

Bishop set for surgery soon



BISHOP Kenneth has been given an approximate date for his bone marrow transplant.

The bishop, whose leukaemia returned over the summer, should go through the procedure in late November or early December, in hospital in Southampton. The bone marrow will be provided by an anonymous donor.

Doctors hope that the operation, which aims to provide the body with a new way of supplying

blood, will deal with the leukaemia – a cancer of the blood.

He will undergo intensive chemotherapy before the operation, and it is likely to take a few months for his body to absorb the immunisation system provided by the donor.

Bishop Kenneth said: "I'm glad things are moving forward. Had I been much older, they wouldn't have considered doing a bone marrow transplant. Overall, I'm feeling very positive, and cautiously optimistic about the long-

term future.

"One of the strange things about it is that my blood group may actually change as a result! I know that I'll be in the prayers of many people as I go through this operation, and the family and I feel incredibly moved and uplifted by that."

Between now and then, the bishop is undertaking some duties, as his leukaemia is now in temporary remission after chemotherapy over the summer.

It's been suggested that one

way to show our support for Bishop Kenneth is to volunteer to be a bone marrow donor. The Antony Nolan Trust urgently needs many more donors, especially men between the age of 18 to 40.

A blood sample is taken from each potential donor whose name is then placed on the register. Only when a donor's tissue matches that of a person needing a transplant will he or she be called upon. Ring 0207 284 1234 for details.

Service to offer hope to those with Aids

WORSHIPPERS from across our diocese will mark World Aids Day with a service of hope in our cathedral.

Around 200 people are expected to take part in the Advent Hope service organised by Christian Aid at 7.30pm on November 30.

The Rev Max Millett, chairman of our diocese's Council for Social Responsibility, will speak, and music will come from Christian Aid songwriter Martin John Nicholls. They will be joined by Cantate, the cathedral's new youth choir.

They will reflect on the fact that three million people died of Aids-related illnesses during 2005, 570,000 of whom were children. Five million people became newly-infected with HIV during the year, bringing the total infected worldwide to 40.3 million.

Susan Barry, who manages Christian Aid's work in this region, said: "HIV/Aids is a global crisis, but we can all do something to tackle it. We hope this service will give people the opportunity to reflect on a very serious situation, and resolve to take action for positive change."

Among the congregation will be Mary Blake, from St Mary's, Carisbrooke. She was deeply affected by hearing about the work done by one of Christian Aid's partner organisations, Jamaica Aids Support for Life, at a conference.

"Novlet Reid told us about an eight-year-old girl who was diagnosed as HIV+," she said. "Her mother died, and her grandmother turned her out, which was shocking. Jamaica Aids Support For Life has nurses and counsellors to explain to her what HIV meant and find a foster family to care for her."

● November is the month when Christian Aid and other charities are urging people to make wills.

Will Aid is a new scheme in which qualified solicitors draw up a will for you for free. Instead of payment, you donate to the Will Aid charities, which also include Help the Aged, NSPCC, and Save the Children.

For more information, see www.willaid.org.uk or ring 0870-6060239.

Students given a taste of workplace

AN ecumenical Christian bookshop and café in Fareham is helping students back into the workplace.

The Well gives them teaching in catering techniques, and then allows them to test their practical skills in its kitchen and café.

Its students spend three hours on Saturday mornings doing the academic learning and then work in its kitchens and café for a few hours during the week.

For Lisa Crossley, 24, it should provide a way back into catering after she dropped out of a Highbury College course.

"I help with the cooking, the washing-up and preparing food," she said. "I like all of it and I'm really learning. It's a very supportive place to work, and I hope it will lead on to a full-time job somewhere."

And Dave Phillips, 50, is also gaining valuable experience in working the till, food hygiene and health and safety issues.

"I'm between jobs, so I'm hoping this will get me back into employment in future," he said. "I enjoy working the tills and talking to customers. I'm certainly more aware of what goes on in a place like this now."

The National Open College Network qualification only lasts four weeks. Its first tranche of eight students have already completed their courses, and the next course starts in January.

The first set of students included two teenagers from Baycroft Special School on day release, youngsters from the Fareport Training Organisation and jobless people enrolling on New Deal schemes.

June Haye, the manager of The Well, said: "It's been a great benefit to all of the students, because they are learning about employment as well as what to do in the kitchen. And it's certainly helped us out, as they've been eager to help."



(left to right) students Dave Phillips, Christine Oakes and Lisa Crossley learn about catering at The Well