

## Cathedral day helps to heal past hurts



Preb Peter Speck

DO you have areas of your life that need physical, emotional or spiritual healing? Would you benefit from learning about the ministry of healing?

Our cathedral is hosting a day devoted to this area of Christian life this month. The celebration of healing and wholeness day is on May 12, from 10.20am until 2.45pm.

It will be led by Prebendary Peter Speck, a former healthcare

chaplain who is now honorary senior lecturer in palliative care at King's College, London, and a research fellow at Southampton. In the morning, he'll be looking at the relevance of past hurt in the healing process in a session entitled 'Be Healed, Be Whole'.

There will then be a simple service offering participants prayer and the chance to experience the ministry of healing.

In the afternoon, there will

be a workshop and discussion on the theme of 'Healing of Hurt'.

The day is free of charge and all are welcome. Participants should bring their own lunch.

Diocesan healing adviser the Rev Paul Kennedy said: "We are very privileged to have Peter leading this day, as he has plenty of experience in this area."

For more details, contact Paul on 01730-264282.

## Ex-provost is dean at St Paul's Cathedral

NOT long ago he was a parish priest in our diocese – now he holds one of the most prestigious jobs in the Church of England.

The Rt Rev Graeme Knowles has been appointed as the new dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

He was precentor of Portsmouth Cathedral between 1981-87, became the vicar of St Francis Church in Leigh Park until 1993 and was then Archdeacon of Portsmouth until 1999.

He was appointed as dean of Carlisle Cathedral before taking up his current role as Bishop of Sodor and Man in 2003.

He will take over at a thriving cathedral which is approaching its 300th anniversary. He was praised by the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, who mentioned his experience in Leigh Park when welcoming him to the role.

"Graeme knows cathedrals well and brings with him an extraordinary range of experience, from being vicar of a tough, inner-city parish through to his role as Bishop of Sodor and Man," he said.

"There can be few people with such a rich and varied background and I look forward to working with him."

And Bishop Graeme said: "I am delighted to be appointed dean of this wonderful and historic cathedral. It is a place of living worship and witness at a diocesan, local and a national level."

# End in sight for flagship project

**IT'S been a massive project – but they can now start to see light at the end of the tunnel.**

Plans are now being drawn up for the final phase of the £4.2m project to transform St Cuthbert's Church, Copnor, into a GPs' surgery, community rooms and a new worship area.

The GPs' surgery, with St Cuthbert's Hall, opened at the east end of the building in 2005, as the first phase of the ambitious project. The second phase involved the demolition of the neighbouring church hall and the building of flats for the elderly – releasing funds for the rest of the work.

Building work is now going on to complete the four-storey complex of community rooms in the centre of the church. That third phase should be finished by the end of November.

And the congregation, which has been worshipping in a school hall since November 2003, is now starting to think about the details of the new 200-seat worship area at the west end of the church building.

This final phase should also include the creation of a new entrance foyer and community café to link the surgery, community rooms and worship area.

The transformation of the building into a centre for spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing was adopted as a flagship project of the bishop's Kairos initiative, which inspired worshippers across the diocese to put their churches at the centre of local communities.



Churchwarden Barry Day, who chairs the St Cuthbert's Trust which is responsible for the community rooms, said: "We still have around £400,000 to raise which should pay for the worship area and the new entrance. Depending on when we get the money, we may do both those things together or do them separately.

"We still have some decisions to take about the worship area, such as the heating, the type of flooring, the re-installation of the organ and the provision of low-energy lighting. Those decisions will affect the cost. But we are just beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel."

The new community rooms will involve a children's centre on the ground floor, incorporating The Corner Pre-school Playgroup that already meets in the building. In collaboration with other agencies, including the surgery and local schools, the centre will offer a range of health and other services to families in east Portsmouth.

The first and second floors will provide community and meeting rooms for hire, while the top floor will be a large hall under the central dome of the Edwardian church building.

The church received a grant of £195,000 from the Bradbury Trust at a Sunday service last month as the latest contribution to its funds. If you would like to support the project in any way, please contact the Rev David Power on 023-9282 7071.



**Above: an artist's impression of the new worship area at St Cuthbert's; below: the steel structure that will house the complex of community rooms in the centre of the building**



## Cash award eases church's repair bill

**A 155-YEAR-OLD church has been given £39,500 towards the repair of its leaking spire and tower.**

Holy Trinity Church, Blendworth, was given the money by the Veolia Environmental Trust towards the church's £210,000 repair bill.

The grant was made as part of tax rules that allow landfill operators to make donations to restoration projects rather than pay landfill tax.

The chairman of the tower and spire fund, Michael Hicks

said: "The exceedingly generous grant by the Veolia Environmental Trust has made a considerable and timely impact on the fundraising required.

"The tower repair will ensure Holy Trinity remains a focus of church and community activities for future generations."

Fundraising to repair the spire and surrounding stonework and to replace guttering started in 2005. The repairs should take place during 2007.