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DIOCESE: This year's annual school leavers' service will take place on two consecutive days in our cathedral.

More than 500 pupils from our diocese's 49 church schools are expected to attend the services on July 16 and 17, both at 2pm.

Seven, 11 and 14-year-olds will parade their banners through the nave of the cathedral before taking part in the service. Pupils from St Luke's School will act as stewards and provide a brass band musical interlude.

And music and dance displays will also come from children from St George's, Shalfleet, St Boniface and Upham Primary Schools. There will be readings from Swanmore and Botley Primary Schools and prayers led by Newport and Durley Primary Schools.

HOOK-with-WARSASH: Children from Hook-with-



Children play on the new pirate ship in the playground

the school report

Warsash Primary School are now enjoying a new play area in the shape of a wooden pirate ship.

Children at the school held a competition to design the best play area, which was won by Year 6 pupil

James Scott.

His pirate ship design, previously seen in the *Pompey Chimes*, was turned into reality by playground creator and sculptor Andy Frost. It was funded by the school's Parent, Teacher

and Friends Association, which raised money via sponsored spellings, runs and fashion shows.

Headteacher Christopher Hines said: "The children thoroughly enjoy playing on the new shipwreck.

"They worked hard to raise the money for the school, and it is lovely to see them enjoying the fruits of their labours."

COWPLAIN: John Eames, a Tearfund regional manager who worships at St Wilfrid's Church in Cowplain, has recently returned from Kyrgyzstan.

He led 12 volunteers and Tearfund staff members to see what the charity's money is achieving in the poorest of the former Soviet states, and met a deputy of the parliament.

"We visited five groups that are almost totally dependent on Tearfund to support the work they are doing," he said. "In this secular Muslim state, our partners are individual Christians. We visited small-scale, home-based groups teaching women and teenagers sewing and craft skills, IT and dress-making."

One of the most moving projects they visited was a refuge for ex-prisoners in the countryside. It's a halfway house that helps former inmates to find homes, get jobs and break away from addictions. Another



The mural on the side of Hart Plain Church

news from the pews

was a children's project working with orphaned and abandoned children. For more information, contact John on 01730-269291.

HART PLAIN: No one can be in any doubt what kind of building Hart Plain Church is now.

A colourful mural has been painted on the side of the building to depict some of the activities that worshippers are involved with.

The vicar, the Rev Tim Jessiman, said: "The building is a concrete block, and some people who had lived in the area for years didn't know it was a church. We wanted to heighten our profile.

"We canvassed views from around the church and among the groups using our halls about what they wanted to go on it.

"We found an artist and got a group of people to work under her

tutelage. The cross covered with flowers is there because that's something we do every Easter. It certainly catches the eye now."

BEDHAMPTON/LEIGH PARK/ROWLANDS CASTLE: Worshippers from one of Havant's Kairos clusters joined forces for a service to mark Pentecost.

The churches in West Leigh, Leigh Park, Bedhampton and Rowlands Castle had planned an open-air service in Leigh Park Gardens, but bad weather forced them into St Alban's church hall.

The service included prayer, Pentecost hymns and songs, a talk by the Rev Jonathan Jeffery and children's activities.

The youngsters created images representing a Pentecost theme on small labels. Those labels were then attached to 50 helium balloons which were blessed and released in the rain outside.