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WROXALL: It was one of the last services the Rev Peter Faulkner took before he died.

St John's Church in Wroxall was decorated with red, white and blue flowers and banners as it celebrated the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Parish councillors, the school choir, scouts, cubs, brownies, and representatives from community organisations packed the church.

The service reflected on the war years, from the bravery of those at the frontline to trials of rationing, evacuation and the blackout at home.

School-age children were each given a copy of a letter from King George VI that was sent to children at the end of the war.

Churchwarden Catherine Gunn said: "The service was taken 10 days before Peter died. He was at St John's for just one year and was loved by all in Wroxall."

HORNDEAN and CLANFIELD: Fifty children enjoyed a variety of nautical activities as their local churches laid on a week-long holiday club.

Horndean and Clanfield Churches Together turned the Blendworth Church Centre into a ship for five days of art, craft, drama, Bible stories and songs.

They interviewed 'Admiral Lord Nelson', learnt dances to sea shanties, wore old-fashioned sailors' hats and performed the story of Jesus calming the storm.

The naval theme was emphasised with props such as masts, a ship's wheel, ropes and sacks borrowed from the International Festival of the Sea, and the help of two Royal Navy volunteers from HMS Collingwood.

Organiser Sam Burdekin said: "We catered for the maximum number we could - 50 - and around half were church kids and



Bethany Hallett, 9, and Amy Edwards, 10, enjoy the maritime theme at this year's holiday club run by Horndean and Clanfield Churches Together

news from the pews

half non-church kids.

"It was our fifth year of doing a holiday club, and it was a really good one. Some of the children are already asking what's happening next year."

RYDE: The vicar of Holy Trinity, Ryde, the Rev Malcolm Jones, has been awarded a Master of Laws after a two-year course.

Malcolm studied Anglican and Roman Catholic canon law, ecclesiastical law, European Union laws and the legal framework for other denominations.

The course consisted of eight modules, each with a written assignment, and a 20,000-word dissertation. He chose to write about legal changes in the area of clergy discipline.

FROXFIELD: A project to re-cover all the kneelers in Froxfield's two churches has finally been completed - after 23 years of work.

A £500 legacy from Froxfield resident Joyce Arden in 1982 prompted the project, which was initially led by Alison Fowler and

Peggy Madden. Work began in 1983 and 34 pew kneelers had been completed by 24 different embroiderers by the end of that year.

After Mrs Fowler died, Mrs Madden continued the project with regular sewing afternoons at her home. Many inexperienced embroiders became experts under her guidance.

By the time Mrs Madden moved from the parish in 2002, more than 160 pew kneelers, five communion rail kneelers and a large prayer desk kneeler had been completed.

The final 30 pew kneelers and another prayer desk kneeler were stitched over the next three years by a small team co-ordinated by Dr Jean Dow. The final cover was mounted and placed in church in April.

No less than 63 people contributed one or more kneelers to the project. Most were from Froxfield, but a few keen embroiderers from Steep also helped.

No two kneelers are the same: some feature dedications in

memory of friends and relations, some have military themes, some mark Froxfield's wildlife, while others are patterns and individual designs.

PURBROOK:

Community groups celebrated 10 years of care by the Rowans Hospice with a display of flowers in St John's Church.

Floral displays were designed and contributed by several groups, from St John's Infant School to the local horticultural society.

The exhibition was entitled 'Floribunde', and visitors streamed into the church over a summer weekend to see it.

The project was planned by the Rowans Hospice's Purbrook and Widley Support Group. Group representatives Julia Brown and Eleanor Pearson were delighted with the response they had from the community.

CROOKHORN:

Crookhorn worshipper Eileen Jones will lead an event designed to help parents and those who work with children in our churches.

Eileen, who attends the Church of the Good Shepherd and founded the national charity Positive Parenting, will lead the event on September 12.

Entitled 'Kids Today', the event is aimed at the parents of children under nine and those who work with children in schools or at church.

The venue for the event is Cosham Baptist Church in Havant Road, and it will start at 7.30pm with coffee and doughnuts. Anyone interested is welcome to come.

Positive Parenting has supported parents and those who work with them for 25 years. More than 4,000 parents a year attend workshops and courses where their resources are used.

For details, see: www.parenting.org.uk