

Clergy invited to learn with Readers

CLERGY are being invited to come to the annual Readers' conference on the Isle of Wight.

Incumbents will be asked to join their lay colleagues at the Carlton Hotel, Sandown, on the Saturday of the weekend conference. The event will be titled 'Releasing the Potential' and happens between January 27 and 29 next year.

Clergy who attend will be able to hear both key speakers - the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Rev Mike Hill, and the priest-in-charge of Wroxall, the Rev Anne Faulkner.

They will explore the dynamic of the New Testament Church and examine how we can recover it by releasing the full potential of our local churches.

Pompey Churches

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2005/JANUARY 2006 EDITION: Monday 7 November

AVAILABLE FOR PARISHES TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 24 November

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 27 November

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Bishop celebrates decade since consecration

BISHOP Kenneth has marked 10 years since his consecration as Bishop of Portsmouth with Eucharist in his chapel.

The bishop (pictured right), who was diagnosed with leukaemia in September, was allowed home from hospital for a week last month between his first and second courses of

chemotherapy.

That allowed him to celebrate a decade since his consecration with Eucharist in his chapel, with his staff team, on October 13.

He said: "The treatment appears to be going well, and I am in good heart. This is largely due to the overwhelming sense of you, in the diocese, and many others

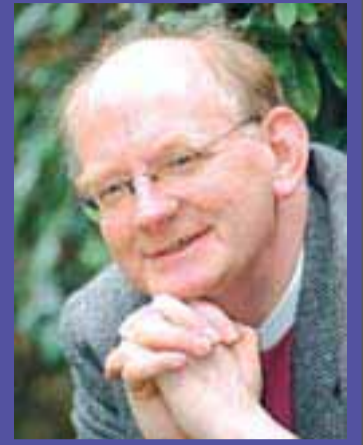
praying for me. That, and all your cards and letters, means more to Sarah, the family and myself than I can put into words. So thank you!

"For understandable reasons, visiting has been restricted. But that does not mean that I don't have you in my thoughts each day."

Bishop Kenneth's diary was cleared for six

months when his condition was first diagnosed. This means he won't be visiting Ghana as planned in November.

While Kenneth is receiving treatment, the Bishop of Basingstoke, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, is conducting confirmation services. Everything else is being looked after by the bishop's staff.



Top speaker at two Christmas events

EVANGELIST J John is to speak at two Christmas carol concerts in Portsmouth and Horndean next month.

Event organisers hope Christians will take friends who are interested in finding out more about the faith to the evangelistic events on December 4 and 12.

J John, who has led more than 250 missions in 31 countries and has written 26 books, is regarded as one of the most creative Christian speakers in the country. He will explain about the importance of Jesus' birth at the events, entitled 'Christmas Unwrapped'.

The first starts at 6.30pm on December 4 at the Pyramids Centre on Southsea seafront. It will include carols led by a worship group co-ordinated by Alex Gray from St Simon's, Southsea, and Bible readings relating the Christmas story. This event was organised by a group of charismatic churches in Portsmouth.

The second takes place at Barton Hall in Horndean Community School, at 7.30pm on December 12. It will see Blendworth Brass Band lead carols and Bible readings. The Mayor and Mayoress of Havant, Councillors Cyril Hilton and Olwyn Kennedy, will also be there.

This date was organised by churches in the Waterlooville area as part of the bishop's Kairos initiative, which aims to help churches find new ways of mission and ministry. This forms one of 277 Kairos plans drawn up by Anglican parishes, clusters and deaneries across south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



All attending both events will receive a free booklet entitled 'More than a Christmas Carol', written by J John. It is based on the famous Charles Dickens novel and distributed via the Philo Trust charity that supports J John's work.

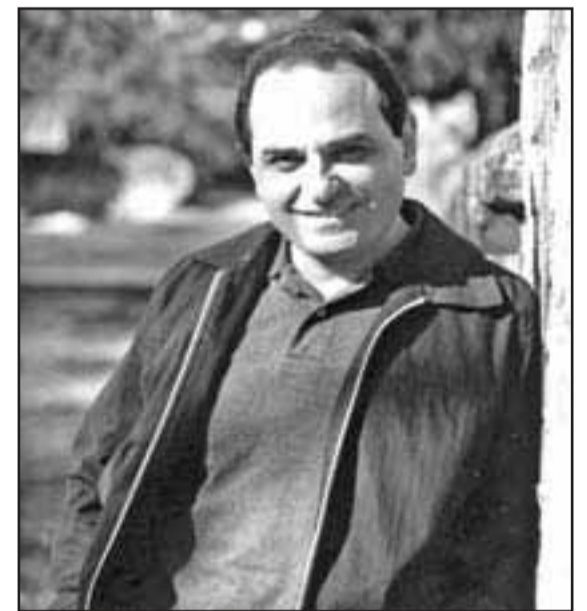
Bob Wheeler, from St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain, who has organised the Horndean event, said: "This is an opportunity for those within the churches involved to invite people in the community - family friends, neighbours or work colleagues -

to hear about the true meaning of Christmas.

"Our aim is to reach those who perhaps would not normally think of attending a church and for people to hear about the gospel message in a relaxed informal atmosphere.

"We will be following this up in the New Year by inviting all those who are interested to an Alpha course. Other churches involved will be offering similar type courses."

For more details about the Southsea event, contact David Aldridge on 023-9286 1169. For more details about the Horndean date, contact Bob Wheeler on 023-9259 6019.



Evangelist J John will visit twice in December

How villagers stopped the rot



The chairman of the 'Stop the Rot' campaign, Robert Solomon, and vicar, the Rev Richard Brand, celebrate

IT was time to celebrate after villagers accomplished their mission of saving the church roof.

Residents throughout Hambleton came together to raise the £420,000 needed to repair the roof at St Peter and St Paul's Church.

The 'Stop the Rot' campaign saw the money being raised through grants, trusts, individual donations, and a host of fun events including a country fayre, auction of promises and children's sponsored swim.

Villagers held a service of thanksgiving

and celebration to coincide with the finishing touches being made to the roof repairs.

More than 200 people came to the service, which finished with a rousing rendition of *Jerusalem*. It was followed by food, drinks and children's games in blazing sunshine.

The church roof has been reinforced with steel beams, most of which are hidden between the ceiling and roof above. The work also included insulation and re-plastering.

The roof shouldn't need any attention now for at least another 100 years.