

Young sailors go afloat



EXCITED young sailors carefully navigate their way through calm water against the backdrop of a cloudless sky.

It's an idyllic scene as they pick their way along the creek at Alverstoke, learning about the rudiments of sailing, working as a team and how to remain safe in the water.

This is St Mary's Junior Sailing Club, which offers 10 to 16-year-olds the chance to get on the water every Saturday and Sunday between May and September.

First established in 1965, the club was re-launched in 2000 by the rector of St Mary's, Canon Ted Goodyer. He's just named the latest boat launched by the club, bringing the total in the fleet to seven. It was the third boat launched this season and reflects the dramatic growth of the club. One of the new boats is a much-needed replacement for the club's rescue boat.

A total of 52 members pay just £40 a year to spend as much time as they like on the water each weekend. The youngsters don't need any equipment, wet suits, or sailing experience – everything is provided for them. And volunteer sailing officers are always standing by in case of emergency.

As well as the rector, other mem-



bers of St Mary's serve on the committee and act as officers alongside members' parents. And the church has held an Easter sunrise service for the club as well as naming ceremonies. It's another example of the church helping to meet a community need outside its doors – in line with the bishop's Kairos thinking.

"We are thrilled with the success of the club, and pray that it will continue to go from strength to strength," said Ted. "Through the club we can reach young people who otherwise might not come to church activities."

"The club is a great focus for community organisations eager to support children in the Alverstoke and Gosport community. I am particularly pleased with the new rescue boat which will make sailing safer and more fun."

And club secretary Sandra Stevinson said: "The idea is to make sailing accessible to everyone, whatever their background. There's a wide range of boats for a wide range of skill levels."

The club has received support from businesses and yachting organisations, including the Natwest Bank and the Royal Thames Yacht Club, which helped to fund the most recent acquisitions.

Members of the St Mary's Junior Sailing Club at the naming ceremonies for their two newest boats, Rudolph (front) and the rescue boat Thames Image

Earl Mountbatten Hospice
Halberry Lane
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 2ER
Tel: (01983) 529511
Email: chiefexec@iwospice.demon.co.uk
Reg Charity No: 1039086



The Rowans Hospice
Purbrook Heath Road
Waterlooville, Hants PO7 5RU
Tel: (023) 9225 0001
E: info@rowanshospice.co.uk
Web-site: www.rowanshospice.co.uk
Reg Charity No: 299731

Between us, our two hospices provide specialist palliative care for some 900 adults with life-limiting illness throughout the Diocese every year. We also help to care for their families and friends.

Both hospices are heavily dependent upon voluntary giving in order to provide their services entirely free of charge. Our combined expenditure this year will be over £4.5 million. The largest single source of fundraising income for each of us is from legacies.

Please would you remember us in your Will?

Further advice on making a bequest to your local hospice is available from the Legacies Officer at either of the above addresses, or you can ask your solicitor to help you.

Recipe for success

I HAVE been privileged over the last five years to have been involved, as an *ex officio* governor, with St Luke's School – the diocese's voluntary aided comprehensive school in inner-city Portsmouth.

It has been an exciting experience and elsewhere in this edition, you will see the story of the amazing improvement in GCSE results: a rise from three per cent to 42 per cent of pupils gaining five A*-C grades in just four years!

One of the catchphrases of the school over this time has been that 'progress brings success'. The progress and success St Luke's has experienced – and we believe there is more to come – has been the result of three main factors: leadership, hard work and support.

It has been the product of the visionary leadership of the headteacher, Kryisia Butwilowska, who believed progress could be made when

the last word
by the Ven Chris Lowson,
Archdeacon of Portsdown



others were less sure.

To this was added the hard work, sustained and detailed, of her colleagues on the staff, and of course the young people themselves.

Finally, there was the support the school received from the governing body, the diocese – through the officers of the Diocesan Board of Education and others – and the support from our partners in the local education authority. All this has been undergirded by prayer within the school and the diocese as a whole.

There is a great deal of excellent work done in all the schools of the diocese, but I

am sure we would all want to congratulate St Luke's at this time and thank all concerned for all the opportunities for further study and employment now opened up for the young people of that part of Portsmouth.

The lesson we can draw from this success is one of encouragement; that, even in the most challenging contexts, God can change things for the better if we tackle the issues with vision, hard work and mutual support and undergird them with prayer.

May St Luke's example be an encouragement to us all, as we tackle the challenges that face us.