

Open-air day to celebrate unity

HUNDREDS of worshippers from across the Petersfield area will join together for a day of celebration this month.

Congregations in the Petersfield deanery will cancel their own services so they can take part in a day of workshops and worship, culminating in an open-air Eucharist.

It will take place on Sunday 13 July between 10.30am and 4pm at Churcher's College in Petersfield. The theme will be 'Following Jesus - A Way of Life'.

Among the workshops on offer will be spirituality, social responsibility, rural issues and mission - led by the diocesan advisers in all those subjects. There will also be sessions on Iona worship and using hand-held

puppets, as well a presentation by a deanery group who will just have returned from Ghana.

The Eucharist service, which will begin at 3pm, will be led by the rural dean, the Rev April Richards.

The Archdeacon of the Meon, the Ven Peter Hancock, will preach, and Top Cat Theatre Company will premiere a specially-written sketch featuring the giant puppets used in last summer's Diocesan Eucharist.

There will also be a separate programme for children, led by former diocesan youth and children's work adviser the Rev Karina Green, and a parallel series of workshops for young people, led by youth worker Alec Gill and curates the Revs Toby Wright and David Stickland.

One of the organisers, the Rev Ann Leonard, rural dean's assistant

and diocesan ecumenical adviser, said: "It's the second time that the deanery has done something like this. My predecessor organised something similar and it was such a success that we wanted to do it again.

"It's open to Christians from elsewhere and from other denominations - in fact the congregation of St George's, Portsea, will all come because they have a link with Steep parish.

"We're hoping that the children will also have a separate programme during the start of the Eucharist, and that they will come in as we start to share the peace with one another."

Anyone who is interested in being a steward, musician, singer or stage-hand on the day should contact Ann on 01730-893173.

Make your video while offer holds

PARISHES are being urged to take advantage of a cheap way of having videos made - before the system changes.

Our diocesan video project manager, the Rev Stuart Cleaver, is currently being subsidised to produce six half-hour videos a year.

Under this system, each parish or diocesan body pays just £100 for the creation of a video - which can then be sold to visitors, given away to newcomers or played on a continuous loop inside church.

Among the subjects covered so far are: parishes' Stepping Out projects for 2002; a welcome to the villages of Soberton and Newtown; a recruitment video to encourage people to think about becoming Readers; and a reflective video of soothing images and music for residents at the Rowans Hospice in



The Rev Stuart Cleaver: available for video projects

Purbrook.

However, this subsidy will run out soon, and parishes will shortly be charged a fee closer to the commercial rate for such videos. Diocesan subsidies will still be available, but will vary depending on the wealth of the parish.

Parishes can contact him on 023-9226 2277 or cleaver@crest99.freemove.co.uk.

Churchyard extended



Bishop Kenneth with (left) the Lord Mayor of Havant, Cllr Hilary Farrow, and (right) Dennis and Jean Edwards

HAYLING Islanders can now bury their loved ones in the church yard at St Mary's Church again after a plot of land was generously donated.

More than an acre of land was handed over by islanders Dennis and Jean Edwards so that the existing churchyard could be extended.

Bishop Kenneth consecrated the new 'Garden of Peace' in a ceremony outside the church in May. It will be an area for prayer and reflection as well as a burial ground.

The event was part of a series of events celebrating the church's 750th anniversary. A Priory Church was originally created on that spot by a Benedictine community in 1253.

This month, the history of the church will be told in music, light and drama nightly at 7.30pm from July 16-18.

The next event is a summer fete on August 13 hosted by all three Anglican churches on the island. Because of the anniversary, many of the stall-holders may wear period costumes.

School leavers gather at cathedral

CHILDREN and teachers from the 49 church schools across our diocese are to gather at Portsmouth Cathedral this month for their annual school leavers' service.

Bishop Kenneth will lead the service, which happens between

2pm and 3pm on Monday 7 July. All children who are leaving primary schools on the mainland, and leaving primary and middle schools on the Isle of Wight have been invited.

The service starts with the pupils parading their school banners,

followed by a service of music, drama, readings and prayers.

Teenagers from St Luke's C of E School in Southsea - our diocese's only church secondary school - will help with the running of the service.



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