



Bishop Kenneth leads worshippers out of the cathedral's west door at the end of the Kairos celebration service



Above left: clergy hold hands as they share the peace; above right: worship during the service



Blessing our plans turn

IT was a moment that symbolised what Kairos is all about.

Worshippers followed the bishop out of the cathedral's west door and into the evening sunlight to

mark their renewed commitment to serving their local communities.

The 500-strong congregation from across the diocese had just pledged to proclaim the gospel in word and action, and to serve Christ by loving their neighbours during the Eucharistic service.

The Kairos celebration service was a chance to ask God to bless the ambitious visions for the future that we have drawn up over the past 18 months.

Eight deanery Kairos plans, which incorporated a total of 277 ideas from parishes and clusters, were symbolically laid at the foot of the altar and blessed during the

July service. The plans represent commitments to give physical, emotional and spiritual help to thousands of needy people across our diocese.

A band from Holy Rood Church, Stubbington, led the congregation in worship songs before and during the service, while more traditional hymns were played on the organ. And the chairman of the Southampton Methodist district, the Rev Tom Stuckey, was asked to preach to emphasise the ecumenical nature of much of our Kairos thinking.

"I believe that God is in the process of re-shaping the Church so



Mustard Seed singers (left to right) Kat Hands, Nicola Poustie, Katy Summer and Fiona Poustie

REVIEW

HIS STORY

Ferneham Hall, Fareham

HIS STORY depicts an imaginary dialogue between Mary the mother of Jesus, played by Rachel Stubbs, and John the disciple who Jesus loved, played by Jeremy Field.

As they reflect on the life of our Lord, the story unfolds through multi-media images including a Max Headroom-style narrator, solos and choral pieces accompanied by a soul band, against a visual backdrop which ranges from serenity to Dali-esque quirkiness.

The work, composed by Ken Shearsmith with script by Ken Shearsmith, Ron Long and

Bobby Tait, contained an eclectic variety of styles. The Mustard Seed Singers gave a performance reminiscent of *The Commitments*, with an added touch of glamour. The song *Do I Need to Worship?* was inspired by Psalm 150, but instead of 'Praise him on the lute and harp', there was praise on the saxophone, the guitar and drums.

A Song of Celebration was beautifully accompanied by the Sounds of Steel band, *The Triumphal Entry* had a Celtic feel to it, and the whole production had an exuberance which was palpable.

The power-house of the performance came from the Mustard Seed Soul Band and the Mustard Seed Girls' Choir.

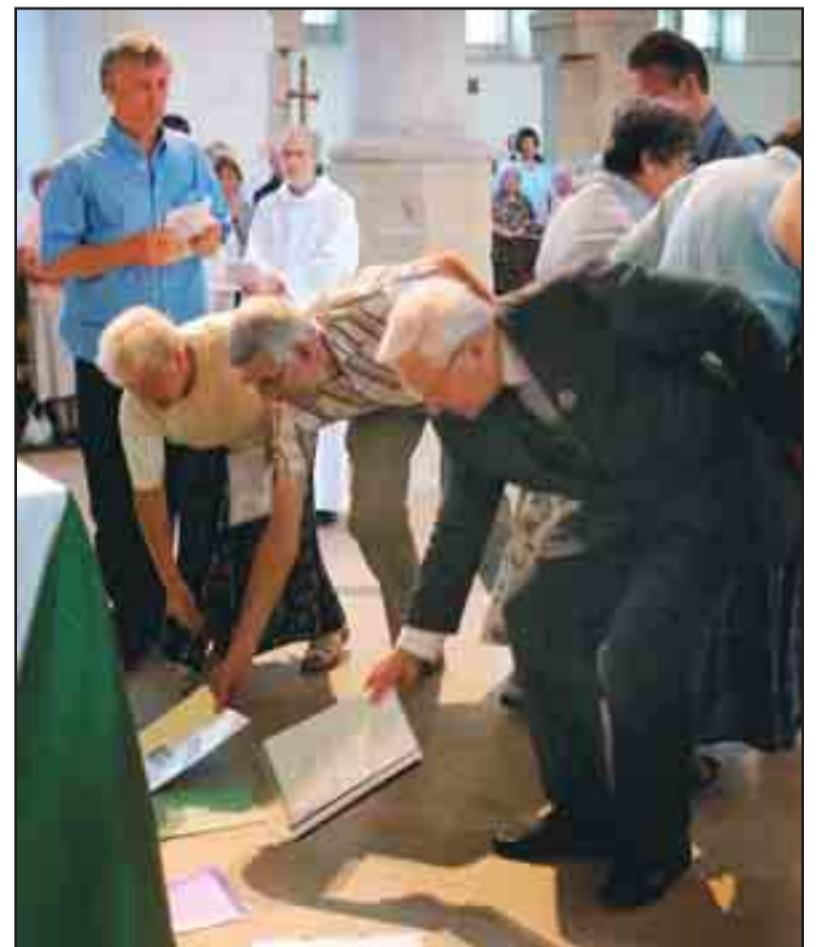
The Crofton Hammond Infant School choir sang their song *What Would Jesus Do?* and won the hearts of the audience with their enthusiasm.

Lucy Stimpson-Maynard's solos were oases of calm – time to reflect – while Jessica Castillo-Burley gave a very sincere performance.

STELLA STARR

● The performance of *His Story* will be repeated on May 6 next year at the Kings Theatre in Southsea. It will be promoted by Faith and Football and Pompey defender Linvoy Primus hopes to be there.

Around 1,200 people should see it over two performances - a Saturday matinee for schools and a Saturday evening show.



Deanery representatives place their Kairos plans symbolically at the foot of the altar before the Eucharistic prayer