

Varied diet for our Sunday worship

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Belief crystallised as I talked about it

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Portsmouth Cathedral Choir, the London Mozart Players, and Portsmouth Youth Chamber Orchestra play *Valete in Placem in Caen*.

D-Day veterans are honoured on both sides of the Channel

THE eyes of the world were on Portsmouth and Caen as D-Day veterans and their fallen colleagues were honoured for their courage during the Normandy landings 60 years ago.

Bishop Kenneth preached a message of reconciliation at a service in the Abbaye aux Hommes in Caen led by the dean of our cathedral, the Very Rev David Brindley.

The Portsmouth Cathedral Choir sung both at that service and at an act

of remembrance in Bayeux on June 6 attended by the Queen. That evening they performed a specially-commissioned work - *Valete in Pacem* - written by Harvey Brough and Lee Hall.

Chorister Simon Halstead said: "There was a march past of war veterans at Bayeux, and it was very difficult not to feel sad standing among the tomb stones. But at the same time I felt very proud to be sharing it all with them."

In Portsmouth, our

cathedral hosted the annual D-Day and Normandy Fellowship service. D-Day veteran and retired priest the Rev Ron Paterson preached, telling the congregation he had remembered the words of the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 as he stormed the beaches 60 years before.

Canon Bob White led a service at Southsea's D-Day memorial, and the Rev John Draper led a similar service at the Canadian Monument at Stokes Bay in Gosport.

KAIROS REVOLUTION STARTS RIGHT HERE

IT will be the largest survey of its kind – and it could herald a revolution in our thinking about the role of the Church.

Our Kairos process enters a crucial phase this month as parishes begin to audit the social and spiritual needs of their own communities. It should be the most comprehensive religious survey in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Churchgoers will work together in clusters of parishes to build a statistical picture of the people who live in their area. They will work out what they can do to improve people's lives, what resources they have to do so, and what they and other churches are already doing.

Each parish has now been given a Kairos research pack (pictured right), which includes guidance as



to how to do this work, as well as helpful information from local authorities and the 2001 census.

A small group of people in each cluster will be asked to do this work over the next six months, but to keep congregations informed about progress.

This is part of the research phase of the four-phase Kairos process, which the bishop launched in February to help us re-think the role of the Church in our diocese. The aim is to produce a Church that has a broader base in the community, encourages a deeper spiritual life for all, but is leaner in its structures.

This research phase will prepare

us for the third phase of the process, when we will be asked to put together plans for the Church to serve the social and spiritual needs of our communities more effectively. The final phase will be the implementation of those plans.

The chairman of the Kairos executive group, the Ven Chris Lawson, said: "After discussing what problems and opportunities we had, and then studying the theology behind Kairos, this research phase is really the nuts and bolts of the whole process.

"Of course, many parishes may know a lot about their own communities already, but it is unlikely that

many have conducted an audit on this scale. There may be surprises – parishes may discover a section of their community that no Christians are engaging with at all. That's the kind of information that will be vital for the planning phase."

The Kairos process is more about taking Christ into our communities than expecting more people to come to church services. And new church attendance figures in our diocese show the need for such an approach.

Average weekly attendance fell by a further 92 people in 2003 to 11,070. Previous encouraging increases in the numbers going to church, recorded in 2000 and 2001, have now been wiped out by falls in the two most recent years.

The picture wasn't universally

gloomy, with increases in Bishop's Waltham and Petersfield deaneries.

Individual parishes also showed some gains. St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield, and Holy Trinity, Newtown, recorded their best attendance figures since 1995.

Congregations at All Saints, Botley and St Peter, Curdridge grew by 24 and 36 per cent respectively.

Other parishes recording year-on-year increases of 20 per cent or more included: St Peter, Petersfield; Holy Trinity, Blendworth; St Clare, Warren Park; St James, Milton; All Saints, Portsea; St Mary the Virgin, Brading; Holy Trinity, Ryde; St Paul, Barton and St Mary, Brighthstone. The regular congregation at St George's Church in Portsea doubled.

