology, said: "We are very privileged to have Ghillean Prance with us on the island.

"Those who heard him last year cannot fail to have been impressed with the breadth of his knowledge and his enthusiasm for the subject.

"We will be visiting the Pan Estate on the Saturday night of the



Sir Ghillean Prance

conference to see what is actually happening on the ground to reduce the environmental impact that we island residents create. It's fine to talk about these things. What's needed is action, and we hope to see that happening."

The conference has been jointly sponsored by the Medina Valley Centre, the Isle of Wight Council, the Environment Agency and Newport Parish Church.

## Can you feel God calling?

DO you think you have what it takes to work full-time for the Church? Do you feel God leading you in that direction?

If so, you may want to meet others seeking to discern whether they have such a vocation - and to meet those already doing such jobs.

Our diocese's vocations group is holding an event entitled 'Exploring God's Call' from 10am-12.30pm on July 12 at Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth. Among those you can talk to will be a parish priest, a deacon, a non-stipendiary (unpaid) minister, a nun, a Reader, a Church Army captain and an overseas mission partner.

Anyone who would like to attend should contact the vocations group chairman, the Rev Peter Kelly on 01489-892105.

## Rock around the flock

COMMUNION will be celebrated amid screeching guitars, multi-coloured lights and digital images this month.

St John's Church in Church Road, Locks Heath, is hosting a Rock Communion service at 6.30pm on July 20.

It will involve a sound system, coloured lights, projected images and the text of the service displayed digitally to create a unique atmosphere for the service.

Entitled 'Margins of Eternity', the music has been written by vicar and guitarist the Rev Ian Wills, healing adviser for the Bristol diocese. He has recorded backing tracks onto a CD, but will play his electric guitar live on the night.

The vicar of St John's, the Rev Peter Ingrams, will celebrate Communion, using the normal words from *Common Worship*. The Rev Barry Dugmore, curate at St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain, will lead the singing with musicians from Locks Heath.

Ian and Peter originally held Rock Communion services in Bristol last February. Around 100 people attended each of two such services.

"Despite my fears for older member of the congregation, everyone who came was enthusiastic about this new way of celebrating the



The Rev Ian Wills will help lead the setting he has written

Eucharist," said Ian.

"Not only did people find it a genuine act of worship, prayer, and sacrament, but they also enjoyed the atmosphere and the music. People from 12 to 80 sang, clapped and danced and celebrated their faith in a moving and powerful time of worship."

And Peter said: "During this year we have been exploring the theme: 'Worship: Making

Connections'. The Rock Communion is another event to explore varied forms of worship and to ask how we connect to God and each other.

"Attending the launch of this setting in Bristol, I shared jiving worship with grannies and teenagers."

For more information, contact him on 01489-572497 or office@stjohnslocksheath.freemove.co.uk

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