

Generous donations paid for 12 homes

CONTRIBUTIONS to the Leprosy Mission from churches in our diocese last year would have paid for 12 new homes in India.

Anglican churches with a PO postcode raised £6,300 for the charity in 2004, an increase of nearly six per cent on 2003.

Regional organiser the Rev Dr Ray Burnish said: "Leprosy patients often need to be reintegrated back into their communities, and one way in which this is achieved is by challenging their families to build a house for the leprosy patient.

"I visited two such houses in India, and discovered the materials for each cost between £500-£600, so your donations made it possible for 12 basic houses to be built."

For more information, contact Dr Burnish on 023-9225 1119.

Discover wildlife living in tiny island village

NOT many people live in the village of Mottistone - but plenty of wildlife does.

This month, there's a chance for families to discover for themselves the hidden insects, flowers, butterflies and bats living in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul's Church.

The latest Living Churchyard event, which is organised by

Christian ecologists who live in the Isle of Wight, will come to the village on May 21.

Between 50 and 100 adults and children are expected to learn more about the wildlife, flora and fossils that live in the churchyard.

The solar-powered Eco Challenger van will be there, equipped with micro-lenses to help visitors see the tiny animals

magnified.

The day will start at 10am with an introduction by the vicar, the Rev Tim Eady. There will then be two hours of explorations led by ecological experts. At 12.30pm, there will be a time of praise and thanks, followed by a family picnic.

Living Churchyard events have been organised in many island

churches over the past seven years. After the event, the team survey and record all the wildlife seen and write up a proposed management plan for the church to adopt.

For more information about the event, contact Dr Simon Young on 01983-741371 or the bishop's ecology adviser, Canon Stephen Palmer, on 01983-539580.



(left): The French market at last year's Botley Festival; (above): some of the street entertainment on offer

Festival day helps extension project

IT will be a day of celebration that will raise money to help extend a 160-year-old church.

The Botley Festival next month will involve street entertainment, a gospel choir, military displays and pop bands. The annual event helps foster community spirit in the village and raises funds for local projects.

This year, the Friends of All Saints' Church will benefit from the festival, and the cash will be put towards ambitious plans for an extension to help the church serve the community better.

The £500,000 project aims to provide better facilities for children and families, an improved reception area, better disabled access, more meeting rooms and catering facilities at the church's west end.

The festival happens on June 26, and top of the bill will be a performance by the internationally-acclaimed Croydon SDA Gospel Choir, conducted by Ken Burton, at 4.30pm in All Saints' Church. Tickets cost £10 and can be booked on www.botley.com.

Back by popular demand will be the Ramsay Caledonian Pipe Band, who defied the weather to perform last year. Storyteller Michael O'Leary and a steel band from King's School, Winchester, will entertain adults and children. The

Fort Cumberland Guard will put on a 45-minute display of historic drills and cannon-firing, and the Royal Marines Display will represent the contemporary marine corps.

Local bands will be invited to perform in a competition, and the best will be offered the chance to cut a demo CD in a recording studio. And there will be a French market, specialised stalls and other street entertainment. The event is organised by the Botley Association, a group of volunteers.

The church's curate, the Rev Gary Keith, said: "Members of All Saints' Church have been involved with the Botley Association since it was formed and have been actively involved in fundraising and community development. It's great that they have chosen our extension project as a worthy local cause to support, and we hope it's a great day."

The church's extension project has been made possible through a large legacy by the Sisters Maffey. A series of events throughout the past year means that £12,000 has already been collected.

The next fundraising events organised by the Friends of All Saints' are a concert by young musicians Pauline Solheim and David Burgess on May 1 and a progressive supper on May 22. For more information, see www.allSaintsBotley.org.uk



(l to r): Jim and Jeni Curtiss (Christian Aid), Sharon Ford (holiday Bible club), the Rev Glenn Ford (chairman, CTWW), Jenny Yates (Rock Solid), Anne Powell (brunch co-ordinator) and Wendy and Brian Smith (Carlsbrooke Priory)

Brunch cash adds up to generous handouts

THESE cheques represent the cash raised by hundreds of cups of coffee, soup lunches and breakfasts.

The West Wight ecumenical brunches held in Freshwater on Saturdays during Lent raised £4,444 for four good causes - Christian Aid, the week-long annual ecumenical Holiday Bible Club, the children's term-time club Rock Solid, and Carlsbrooke Priory.

The chairman of Churches Together in West Wight (CTWW), the Rev Glenn Ford, gave cheques to representatives of each organisation.

CTWW also held a united service at St Saviour's RC Church in Totland Bay to celebrate its anniversary and for member churches to sign a new constitution. County ecumenical officer Paul Rolph was the guest preacher.

Pompey Churches

DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2005 EDITION: Monday 9 May

AVAILABLE FOR PARISHES TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 26 May

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 29 May

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