



KAIROS
seizing God's moment for growth



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Your four-page pullout guide to every Kairos project in every cluster

Visions for future outlined in detail

EVER wondered what the the future of our Church might look like?

Within these pages are ambitious blueprints for the next five years submitted by our parishes, clusters of parishes and deaneries.

They represent an overwhelming response to Bishop Kenneth's Kairos initiative, which aimed to find new ways for us to develop mission and ministry to serve our communities more effectively in the 21st century.

This special four-page supplement lists all the Kairos plans produced so far - from major building projects to the creation of brand new churches, from parish-level projects to whole deaneries working together.

Among the common themes emerging from the individual plans are a need for more work with children and young people, more effective communication with the wider world, the training of lay people to take over pastoral work and the revamping of our churches and church halls

so they can be used by community groups.

There are radical proposals to tear down buildings and build new ones; plans to launch brand new groups meeting the needs of families, young people, the bereaved and lonely; and suggestions about employing new youth workers, administrators and community workers.

And one lasting legacy of the fact that parishes have worked together to produce these plans will be greater collaboration between neighbouring parishes - even in parishes where styles of worship are very different.

These ambitious visions for the future will be blessed at a special Kairos celebration service at 6pm on July 17 in Portsmouth Cathedral. The plans will be laid on the altar during the Eucharistic service as we commit ourselves to implement them.

The preacher will be the Rev Tom Stuckey, chairman of the Southampton Methodist District, and a band will lead informal worship

before the service.

It will represent the end of the process to develop Kairos plans that began in February 2004. Bishop Kenneth led a series of roadshows during Lent to outline the challenges our diocese faces.

Thousands of worshippers studied the theology behind Kairos in small groups from Easter to Pentecost last year. Then each cluster of parishes carried out research into their localities to see what its physical, social and spiritual needs were. The planning phase started in January and was completed when the Bishop's Council approved the plans last month.

Now comes the hard bit: implementing our Kairos plans over the next five years. Consult *The Big Issue* by Kairos manager the Rev Mike Pye on page 13 to find out how you can get started.



Those who put together Kairos plans might have felt this way as they leafed through research packs, theological principles and planning guidelines! Former News cartoonist Peter Pfeil (aka 'Pif'), from Hayling Island, came up with this image of the process.

Island-wide plans could herald new structure

AMONG the suggestions made by the **West Wight deanery** is to look at employing someone to work with young people across the deanery - or even the whole island.

Its Kairos plan also suggests exploring whether the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight should be relocated to St Thomas's, Newport, whether Whitwell and Niton should switch to the West Wight deanery - or even if the island should become a single deanery.

The **Medina Valley** cluster, which includes Cowes, East Cowes and Northwood, hopes to review its appointments process so the parishes work together when recruiting clergy or lay people.

It also wants to improve education opportunities, share good practice in baptism and wedding preparation, work together with youngsters and the newly-retired, and share administration and building resources.

West Wight

In the **Newport** cluster, the plans include an act of commitment to collaborative ministry across all five parishes, the appointment of a youth minister in 2007, as well as working together on baptism, confirmation and marriage preparation and work with the bereaved. The cluster will also investigate the formation of a group ministry and support St Paul's, Barton, in its mission and pastoral work to an 800-home housing development.

There are also plans to create a more flexible environment for worship at Barton, and for improvements to the church building, the parish magazine, pastoral visiting, school work and youth activities at Carisbrooke.

At St John's and St Thomas's, Newport, worshippers will implement plans outlined in a 2003 review and a stewardship renewal programme. St John's worshippers

also hope to upgrade their church hall, expand the house group network, put together a programme of social events and repair the church fabric. St Thomas's wants to improve its ministry to tourists, visitors, civic authorities and Newport Primary School, and launch its £2.25m renewal and restoration programme.

And Wootton parish wants to improve unity with the Methodists, set a target to improve church attendance, develop its parish magazine and develop existing good work with children's groups and in the local primary school.

Plans in the **West Coast** cluster include a new newsletter in Calbourne, building work at All Saints, Freshwater and the development of St Agnes, Freshwater, to be used during the week. Freshwater's priorities also include community involvement, ceasing non-essential activities, training, communication and

accountability.

Newtown parishioners aim to maintain special services, and hold joint events with other village organisations. And worshippers in both Shalfleet and Totland Bay want to extend and update their church hall facilities by creating charitable trusts to lease halls from the churches and modernising - or re-building - their facilities for village use.

Totland Bay's plans also include creating a pastoral team to visit villagers and welcome new church members, taking assemblies at a local school and providing an after-school club, a focus on evangelical preaching, and a review of worship.

And in Yarmouth, the plans focus on befriending the elderly in the town and working with the nine to 18-year-old age group. Yarmouth, Totland Bay and Freshwater churches will also develop their ecumenical summer holiday club for children.

And along the **South Coast**, the cluster aims to look at ways of working more closely together, including the creation of a leaflet giving a tour of all eight of its churches.

Worshippers at Brighstone want to find ways to reach people in their 20s, 30s and 40s, and find more people to lead youth and children's work. Those at Brook with Mottistone want to improve the use of their church buildings, tackle communications issues and improve support for intercessions.

Churchgoers in Niton and Whitwell want to form a lay ministry team to visit the sick, lonely and vulnerable, enhance the praying experience for visitors to churches, improve provision for children at church and extend the use of church buildings. And those at Shorwell, Gatcombe and Chale aim to build catering and toilet facilities at Shorwell and Gatcombe, and to start groups for children and young people.