

Thursday 3 March

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (7.30pm): *Royal Marines School of Music concert.*

Friday 4 March

PORTSMOUTH, Buckland United Reformed Church, Kingston Road (10.30am): *Women's World Day of Prayer service.* Speaker: Mary Colquhoun.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Alban's Church, Copnor Road, Copnor (12.30pm): *Anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens celebrated.* Includes prayers around the font used to baptise Charles Dickens. Contact: Geoffrey Christopher (023-9266 4205).
 PORTSMOUTH, St Luke's Church, Greatham Street, Somers Town & BEDHAMPTON, St Thomas's Church, Bidbury Lane (2.30pm): *Women's World Day of Prayer.*
 GOSPORT, St Mary's parish centre, Green Road, Alverstoke (7.30pm): *Curry supper.* Hear about Diana and Ian Dow's trip to Madagascar. See page 8 for details.

Saturday 5 March

FRESHWATER, Memorial Hall (10.30am-1.30pm): *Lenten brunch.* Churches Together in West Wight offer coffee, tea, soup or light lunch. Proceeds to Christian Aid, Carisbrooke Priory and Holiday Bible Club. Also on March 19 and 26.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's, George Street, Fratton (11am): *Spring fayre.*
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (5pm): *Evensong, with choir of Salisbury Cathedral.*
 LOCKS HEATH, St John's church centre, Church Road (7.30pm): *New Wine taster evening.* See page 3 for details.

Sunday 6 March

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (9.30am): *Informal worship for Mothering Sunday; (6pm): Evensong, followed by; (7pm): Lent lecture.* Yasin B Rahim speaks about the Muslim tradition, followed by questions.

Tuesday 8 March

DENMEAD, All Saints' Church, Hangleton Road (7.30pm): *Songs of*

Songs tackle injustice from around the world

YOU may remember him as Christian Aid's man in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, but Martin John Nicholls is also an accomplished singer and songwriter. He has performed all over the world in support of people living under injustice and oppression, and recorded seven albums. His latest - *Beyond Belief* - focuses on his experiences in Israel and Palestine. Now he's coming to All Saints' Church, Denmead, for a concert on March 8.

Vicar the Rev Andrew Ashdown said: "Martin has an immense stage presence and charisma and his acute observations hold up a mirror to the human condition. His lyrics are witty and challenging and his arrangements enhance his songs beautifully."

"It is a huge privilege to welcome Martin to Denmead. The concert will be a mix of songs and stories from around the world, and the second half will focus on some key issues internationally."

Tickets are available, priced at £3 (children and OAPs: £2) on 023-9225 5490 or office@allsaintsdenmead.free serve.co.uk

Wednesday 9 March

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (6pm): *Evensong with St John's school choir, Leatherhead.*

Friday 11 March

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30-9.30pm): *A 20:20 Vision for Europe.* Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne MEP will talk, followed by panel discussion. See page 3 for details.

Saturday 12 March

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Old Portsmouth (10am-3pm): *Visions, dreams and strategies.* Day conference with Diana Murrice, and Ben Mizen. See page 2 for details.
 SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (10am-4pm): *Quiet day.* Led by the Rev Henry Theobald. Please bring lunch. Drinks and tea provided. Cost: £5. Do let the Sisters know you can come on 023-9283 3498 or sbs@sisistersofbethany.org.uk
 SOUTHSEA, St Simon's Church, Waverley Road (11am-12.30pm): *Reaching the Last Generations 2.* Youth forum for those interested in outreach to young people in Portsmouth. See page 2 for details.
 EAST COWES, St James' Church, Well Road (3pm-5pm): *Choral workshop for:*

(6pm): *Music Aid.* Concert to raise funds for Save the Children. Includes songs from *Joseph and Captain Noah.* Contact: 01983-200107 or 01983-295780.
 BOTLEY, All Saints' Church, High Street (7.30pm): *Easter concert by Botley Choral Society.* Brahms requiem with Caroline Luard, Phil Stokes and Mark Dancer. Tickets: £7/£5 at the door or on 01489-891826. Under 16s: free.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): *Salvation Army concert.*
 DENMEAD, All Saints' Church, Hangleton Road (7.30pm): *Concert with harp and flute.* Performed by Rachel and Ian Bartels. Tickets, priced at £7, available on 023-9224 1161 or 023-9226 6159.

Prayer and Protest. With singer-songwriter Martin John Nicholls. See above for details.

LEE-ON-SOLENT, St Faith's Church, Victoria Square (7.30pm): *Journey into light.* Renaissance polyphonic choral music on Holy Week theme. Performed by Renaissance Choir. Tickets (£7/£5 concs/£1 students) on 023-9255 6445 or 023-9278 9546.

Palm Sunday
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (8am): *Communion; (10.30am): Joint Eucharist with procession of palms starting at Garrison Church; (6pm): Music and readings for Passiontide with cathedral choir; (8pm): Concert.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, George Street, Fratton (9.30am): *Procession to St Mary's Church for parish mass.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (4pm): *Concert of music for Passiontide.* With church choir, conducted by Michael Stoddart.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Penrhyn Avenue (6.30pm): *Music and readings at Passiontide.* Featuring excerpts from *The Messiah* by Handel. Entry free.

Monday 14 March
 WIDLEY, Christ Church, London Road (9am): *Bible reading marathon.* See page 2 for details.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (7.30pm): *Music in the Round concert.* With the Gould Piano Trio.

Thursday 17 March
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (7.30pm): *Royal Marines School of Music concert.*

Saturday 19 March
 PORTSMOUTH, St John's RC Cathedral, Edinburgh Road (10.30am): *The Easter Story.* Join Churches Together in Central Portsmouth for re-telling of the Easter story. See page 3 for details.

Monday 21 March
 HAVANT, St Faith's Church Hall, The Pallant (7.30pm): *Meeting about chemicals contaminating the environment and our bodies.* Speakers: Caroline Lucas MEP, Alison Craig, from Pesticide Action Network and Tim Dawes, from South-East Hants Green Party.

Tuesday 22 March
 SARISBURY GREEN, Sarisbury Social Club, Bridge Road (7.30pm): *The Passion of the Christ.* See page 3 for details.

Maudy Thursday
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (11am): *Diocesan Chism*



Martin John Nicholls, in concert on March 8

Eucharist; (7pm): Eucharist of the Last Supper; (8pm-10pm): Watch of the Passion.

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton; St Wilfrid's Church, George Street; and St Faith's Church, Landport (7.30pm): *Sung mass of the Lord's Supper, watch until midnight.*

Good Friday

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10am): *Children's journey of the cross; (12noon-2pm): Readings and reflections; (2pm): Good Friday liturgy.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (noon): *Stations of the Cross for children; (1pm): Meditations on the passion; (2pm): Solemn liturgy for Good Friday.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport and St Wilfrid's Church, George Street (2pm): *Solemn liturgy for Good Friday.*

Saturday 26 March

GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Alverstoke (7pm): *Come and sing Stainer's Crucifixion.* Singers: £5 (rehearse from 4.15pm); listeners: £2. Contact: 023-9252 6255.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (8pm): *Easter vigil, baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist of Easter.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton; and St Wilfrid's Church, George Street (8.30pm): *Paschal vigil, renewal of baptismal promises and first mass of Easter.*

Easter Sunday

PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport (6.30am): *Paschal vigil, renewal of baptismal promises and first mass of Easter; (9.30am): Mass for Easter day.*
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (8am): *Holy Communion; (9.30am): Parish Eucharist; (11.15): Festal Sung Eucharist; (6pm): Festal Evensong.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's, George Street (9.30am): *Mass for Easter day.*
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Fratton (10am): *Mass for Easter day; (6.30pm): Evensong.*

Saturday 2 April

SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (3pm): *Easter carols.* Followed by tea. Do let the Sisters know if you want to come on 023-9283 3498 or sbs@sisistersofbethany.org.uk

● *Would you like your church's events for April listed here and on our website (www.portsmouth.anglican.org)? Send details to: Pompey Chimes, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street, Portsmouth, PO1 2HA by March 7.*

help offered

PORTSMOUTH: The director of music at St Cuthbert's Church, Copnor, is offering his help to parishes within the Portsmouth deanery or beyond who need

help with funerals and other midweek services while St Cuthbert's is being refurbished. Contact Paul Freathy on 023-9267 1016.

situations vacant

FARLINGTON: The Kairos process has emphasised the need for the parish of Farlington to serve its community and develop its buildings. The parish has two churches and two church halls, all of which are in need of some upgrading.

In particular, the hall at St Andrew's needs to be re-built, as there is ample demand for a community facility there. At the Church of the Resurrection, flourishing young people's work and extensive community make it essential that facilities are expanded. Preliminary plans have been drawn up and some initial funding found. We now need a project manager as a key component for this venture. If you feel inspired by the plans and are looking

for new opportunities, or know someone else who might be, contact the Rev Steve Summers on 023-9237 5145 or summerti@tiscali.co.uk

FARLINGTON: St Andrew's Church, Farlington, a lively middle-Anglican church, requires an organist for weekly Eucharistic services and major festivals, weddings and very occasional funerals.

Instruments available are: a regularly maintained Geo Osmond & Sons organ and a Roland Stage piano. Working with a small choir will also be part of the job. Payment as per current RSCM rates. Contact the Rev Steve Summers, as above.

announcements

Date:

The Rev Ian Coomber, rector, All Saints', Botley, with St Peter's, Curdridge and Holy Cross, Durlay, will be instituted as team rector of the Carmel Peninsula (Carlisle diocese) on April 23.

Deaths:

Canon Ron Granger, formerly of Bishop's Waltham and with permission to

officiate, in January 2005.
 Canon Roger Pike, formerly of St Faith's, Cowes, and with permission to officiate, in January 2005.

Rubie Richards, former lay canon at Portsmouth Cathedral, secretary of the Friends of the Cathedral and warden of Catherington House, in February 2005.

Keith Wharton, who served for 20 years as book-keeper in the diocesan offices, in February 2005.

letters to the editor

Dear editor,

The letter published last month re November's diocesan synod made me wonder if I, as a member of the laity, had been at the same meeting as was being described by the writer, who did not even attend! Then followed disbelief and anger at how those of us who were there were being described.

This private member's proposal referred to was given a significant amount of time for its presentation, on what was an extremely full agenda, and was listened to without interruption by synod. The fact that the first person to speak asked for us to move to next business (which was not agreed) merely served to show that it really shouldn't even have been brought to synod.

My understanding of the Kairos process was that deaneries agreed their plans to be presented, as per the timetable which the rest of us are working towards and not a group of five people named in the paper. It will, I am sure, have been a helpful aid to discussions enabling Petersfield to form their deanery plan. I also assumed the central structures review group needed to know what resources were needed to implement deanery Kairos

plans before they thought about re-shaping central diocesan structures.

I felt the dean - for that is who the group says "effectively rubbishised" their paper - in fact gave a very balanced reply which then allowed others to speak, although none that I recall were in favour of the proposals. As for closing the letter by quoting Bishop Kenneth's "brave words" I think they will find that when the deanery plans are presented to him, along with those from the central structures review group, he will support and encourage the changes needed to take the diocese forward.

I may be in a minority, but I look forward to seeing and hearing what all our deaneries have learnt about themselves and each other in this difficult process of Kairos.

Yours sincerely, Sue Rodgers (by e-mail)

Dear Sir,

I suspect that in the Kairos process there will be many ideas which push the boundaries of our thinking and will be radical in their solutions. The task for the Bishop's Council, diocesan synod and others who 'approve' these plans is to discern whether the ideas being suggested

are not only radical but also within our Anglican tradition and our understanding of the nature of the Church, or whether they are a departure from them. Having read the papers proposed by five laity (letters, *Pompey Chimes*, February 2005) - with no formal backing of the Petersfield deanery synod - and listened to the debate in diocesan synod, what was being proposed was a "congregational model" of the Church, rather than one I recognise as Anglican and an expression of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

To approve such a plan would have meant a departure from our tradition and a denial of a central element of our ecclesiology. The arguments against the plan seemed to arise from this rather than either a fear of change or a reluctance to take everything seriously.

In fact it was because it was being taken seriously that the paper was defeated in the way it was, for it was a serious questioning of our very understanding of ourselves as God's people and replacing it with a view of the Church which many of us would not wish to accept.

Yours sincerely, Canon Bob White, vicar, St Mary's Church, Fratton, Portsmouth