

**Tuesday 1 July**

**PETERSFIELD, St Peter's Church, The Square (1pm):** *Lunchtime organ recital.* By Mark Dancer, director of music. Bring your own lunch. Coffee available. Free admission. Retiring collection. Also on **July 15**.

**Saturday 5 July**

**CARISBROOKE, The Vicarage, Clatterford Road (2pm-4pm):** *Summer fete.* Entry: 20p adults, children free.  
**PORTSMOUTH, St Margaret's Church, Highland Road, Eastney (7pm):** *Square Dance with American Supper.* Part of the church's 100th anniversary celebrations. Tickets: £4 from Janet Thompson (023-9275 1254).  
**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm):** *Gloria.* By the Renaissance Choir, conducted by Peter Gambia, with organ solos by David Price. Includes *Glorias* by Gabrieli, Victoria, Mozart, Vivaldi and Beethoven. Tickets: £10, £8 (concs), £2 (students) from 023-9278 9546.

**Sunday 6 July**

**SOUTHSEA, St Jude's Church, Kent Road (9.30am):** *Launchpad.* Children's service with drama, activities and songs. Theme: 'The Big Top, part 4: Elijah the Fire-eater'.  
**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (8pm):** *Concert.* Portsmouth Festival Choir and Romsey Choral Society with the Chameleon Arts Orchestra and soloists. Programme includes *Magnificat* by CPE Bach and *Mass in C Minor* by Mozart.

**Monday 7 July**

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (2pm):** *Diocesan school leavers' service.* See page 5 for details.  
**PORTSMOUTH, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Medina Avenue, Wymering (6.30pm-9pm):** *Churchwardens' training.* Contact: Liz Hodson (023-9282 2053).

**Tuesday 8 July**

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (2pm):** *Portsmouth Grammar School prize-giving.*

**Wednesday 9 July**

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (6pm):** *Farewell Evensong.* For the

Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Mervyn Banting, who is retiring.

**Thursday 10 July**

**SOUTHSEA, Church of the Holy Spirit, Fawcett Road (7.45pm):** *Concert.* Songs and dances from the 13th-16th centuries by the Lazy Lane Mynstrells and Wyndcliffe Voices. To celebrate the church's centenary. Retiring collection.

**Saturday 12 July**

**PORTSMOUTH, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street (10am-12.30pm):** *Exploring God's Call.* See page 3 for details.  
**LEE-ON-SOLENT: St Faith's church hall, Victoria Square (10am-2pm):** *Faith in the Middle East.* An exploration of origins and issues with the Rev Steve Wright, Anglican Chaplain in Kuwait, and Natalie Cook, volunteer in Cairo. Bring packed lunch. No charge, but retiring collection. Contact: Robin Green (01329 662113).  
**SOUTHSEA, St Peter's Church, Somers Road (1.30pm-4pm):** *Summer fair.* Grand raffle, tombola, cakes and flower stalls, children's clothes and refreshments available. Admission: 20p.

**Sunday 13 July**

**PETERSFIELD, Churchers' College (10.30am-4pm):** *Deanery day of celebration.* See page 5 for details.  
**NEWPORT, St Thomas's Church, St Thomas's Square (4pm):** *Farewell service.* For the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Mervyn Banting, who is retiring.  
**DENMEAD, All Saints Church, Hambledon Road (6pm):** *Concert.* By the Rodolfus Choir (past and present members of Eton Choral courses). Tickets (£7 including glass of wine), available on 023-9226 8565 or mike@bargem.freeserve.co.uk

**Wednesday 16 July**

**BOXGROVE, The Priory Church of St Mary and St Blaise (7.30pm):** *Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.* Joint meeting between Portsmouth and Chichester/Bognor chapter. Contact: Peter Keat (023-9258 2499).  
**HAYLING ISLAND, St Mary's Church, Church Road (7.30pm):** *A Historical Experience.* The story of St Mary's Church in music, light and drama. Nightly until **July 18.** Part of the church's 750th anniversary celebrations. Entry by free ticket. Contact: Angela Teesdale (023-9246 1166).

**Saturday 19 July**

**WOOTTON, The Rectory, Church Road**

(10am): *Fun Day.* Includes stalls, races, games and barbecue. To raise money for the St Mark's organ fund appeal.  
**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm):** *Concert.* By the Solent Symphony Orchestra.

**Sunday 20 July**

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am):** *Joint Eucharist.* Followed by wine reception and farewell to the precentor, Canon Gavin Kirk.  
**LANGRISH, Langrish House (2pm):** *Langrish Fete.* Cream teas, stalls, competitions, music from the steel band from St Paul's RC Primary, Paulsgrove. In aid of St John's Church.  
**LOCKS HEATH, St John's Church, Church Road (6.30pm):** *Rock Communion.* See page 3 for details.

**Tuesday 22 July**

**TOTLAND BAY, Christ Church, Alum Bay New Road (7.30pm):** *Organ concert.* By Nigel Ogden, presenter of BBC Radio 2's *The Organist Entertains.*

**Saturday 26 July**

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (9am-6pm):** *Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society Exhibition.* Until **August 8.**  
**SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (10am-4pm):** *Quiet Day.* Led by Sister Joanna Elizabeth SSB. Please bring a packed lunch. Soup and hot drinks provided. Cost: £5. Please ring 023-9283 3498 to let the Sisters know you are coming.  
**BOTLEY, Botley Market Hall (7pm):** *Snail Race Night.* Organised by All Saints Church. No live snails used - the snails will be on video! Tickets: £5 each (£15 for a family), including ploughman's supper from Beverley (01489-786164). Proceeds to church funds.

**Monday 28 July**

**LIPHOOK, Church Centre, Portsmouth Road (10am-12noon each day):** *Treasure Zone.* Holiday club based around reality TV show. Includes games, craft, music and fun for four to 11-year-olds. Until **Friday 1 August.** Contact: Alec Gill (01428-722259).

**Tuesday 29 July**

**HAMBLEDON, Hambledon Village Hall (10am-12.30pm):** *Seaside Rock.* Holiday club for children aged between five and 11. Run by St Peter and St Paul's Church. Until

**Friday 1 August.**  
**YAVERLAND, Yaverland Manor, Yaverland Road (2pm-4pm):** *Garden party.* Organised by St John the Baptist Church. Admission: 20p.



*The Ven Mervyn Banting (see: July 9 & 13)*

**September 19.**  
**DENMEAD, Community Centre, School Lane (9.30am-3.30pm daily):** *Denmead Activities and Bible School (DABS).* Holiday club. For children from Denmead only. Until **Friday 15 August.** See page 6 for details.  
**COWES, St James' Church, Well Road, East Cowes (10am-4pm daily; 6.30pm-8.30pm on Wednesday and Thursday):** *Isle of Wight Jigsaw Puzzle Festival.* Until **Saturday 16 August.** See page 4 for details.

**Wednesday 13 August**

**HAYLING ISLAND, Hayling Park and Community Centre, Station Road (12noon-4pm):** *Three churches summer fete.* Includes children's fancy dress competition, grand draw, sideshows and face-painting.

**Friday 15 August**

**PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (7.30pm):** *Patronal Festival.* Bung Mass. Former parish curate turned broadcaster, Canon Roger Royle, will preach.

**Saturday 23 August**

**WOOTTON, St Edmund's Church, Church Road (10am-4pm daily):** *Open Weekend.* Historical displays, video, opportunity to consult registers, log books and census returns. Refreshments, including home-made cakes. Until **August 25.**

*Would you like your parish events for September listed here and on our website (www.portsmouth.anglican.org)? Send details to: The Pompey Chimes, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street, Portsmouth, PO1 2HA by August 11. Please note: there is no August edition.*

**Friday 1 August**

**PORTSMOUTH, All Saints' Church, Commercial Road (7pm-9pm):** *Seminar based on The Wizard of Oz.* Continues on **Saturday 2 August.** See page 12 for details.

**Monday 4 August**

**COWES, Holy Trinity Church, Queens Road (10am-4pm daily):** *Exhibition of talents and flowers.* Refreshments available. Until **Saturday 9 August.** Also firework night on **Friday 8 August** from 7.30pm.

**Monday 11 August**

**PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (9am-6pm):** *Art and Sacred Places (Tabernacle) Exhibition.* Until



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**SOUTHSEA:** Following the purchase of a larger concert grand piano, St Jude's, Southsea, has two medium-sized grand pianos to sell. One is a Rogers 5ft 2in piano in good working order and tuned regularly. The casework is a little scratched, but nothing too serious. The other is a small Spencer 4ft 2in piano, again in good working order and tuned regularly. The casework is in very good condition. If any parish is interested in buying either instrument, contact David Cain on 023-9275 0442.

**DIOCESAN OFFICES:** Dable guideline, complete with stand. Cuts up to a ream of paper. List price over £900. Will accept £250 for quick sale. Please ring Jane Dobbs on 023-9282 5731.

**tours**

**MALTA:** Join the inter-denominational group on a pilgrimage to Malta, led by chaplains including the Rev Robin Coutts, vicar of St John's, Purbook, from November 1st-8th 2003. Tour includes exploring Valetta, following in the footsteps of St Paul, staying in a three-star hotel, seven nights half-board accommodation and daily prayer and worship. Price: £430 per person. For details, contact the Rev Robin Coutts on 023-9226 2307.

**letter to the editor**

Dear editor,

The Mystery Worshipper column sends out some very frivolous and superficial signals in its "rating" of aspects of church life.

This "stars" or "points" approach for sermons, coffee and so forth, does pander to a rather unhelpful voyeurism and cosiness. In an age of *Big Brother*, *Faking It* and *Footballers' Wives*, Christ's Church should be pointing to what ultimately is important - to matters of eternity - not self-obsession and trivia.

We don't, surely, go to church to be cosy or comfortable, either physically in the pew, or in terms of our faith. Maybe the offering of worship to the Almighty, the teaching and presentation of the Cross, and the making real and present of Christ's offering, should make us embarrassed and uncomfortable at our profession as Christians, because of the insipidness or complacency of our apparent faith.

One person's welcome can be another's put-off. One of the great strengths of the C of E is that we can give people space to creep back, sometimes, almost unnoticed into church - and one cheery, over-zealous "personal welcome" can send a lost sheep back into the wilderness.

I'd suggest a monthly "thumbnail sketch" of a church by your "intrepid team" - of a descriptive, non-judgmental style, and praising particular strengths. The call to us all, surely, is to be faithful - not successful, not numerically wonderful, not eye-catching, not comfortable, not even "good" as preachers on a scale of 1-10.

This is a cry for your column of trivia and silliness, to wise up, get real and to plumb the depths and ascend the heights of true worship, teaching and presentation of the faith.

Best wishes,  
 Father Jonathan Redvers Harris  
 All Saints, Ryde

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In some parishes, the existence of a team of Mystery Worshipers has focused people's minds on how welcome newcomers might feel when they walk into their church for the first time. I'm simply grateful that a debate has started on the issue, as this was one of the aims of the column. The results of the questionnaire in last month's edition of the *Pompey Chimes* will tell us whether people think it should continue.