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Knowle village has own church

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HOW DO WE SAVE FOR THE FUTURE?

THIS



IT'S a great chance to find out how you can help save our planet.

The Isle of Wight's first Christian conference on the environment will kick off later this month - but it won't all be talk.

Entitled 'Our Earth, Our Destiny', the conference will include lectures and discussions with Sir Ghilleen Prance, the director of the Eden Project in Cornwall. But it will also include practical workshops so you can discover how to do your bit to save the environment.

Island sixth-formers, council employees, conservationists and business people will join local Christians during the weekend of November 28-30 for a variety of events to promote environmental awareness.

Sir Ghilleen, who spoke at a similar conference on the mainland 12 months ago, will launch the weekend by discussing the issues with hundreds of sixth-formers from all the island's high schools, from 10.30am on November 28 at Medina High School, Newport.

Then he will meet 40 or so people from environmental organisations and businesses across the island for a seminar at the Medina Valley Centre in Dodnor Lane. They will look at how to reduce the 'Isle of Wight environmental footprint' - the amount of natural resources the island uses each year.

In the evening there will be a public lecture at St Thomas's Church, Newport. Sir Ghilleen will speak on "What has happened to the environment?" from 7pm. Entry is free.

The next morning, November 29, will see some practical action. Christians, environmentalists, students and other volunteers will take part in practical workshops organised by the Medina Valley Centre from 10am until noon. The options include

bird-watching, a practical woodland conservation project, a visit to a demonstration of renewable energy and the chance to examine pond creatures. Ring 01983-522195 for details.

Members of the Isle of Wight's Natural History and Archaeological Society will hear from Sir Ghilleen at 2pm that day. And he will also visit the Pan estate in Newport that evening to see a project designed to reduce its environmental impact.

There will be exhibitions from environmental groups all weekend in St Thomas's Church and parish hall in Newport. And the conference will climax with a celebration of creation in St Thomas's Square at 11am on November 30.

The conference is being sponsored by St Thomas's Church, the Medina Valley Centre, the Isle of Wight Council and the Environment Agency.

Canon Stephen Palmer, vicar of St Thomas's and the bishop's ecological adviser, said: "This is a fascinating and varied programme which includes both the chance to hear from Sir Ghilleen and the chance to do something practical to help.

"Those who heard Sir Ghilleen at our diocesan environmental conference last year need no prompting to come to hear him again. His expertise and enthusiasm are plain for all to see.

"What I hope will come out of this conference is a determination by us all to put environmental concerns at the top of our agenda. Research shows we would need the natural resources of three Isle of Wights to support our current lifestyles. We can't carry on like that."

For more information, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org or ring St Thomas's parish office on 01983-821961.

• CREATION HELPS ME WORSHIP: 'My Faith' on page 8.



The Godspell cast, including Jesus (Ashley Hoy, front) at St John's (courtesy IoW County Press)

I gave Communion to Jesus!

THE new Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight had a novel experience on his first Sunday in the job - he gave communion to Jesus!

The Ven Trevor Reader was celebrating Communion in a specially-adapted service at St John's, Sandown, based around the musical *Godspell*. He then dedicated the church's new £115,000 extension.

It was the vicar, the Rev Howard Cunnington, who had thought of using the cast and scenery from the production of *Godspell* that had been

staged in the church for the three previous nights. The entire 16-strong cast returned, with musical director and technicians, to lead the service.

In a moving moment, the actors from Sandown Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society erected a makeshift altar for Jesus who shared the last supper with his disciples. The archdeacon then stepped forward to offer Communion to congregation and cast.

Several of the 150-strong congregation were in tears

as the final scene showed Jesus being crucified. The church then erupted into *Thine Be The Glory* with the cast and children waving flags and banners.

Dr Reader later commented: "It was lovely to see a church willing to take risks in this way. It was a wonderful and moving experience. It was wonderful to give communion to Jesus - or at least, the actor who played Jesus!"

The vicar paid special tribute to the cast, director Isabell Flavell, and musical director, Alex Quilter.