

# Joy as bishop is surprise guest



Bishop Kenneth and the Ven Caroline Baston

**THERE was an audible gasp from the congregation as Bishop Kenneth strode in at the end of the procession.**

The bishop made a surprise appearance at last month's cathedral service to collate and install the Ven Caroline Baston as Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. His doctors gave him permission to attend just three days beforehand.

It meant he could formally collate Caroline as archdeacon and pray for her ministry on the island. It was also his first opportunity to wear his new award of Knight Commander of the Order of Dannebrog in public.

The dean also installed Caroline as a cathedral canon. And the Rev David Williams, vicar of Christ Church, Winchester, preached a sermon in which he and Caroline's nephew, Robert Baston, re-enacted part of the parable of the prodigal son in the quire.

"It was a lovely mix of informality and formality," said Caroline. "I was thrilled that Bishop Kenneth was able to be there. It was an

important thing for me that he could come, and the congregation were surprised and delighted to see him there.

"There were also so many faces from different parts of my ministry and life, and all the people I spoke to from this diocese made me feel very welcome. I want to thank everyone who worked behind the scenes to make it work as smoothly as it did."

Caroline, who was a rector in Winchester, and diocesan director of ordinands, took over from the Ven Trevor Reader, who moved earlier this year to become Archdeacon of Portsdown. She was also welcomed to the island with a service at St Thomas's, Newport.

In his sermon, David Williams said: "Caroline, you have joined with the family at All Saints, Winchester, in the joys and struggles of life. We've appreciated your capacity to do two things – to listen to God and to listen to those in need. We will miss you."

Bishop Kenneth, whose leukaemia returned over the summer, is still officially off work, awaiting a bone marrow transplant operation.

## Return trip helps to forge links

ONE of our archdeacons and a church school headteacher were among a party that travelled to Poland from our diocese.

The Ven Trevor Reader, chairman of our Board of Education, and Krysia Butwilowska, head of St Luke's in Southsea, made the trip. It was a return visit after Polish Lutheran clergy and headteachers visited our diocese in February.

The five-strong team looked at education facilities provided by the Lutheran Society at their secondary schools in Bielsko-Biala and Cieszyn, in Silesia, southern Poland, with a view to pupils carrying out exchange visits. A group of pupils from Poland are likely to visit our diocese in the near future.

The party were made very welcome and attended a special Lutheran church service led by Pastor Roman Dorda - one of the group who visited our diocese.

A visit was also arranged to the former concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau.

## Dahlia event is blooming successful

AN island church was bursting with fragrant flowers as it hosted its first ever dahlia festival.

PCC secretary Oliver Mathews had the vision for a festival at All Saints, Calbourne, to use the talents of worshipper Angela Strickland, who grows thousands of dahlias in her garden.

The effect was stunning, with the chancel dressed in white, and waves of arrangements in deepening hues through the church. There were stalls on the green for two days, and refreshments in the recreation centre. Volunteers manned the teams and rotas.

The event created a real buzz in the village and raised £3,000 for church funds.

## New chaplain for IoW college

A NEW chaplain has been appointed for the Isle of Wight College.

The Rev Kath Abbott, rector of Wootton, will be spending a few hours each week in college to help staff and students.

Further education adviser Gareth Denby said: "The college managers are very supportive and keen to develop chaplaincy. Kath will make a significant impact on the college community."

## Festival team show off their quilts

THEY came together at an arts and crafts festival – but enjoyed working together so much they carried on quilting.

Now the Festival Quilters from Holy Rood Church in Stubbington have shown off their skills to fellow churchgoers with a display of their work.

The exhibition in the church last month featured impressive examples of their creativity, with quilts large and small on show.

The eight women initially joined forces for two workshops during the church's art and craft festival in May 2005, under the instruction of experienced quilter Jean Powell. But they then continued to meet weekly at her house to learn more complex techniques.

One of the group, Pauline Harding, said: "We all went to the workshops in the afternoon of the festival. Most of us had never done it before, but Jean was inspirational.

"Since then we've met for friendship and support as well as to learn more about how to do it."

Gladys Springgett said: "I'd never done it before, but Jean was very encour-



Among the Festival Quilters are (back, l to r): Lyn Lewis, Pauline Harding, Shirley Barnett, Ethel Brockenshire (front) Alison Howe and Gladys Springgett, pictured with some of their creations at Holy Rood Church, Stubbington

aging. She's a superb teacher. It's great to come together and do it – you forget your worries for a couple of hours. I've certainly found it beneficial after losing my husband."

And Lyn Lewis, said: "Jean's enthusiasm fed through to us, and she gave us the confidence in our abilities to be able to do it. I've now made quilts as gifts for babies and someone's 50th birthday."