

Monday 1 December

SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (7.30pm): *Advent Carol Service.*

Saturday 6 December

WATERLOOVILLE, St George's Church, St George's Walk (10am): *Christmas Bazaar.* Stalls, draw, Father Christmas and refreshments. Entry: 20p.

HAYLING ISLAND, St Mary's church hall, Church road (10am-12noon): *Advent Fair.* Stalls include cakes, preserves, gifts, books, jewellery, toys and games. Refreshments available. Entry: 30p.

WOOTTON, St Mark's Church, Station Road (10am-1pm): *Big Breakfast and Winter Wonderland Fayre.* Seasonal stalls and a visit from Father Christmas.

PORTSMOUTH, St Nicholas church hall, Battenburg Avenue, North End (7.30pm): *African Evening.* With the Rev Jacob Owuso Kyei-Baffour, from Ghana, and the Rev Barry Dugmore, who went on exchange there for three months.

EMSWORTH, St James's Church, Church Path (7.30pm): *Merrie Christmas.* An evening of seasonal entertainment with music, readings and Christmas carols. Free entry. Donations towards Christian Aid.

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street, Old Portsmouth (7.30pm): *Concert.* By Portsmouth Youth Orchestra.

Sunday 7 December

COWPLAIN, St Wilfrid's Church, Padnell Road (2.30pm): *Charity concert.* Includes John Innes' *Glory to the Newborn King.* In aid of the cerebral palsy centre in Portsmouth. Tickets: £3.

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (3pm): *The News' Christingle Service.*

Tuesday 9 December

SOMERS TOWN, St Luke's church hall, Greatham Street (2.30pm-4pm): *Dickens Fellowship.* Celebrate Christmas in true Dickensian fashion.

Thursday 11 December -

Sunday 14 December
BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church and other venues (10am-6pm daily, except when services in progress): *Christmas tree festival.* See page 5 for details.

Saturday 13 December

SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (10am-4pm): *Quiet day.* Led by Canon Geoffrey Curtis. Please bring packed lunch. Drinks/tea provided. Cost: £5. Please ring the Sisters on 023-9283 3498 to attend.

DENMEAD, All Saints' Church, Hambledon Road (6.30pm): *Christmas with the Madding Crowd.* See this group dressed as English rural folk from around 1820. Wine and mince pies included. Tickets: 023-9226 8565 or 023-9235 1209.

FAREHAM, St Peter and St Paul Church, Osborn Road (7.30pm): *Family carol concert.* Fareham Philharmonic Choir perform Rutter, Taverner, Chilcott, Berlioz, Poston, and carols. Tickets: £8.50, £7 (concs), £2 (under 16s) on 01329-664948.

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): *Carols and Christmas music.* Concert with Portsmouth Choral Union, St Jude's C of E Primary School and Southern Pro Musica Brass. Tickets: £8.50 and £10 from 023-9282 2227 or portsmouth.choral-union@ntlworld.com

Sunday 14 December

NEWPORT, Medina Theatre (2.30pm): *Christmas carols with Isle of Wight Cantata Choir and Brass Ensemble.* Tickets: £5 (adults); £3 (under 16s).

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (4pm): *Christingle Service.*
HORNDEAN, Holy Trinity Church, Blendworth Lane (6pm): *Glory to the Newborn King.* With Cowplain Choir.

Monday 15 December

FAREHAM, Holy Trinity Church, West Street (7.30pm): *Christmas Praise.* Portsmouth chapter of Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. American supper and Compline.

Friday 19 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church,

'SCRUB THAT MANGER!' TOUR DATES

Top Cat Theatre Company present an hour-long family show for Christmas, which emphasises the humble nature of Jesus birth. Tickets: £4 (adults) or £2 (children) with some local variations. Ring the box office numbers next to the venues below to book places. For details, see www.topcattheatre.com

Sunday 30 November 023-9275 0442.

WATERLOOVILLE, Hart Plain Church, Hart Plain Avenue (4pm):
Box office: 023-9264 9265.

Saturday 6 December

LOCKS HEATH, St John the Baptist Primary School, Abshott Road (6pm):
Box office: 01489-578082.

Sunday 7 December

PETERSFIELD, Buriton Village Hall, High Street, Buriton (3pm): Box office: 01730-269390.

SOUTHSEA, St Jude's Church, Kent Road (6.30pm): Box office:

Fratton Road, Fratton (11.30pm): *Carol sing-in.* Includes presentation of gift vouchers to agencies dealing with homeless and asylum seekers. See page 3 for details.

Saturday 20 December

WOOTTON, St Mark's annexe, Station Road (7pm): *The Motley Crew presents The Big Christmas Party.* Seasonal music.
PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): *Christmas Gala Concert.* Sung by Portsmouth Cathedral Choir. Readings by actor Christopher Timothy. In aid of cancer research.

Sunday 21 December

PORTSMOUTH, Gunwharf Quays (12.30pm): *Carols with Portsmouth Cathedral Choir.*
PORTSMOUTH, St Margaret's Church, Highland Road, Eastney (3.30pm): *Carol service.* Traditional nine lessons and carols. Followed by tea and mince pies.
PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (6.30pm): *Carol service.* Nine les-

Saturday 13 December
SHEDFIELD, St John the Baptist parish centre, Church Road (7pm):
Box office: 01329-832162.

Sunday 22 December

CROOKHORN, Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn Lane (4pm): Box office: 023-9225 5527. **EXTRA DATE!**

Sunday 11 January

NEWPORT, St Thomas's parish hall, Town Street (3pm): Box office: 01983-821961.

sons and carols.

Tuesday 23 December

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): *Cathedral Carol Service.* A festival of lessons and carols.

Christmas Eve

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (4pm): *Children's crib service;* (11.30pm): *Midnight Eucharist.*
PORTSMOUTH, St Margaret's Church, Highland Road, Eastney (4pm): *Crib Service.* Children act out the nativity. Followed by Christingle; (11.30pm): *Midnight Mass.*

Christmas Day

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (8am): *Holy Communion;* (9.30am): *Parish Eucharist;* (11.15am): *Sung Eucharist;* (4pm): *Evening Prayer.*
PORTSMOUTH, St Margaret's Church, Highland Road, Eastney

(8am): *Said Communion;* (10.30am): *Sung Communion.*



Rodney Baker (see: appointments)

Saturday 10 January

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): *Come and Sing.* An informal concert of excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens.* Rehearsal at 7.30pm, refreshments 8.30pm, performance at 9pm. Tickets: £5 for singers, £3 for audience. Details on 023-9246 1802.

Sunday 11 January

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (6pm): *Epiphany carol service*

Friday 16 January

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7pm): *Concert to launch D-Day 60 Youth Choir.*
FAREHAM, Bishops Grove, Osborn Road (7pm): *Reception for parish magazine editors.* Includes presentation of prizes to the winners of 'Most Improved Parish Magazine 2003' competition.

Wednesday 21 January

PORTSMOUTH, All Saints' Church,

Commercial Road (10am): *Eucharist.* To mark the creation of the Diocesan Board of Mission. See page 1 for details.

Thursday 22 January

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (12noon): *Retired Clergy Association service.*

Saturday 24 January

STUBBINGTON, Holy Rood Church, Gosport Road (9.30am-5pm): *Walk Thru The Bible.* Interactive experience to help get an overview of the entire Bible. Cost: £12. Ring 01329-661154.

Sunday 25 January

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (8pm): *Taizé-style service.*

Monday 26 January

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (7.30pm): *Mass for the sick.* Led by Canon Bob White, with the Portsmouth chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

Wednesday 28 January -

Saturday 31 January

PORTSMOUTH, St Mark's Church, Derby Road, North End (7.30pm): *Annie.* Musical production by SMARTS (St Mark's Arts). Tickets on sale from Sue on 023-9278 9086 from December 14.

● Would you like your events for February listed here and on our diocesan website (www.portsmouth.anglican.org). Send details to: The Pompey Chimes, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street, Portsmouth, PO1 2HA by January 5. Please note: there is no separate January edition.

announcements

Appointments

The Rev Bill Day, vicar, St Peter's Church, Titchfield and bishop's adviser on healing, to be rural dean of Fareham. He will be licensed at Titchfield on March 14.

The Rev Susan Lucas, assistant curate/priest-in-charge, Pheasey (Lichfield diocese) to be chaplain, HM Albany Prison. She will be licensed on a date to be announced.

The Rev Dr John Preston, who has the bishop's permission to officiate, now also chaplain to the Sisters of Bethany, Southsea.

Rodney Baker, June Cox and Sally

Read to be lay canons of Portsmouth Cathedral. They will be installed in the cathedral during Evensong at 6pm on January 30.

Dates

The Rev Carol Davies, to be team rector, Upper Kennet (Salisbury diocese). She will be licensed by the Bishop of Ramsbury on January 24.

Deaths

Canon Tony Winterbotham, formerly of Portsmouth, with the bishop's permission to officiate, died on 27 October 2003.

letter to the editor

Dear Sir,
The attempt at levity in the comments on the *Book of Common Prayer* in your 'A-Z of the Church of England' column is rather tasteless.

The preface to *Common Worship* states: 'The *Book of Common Prayer* remains the permanently authorised provision for public worship in the Church of England, whereas newer liturgies are authorised until further resolution of the general synod.' In other words, the BCP is permanent and other forms are only transitory.

Most churchgoers over the age of 40 will have been brought up on the BCP. These are loyal members of the church, who will have been active in their parishes for many years, attending regularly, acting as wardens, PCC members, sidesmen and women, cleaning, flower arranging and the multitude of voluntary jobs that keep our churches going.

These are members who will not

like to see the denigration of the *Book of Common Prayer*, the backbone of our worship for some 350 years.

Adrian Cazalet,
Hon Secretary of the Prayer Book Society, Portsmouth branch

EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers may recall that the column said only that *Common Worship* had become the 'industry standard' prayer book in our churches, which is certainly true. It made no comment about which versions were authorised or not.

It also claimed that many churches choose to keep unused copies of the BCP gathering dust in cupboards, and that BCP services were often at 8am on Sunday mornings. Mr Cazalet may regret all of those things, but reporting them is simply a matter of stating the facts rather than trying to denigrate the importance of the BCP.

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Deadline for February: 9 January
(N.B. There is no January edition)

For more information or to place an advert please contact Beccy or Les on
01752 225623

