

Worshippers' donations help tackle AIDS crisis and fund new chapel

CHURCHGOERS from around the diocese donated more than £15,000 to Bishop Kenneth's Lent appeal during 2004.

The cash was shared between a project to help combat the HIV/Aids epidemic in Africa, and the funding of a new chapel for Whiteley.

A total of £8,386 was donated to St Paul's theological college in Kenya to help fund its pastoral care and prevention

education programme to combat HIV/Aids. The college trains students who take an MA in pastoral care and HIV/Aids before heading out into the community to raise awareness about the issue.

The new principal of St Paul's, Dr Timothy Wachira, said: "Thank you very much for the generous donation. I am new to the programme, and can genuinely say that I am hugely

impressed by what it is designed to achieve and what it has achieved in its short life - 16 months - so far."

Part of the thinking behind the programme is to help communities to feel that the solutions to the epidemic are their own rather than imposed from above. The programme also hopes to put churches in the forefront of the fight against the disease.

The first intake of 23 students started the course in June 2003, and the second 33-strong group started this June. Almost 20,000 HIV/Aids sufferers are now being cared for as a result of the programme.

And a total of £7,485 has been given to Whiteley Church to help build a chapel that would be open all day for prayer and reflection in one corner of its proposed new church

building.

This new town has no church building at the moment, so a 100-strong congregation is meeting in a primary school.

They launched a £1.3m appeal in 2001 to build a joint Anglican, Methodist and URC building. And this month they will welcome their new minister, the Rev Barry Dugmore, currently curate at St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain.

Pompey Chimes

DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY 2005
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January

AVAILABLE FOR
PARISHES TO COLLECT FROM
DEANERY DEPOTS:
Thursday 27 January

AVAILABLE IN
YOUR CHURCH:
Sunday 30 January

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New faces to help us serve parishes

THREE new staff have joined our central diocesan team to help resource and empower parishes.

Former Portsmouth schoolboy Ben Mizen, 33, will be our new diocesan youth and children's work adviser, replacing the Rev Karina Green. He will start work in Cathedral House on February 7, and will be commissioned at Evensong on February 8 in our cathedral.

He will advise and support parish work with children and young people and organise diocesan-wide events and training courses. But, unlike Karina, he will not also work on child protection issues - child protection adviser John Marshman will continue his part-time work in this area.

Ben, who grew up attending St Jude's Church, Southsea, has worked in youth and children's ministry for 10



Ben Mizen

years. He did detached youth work, schools work and nightclub ministry with Youth for Christ in Cheltenham; launched youth work from scratch at an English-speaking church in the Netherlands; was a national youth worker for the Boys' Brigade; and has spent the past three years as a youth minister at St Paul's Church in St Albans.



Becky Williams

"My desire is to encourage as much good work with young people and children around the diocese as possible," he said. "I want to see where good work is happening and offer encouragement and support, and to help youngsters and children to participate in and access worship themselves. I'm excited about the Kairos initiative, which seems to be really on



Derek Baker

my wavelength." Our diocesan offices have also secured the services of Becky Williams, 23, who will be seconded from the Diocese of Winchester for 12 months. She will become central services administrator - an equivalent post to the one she holds in Winchester - supporting deputy diocesan secretary Andrew Robinson.

That will release him to concentrate on planning the proposed move of the diocesan offices from Cathedral House and All Saints' Church. The move aims to bring together Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Mission staff in one city centre location, and could involve creating purpose-built offices.

And a new diocesan property maintainer has been appointed to replace Clifford Giles, who moved on earlier this year to another job. He is Derek Baker, 51, from St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain.

The former shipwright will be responsible for minor repairs, re-decorating and upgrading work to vicarages and other diocesan property. Employing such a person ourselves is cheaper than using contractors, and work is also done more quickly.

Occupants of diocesan property needing urgent repairs should continue to contact administrative assistant Craig Harkness at the diocesan offices on 023-9282 5731.

Photos show trauma of Chernobyl's children

IT'S 18 years since the nuclear radiation explosion at Chernobyl - but its legacy still haunts the children of Belarus.

Pompey Chimes photographer Pete Langdown captured images that tell the heart-breaking story of Chernobyl's children on a recent visit to the former Soviet republic.

And 40 of his photos will go on display at St John's church centre in Rowlands Castle in a one-day exhibition this month.

Children of Chernobyl was the result of his visit

to Belarus in October with the charity Leaves of Hope.

Pete, a father-of-two who goes to St John's Church, said: "It's heart-breaking to see that only 10 per cent of children born in that area are classed as 'normal'. So 90 per cent of them have some kind of defect.

"There are 33,000 children in care, and families have to fight to get them back. The population is falling because the birth rate is dropping, and the economy is in freefall.

"There was one girl

who had Downs Syndrome who was suffering from appendicitis. It's an easy enough thing to sort out, but because she had Downs, she was just left to die."

The exhibition takes place between 12noon and 4pm on Sunday 5 December. Admission is free. Next year, the photos will go on display in libraries around West Sussex.

The Chernobyl reactor is located 80 miles north of Kiev, in the Ukraine, but the nuclear fallout drifted across Belarus and other states.



One of Pete Langdown's images: a child with Downs Syndrome in Minsk