

# Readers look at ways to engage

**READERS will be given the chance to think about new ways of being Church at their annual conference.**

More than 100 Readers will meet up for a weekend on the Isle of Wight to think about and experience Fresh Expressions of Church. The conference happens from January 27-29 at Winchester House, overlooking the beach at Shanklin.

Entitled 'Moving on in a Mission-shaped Church', the conference will seek to build on the experiences of previous years when Readers have considered mission in our post-modern culture. The Rev Steven Croft, Archbishops' Missioner and team leader of Fresh Expressions, will



**The Rev Steven Croft**

be the main speaker.

Among the workshops will be the chance for Readers to learn about using beatbox techniques in mission with Gavin Tyte from Southampton and alternative

worship with Philip Roderick. They will then also experience some alternative worship and a human beatbox performance.

The warden of Readers, the Rev Dennis Lloyd, said: "We

have been looking at our changing post-modern culture and how the Church engages with that at our conferences for the past four or five years.

"Bishop Mike Hill told us last year about how Readers could be models for lay ministry within churches. Steven Croft will talk about how to engage with people outside church, and about our ministry as individuals in the wider community. On the Friday, he'll be giving us an overview of Fresh Expressions nationally. We'll also be able to share what's happening in our parishes and how we can create our own Fresh Expressions.

"On Saturday, he'll be talking about being a mission-shaped church and about mission-shaped ministry. And in the afternoon, we'll have workshops on beatboxing and alternative worship. Gavin goes around nightclubs, using his beatboxing to engage with people. And Philip will talk about the theology of worship before doing an alternative worship session for us in the evening."

Readers will also share some of the new ways of being Church that are already being practised in our diocese, and challenge each other to set up Fresh Expressions in their own parishes.

The Rev Steven Croft is also expected to speak at the diocesan conference – for clergy and laity – next year. That should take place in Chichester from September 3-6, with one day spent in Chichester Cathedral.

## Help bring Christmas to life for patients

COULD you help to bring Christmas alive for those who will be patients in Portsmouth's hospitals over the festive season?

Volunteers are needed to join carol singers in Queen Alexandra and St Mary's Hospitals on Christmas Eve.

They will be bringing the spirit of Christmas to between 800 and 1,000 local people who will spend Christmas having treatment in hospital. The singing is being organised by the chaplaincy at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

Canon Nick Fennemore, head of chaplaincy and bereavement services, said: "A few years ago, the chaplaincy began carol singing around the wards on Christmas Eve.

"Chaplains receive so many comments of appreciation in the following days that we are in no doubt how much this has meant to both patients and staff. We urgently need more singers this year, especially as Christmas Eve is a Sunday!"

Volunteers meet in the chapels of both hospitals at 6pm and start singing around the wards at around 6.30pm. They aim to finish between 8pm and 8.30pm.

Those who come need to be at least 16 years old, and reasonably fit for walking around the wards and up and down stairs.

Anyone who would like to come can ring St Mary's Hospital chaplaincy on 023-9286 6080 or the Queen Alexandra Hospital chaplaincy on 023-9228 6408.

Canon Nick Fennemore has taken over as head of Portsmouth's hospital chaplaincy service from the Rev Frank Hillebrand, who has retired.

## Fresh Expressions on the agenda

**WORSHIPPERS can find out more about Fresh Expressions of Church at a course that starts in Eastleigh in January.**

'Emerging Church - The Journey' is the title of three Saturday morning sessions for those shaping new ways of being Church.

It starts on January 27 at Chandlers Ford Methodist Church, between 9.30am and 4pm, and continues on February 24 and March 24.

Those who are already involved in Fresh Expressions or who are interested in setting one up, are urged to

attend. It costs £50 for one session, £80 for two and £99 to attend all three.

Among the teachers are Michael Moynagh, from the national Fresh Expressions team, Jenny Ellis, the Southampton district training and development officer, Keith Beech-Gruneberg, director of studies for the Diocese of Oxford, and Pauline Godfrey, the vice-principal of the Guildford Diocesan Ministry Course.

They'll be looking at the theological and practical shape of the emerging church,

good practice, the evolution of worship, reflective practice and how to equip people.

The sessions form a pilot project for the South Central Regional Training Partnership, which includes the Anglican dioceses of Guildford, Oxford, Portsmouth, Salisbury and Winchester, the Southampton district of the Methodist Church and the Wessex synod of the URC.

For details, contact Sheila Townsend on 01865-208277 or sheila.townsend@oxford.anglican.org



**John Gwynn: new chairman of diocesan finance committee**

## New top finance man chosen

**THE new chairman of our diocesan finance committee is John Gwynn, from St Nicholas' Church, Wickham.**

John, who is the managing director of nursery firm A E Roberts Ltd in Shirrell Heath, takes over as chairman from diocesan secretary Michael Jordan.

He will chair the committee that includes the chairmen of deanery finance committees, and advises on the management of the diocese's finances, examines the diocesan budget

and monitors parish share payments.

John, 50, was revealed as the new chairman at a diocesan synod meeting on November 11.

The father-of-two was born in Wickham, went to school in Portsmouth and sang in our cathedral.

He has a degree in maths and worked in London with an industrial firm before returning to work as an assistant in the nursery run by his father.

"My firm has a turnover of around £4m a year, so that's

slightly less than the diocese," he said. "But my role with the nursery is now that of chief executive, so I have responsibility for the financial direction of the firm.

"I'm very impressed that the diocesan finances have been managed with such a great degree of responsibility over the years.

"We may have had annual rises of six per cent in parish share, but we haven't had the rises of 30 per cent or so that other dioceses have had."