

First fruits of Kairos trials

IT'S a prime example of parishes finding new ways of working together as part of our Kairos process.

Portsmouth grandmother Frances Gates will be ordained next month as an unpaid clergywoman covering three separate parishes in one of our Kairos trial areas.

She will become a non-stipendiary curate serving the parishes of St Mary's, St George's and All Saints in inner-city Portsmouth.

It's one of the first results of the collaboration between the five inner-city parishes piloting our diocese's Kairos process. Kairos is the bishop's initiative to make our church life broader in its engagement with our communities, deeper in our spirituality and leaner in our structures.

Frances, who had no previous academic qualifications, but has been studying theology on the Salisbury-based STETS course, was originally brought to church by her daughter 23 years ago.

"I didn't really understand what was going on at the time," she said. "I was even there on Easter Sunday and didn't realise that Easter was anything to do with the Church! I did realise that Christ was the answer to the problems I was having. This was the light in my darkness.

"I thought about becoming a priest, but



Frances Gates: ordained next month

I wasn't sure whether people like me were allowed to be priests. I tried to forget about it, but God kept calling me."

Frances, who has creative skills in art and craft, will be ordained next month. She is likely to be asked to lead specific projects that cross parish boundaries, to ensure that the parishes work together in future.

The collaboration in the trial area of St Mary's, St George's, All Saints, St Luke's and St Peter's Churches in Portsmouth also involved a day-long conference in March.

Visiting speakers helped them examine how the Church should minister to



retailers, schools, local communities and alongside churches of other denominations.

The Rev Karina Green, priest-in-charge of St George's, Portsea, said: "We looked at practical solutions to a whole range of things. It might be that we can work ecumenically in marriage or confirmation preparation in future.

"We might be able to extend the existing lay chaplaincy at Gunwharf Quays to other developments – we've already been asked to do so at Portsmouth North.

"And we might need to look at how we minister to families in areas where family breakdown is common."

Meanwhile, churchgoers in the trial area of Petersfield will experience the bishop's Kairos roadshow, which has now visited all other deaneries in our diocese.

It will happen on June 29 at 7.30pm.

Discover more about healing

IT'S a chance to find out more about healing – and perhaps experience some for yourself.

The annual day of healing and wholeness will take place in our cathedral on May 15.

Our diocesan spirituality adviser, the Rev Peter Lippiett, will speak, and there will also be workshops on art and healing; listening for God; healing in the arts; and circle dancing. The event will end with a service that includes prayer for healing.

Christian listeners will be on hand throughout the day if people need to speak to someone, particularly during lunch.

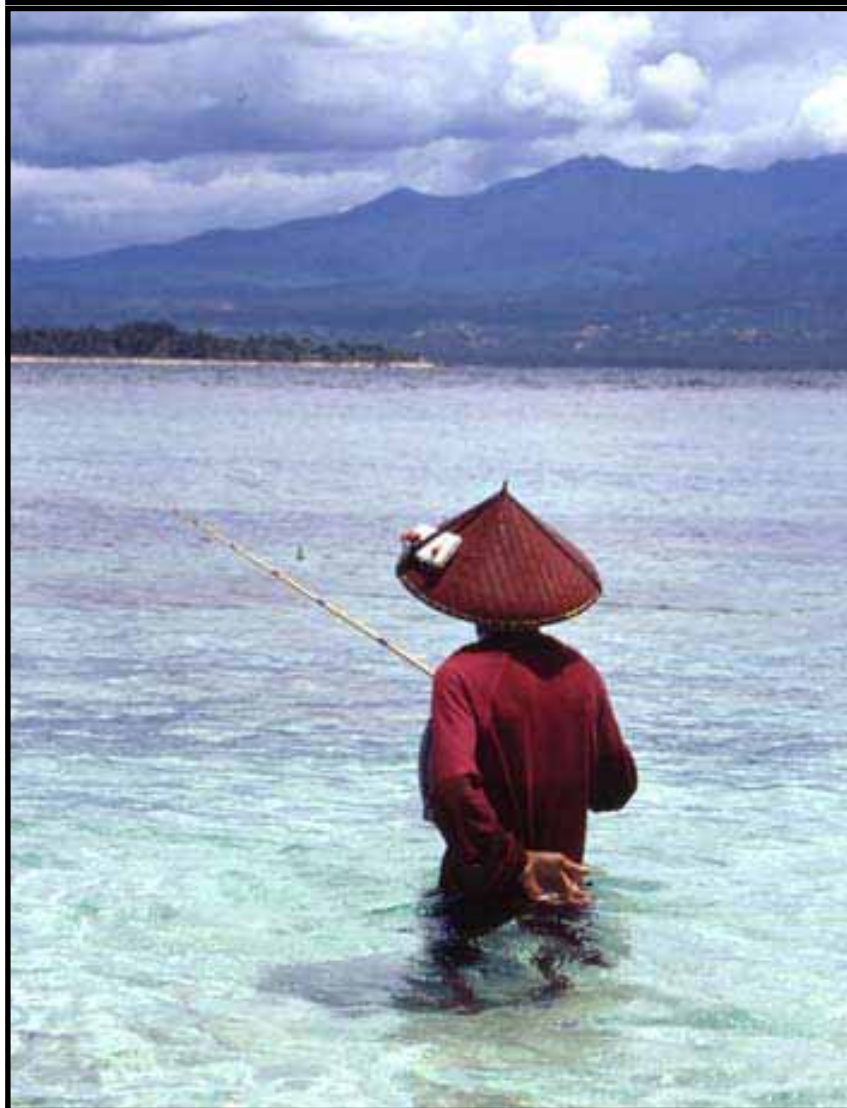
The bishop's adviser on the ministry of healing, the Rev Bill Day, said: "It is a day

that provides a great opportunity to learn more about this valuable ministry, as well as participate in a service where the ministry of prayer with the laying on of hands and anointing is available to all."

The day starts with morning prayer at 9.30am. Then at 10.10am, Peter Lippiett will speak on 'Christian healing – prayer and care?'. The workshops will then follow before lunch.

The day culminates with a Eucharistic service in celebration of healing and wholeness from 1.45pm-2.45pm. All are welcome to participate in the whole day. Drinks are available, but people should bring their own lunch.

NEW ONLINE SHOWCASE!



Thai Fisherman / Photographer: Sebliminal

In steps of pilgrims

GOSPORT worshipper Kath Smith will follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims to help a children's charity.

Kath, from Christ Church, will take part in the Pilgrims' Way walk from Rochester Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, from June 25-29. The 74km walk will raise money for the Children's Society's work with some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK.

The route will follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims travelling to the tomb of Thomas a Becket at Canterbury and will visit places mentioned in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

Anyone who would like to sponsor Kath can send donations to her at 17 Bentham Road, Gosport. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Children's Society Trading Company Ltd'.



Kath Smith (back) and Children's Society rep Kathy Court (front) at Christ Church, Gosport



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