



Helping churches to get noticed

Communications: pages 6-7



Atheist met God while walking dog

My Faith: page 8



Christians prepare to fill Guildhall with worship

Praise the Lord!



Noel Tredinnick will conduct the All Souls Orchestra for the 'Prom Praise' event at Portsmouth's Guildhall on April 29

CHRISTIANS are to fill Portsmouth's Guildhall with worship as part of an ambitious musical weekend.

'Prom Praise', which features stunning music from an orchestra and a specially-formed choir of local singers, is coming to our diocese next spring.

The weekend, from April 29-30 next year, includes a concert at the 2,000-seater Guildhall on the Saturday night, featuring conductor Noel Tredinnick and the All Souls Orchestra. All Souls musicians will then join Sunday morning worship in churches around our diocese.

The 'Prom Praise' concept is intended to be a concert which features high-quality musicians and

singers performing classical extracts with religious themes, traditional hymns and modern worship songs - combining something of the spirit of *Songs of Praise* and *The Last Night of the Proms*. There is a short 'Thought for the Day' slot. The conductor, Noel Tredinnick, also conducted during the recording of the BBC's *Songs of Praise* in our cathedral in October last year.

Cathedral organist David Price is organising the weekend with local branches of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). They have invited Langham Arts, which is based at All Souls Church, Langham Place, in London, and has organised Prom Praise concerts for 17 years, to visit.

"The idea is that this is first and foremost an excellent evening of

entertainment that Christians and non-Christians can enjoy side-by-side," said David. "The quality of the musicianship on show is beyond question.

"Having said that, the performers will be people who believe that music is a gift from God. The event should help to inspire those of us who are Christians, and the lyrics, music and high standard of presentation should speak clearly to non-churchgoers about what we believe.

"And the involvement of professional musicians in our own churches on the Sunday morning is an added bonus - it should help us all raise our horizons about the possibilities of parish worship."

Local branches of the RSCM will be recruiting a choir of local singers for the occasion over the

next few months. Anyone interested in taking part should contact our cathedral's music office on 023-9234 9430 or sophie.lederer@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

Tickets for 'Prom Praise' are now on sale from Portsmouth's Guildhall, priced between £6.50 and £15, on 023-9282 4355. Tickets can also be bought online at: www.rscmportsmouth.com

The RSCM also organises an annual Choirs Festival each year, which allows local singers to display their expertise. This year's event will happen on October 15 at St John's RC Cathedral in Edinburgh Road. Noel Tredinnick will also conduct at this event, when more details of the 'Prom Praise' event next spring will be available. It starts at 4.30pm, and all are welcome to attend.

Archdeacon bags new national Church job

ONE of our archdeacons has been appointed to run the ministry division of the national Church of England.

The Archdeacon of Portsdown, the Ven Christopher Lowson, will become Director of Ministry for the Archbishops' Council. He will lead a team at Church House, London, responsible for developing policy and delivering support to those in lay and ordained ministry throughout the Church.



He will be responsible for the Church's annual budget of £9.2m to train new clergy and Readers, as well as the £1.3m budget and 28 staff of his own division. He will start the new job in February.

The 52-year-old (pictured above) has been Archdeacon of Portsdown since 1999, chairs our Diocesan Board of Ministry, and also chaired the Kairos Executive Group.

He helped devise and teach an MA course in Church and Community Studies at the University of Portsmouth and completed his own Master of Laws degree at Cardiff Law School. He was previously the vicar of St Peter's, Petersfield, and rector at St Mary's, Buriton, for eight years, and was rural dean of Petersfield from 1995-1999.

He said: "I hope I can take some of the new Kairos thinking that we have done in Portsmouth and apply it at national level. I will, of course, be sad to leave friends and colleagues in this diocese, which manages to be small, relaxed and friendly, and yet always open to radical ideas."