

Repairs pave way for more visitors

A PROJECT to replace the roof at a historic church near Stubbington will pave the way for more visitors to enjoy the building.

The £214,000 project at St Edmund's Church, Crofton, will see a new roof with strengthened timber beams and rafters, and renewed lath and plaster ceiling panels.

Much of the original timber, from the 14th and 15th centuries, will be retained, and the tiles will be re-used as much as possible.

Church services will continue throughout the repairs, which should be completed by Christmas. And from March 2008, the church will be open to visitors more often than previously.

Churchwarden Don Mitchell said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to put the building in good repair for the new few hundred years. Many thanks go to all who have contributed and are continuing to make it possible."

Funds have come from English Heritage and the Lottery Fund, which granted £130,000, and the Veolia Environmental Trust, which donated £35,000. Other funds have come from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Council for the Care of Churches, Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust, and Hampshire County and Fareham Borough Councils, among others.

The Friends of Crofton Old Church raised the final £29,000 through events including strawberry fayres, barn dances, musical evenings and coffee mornings, and through donations.

Cash helps train Ghanaian clergy

THIS is the academic block in Ghana that our money has helped to build.

Generous worshippers from our diocese helped St Nicholas' Seminary, in Cape Coast, to fund a new four-storey block, which houses a library, offices and computer room.

It has now been fitted out with a suite of computers, shelving for the library and theological books for students to read.

We raised almost £8,700 via the Bishop's Lent Appeal in 2003 towards this work. Another £2,500 came from the funds of our diocese's IDWAL (Inter-Diocesan West African Link) group, which co-ordinates our links with Ghana. Other funds came from the mission agency USPG and from churches in the USA.

Supporters from our diocese have also been supplying the new library with books. A group from the Petersfield deanery were due to travel to Cape Coast from the end of September, and were taking 30 specific books that our Ghanaian colleagues had asked for.

St Nicholas' Seminary trains Anglican theological students to work as ministers across the country. Clergy from our diocese and ordinands from Cape Coast have swapped places as part of an IDWAL exchange programme



Top: the academic block at St Nicholas' Seminary; bottom: the new computer room

over the past few years. And cathedral worshippers have sponsored the three-year training programme for Edward Baffoe, who was ordained priest on September 15.

Carol Bailey, secretary of our diocese's IDWAL group, visited

the seminary in July, when she was able to see how close the project was to completion.

"All the buildings have a spanking new coat of paint and the shelving for the new library was being made," she said. "The dean, the Rev Victor Atta-Baffoe,

is looking to contract a professional librarian to catalogue the books. And the student list for September included two women for the first time, now that suitable on-site accommodation is available."

She also stayed with the Bishop of Koforidua, travelled up to the northern border of Ghana and followed the old slave routes back to the coast, and visited the Anglican Babies Home at Mampong during her three-week visit.

Our diocese's IDWAL group is holding a bring-and-share meal at Portsmouth Cathedral on 2.30pm-5pm on November 4. Supporters will be encouraged to share their experiences of visiting Ghana and Nigeria and hosting visitors from West Africa in our diocese.

The group is also represented on a diocesan committee, co-ordinated by the Rev Mark Rodel, which is organising a pre-Lambeth weekend for visiting bishops in Portsmouth between July 11-16 next year.

However, it is becoming more and more difficult for Ghanaians to visit parishes in our diocese. Four people invited to visit Stubbington and two guests who wanted to visit St Faith's in Havant over the summer were refused entry visas. The IDWAL group is working on this problem, with the full support of Bishop Kenneth.

Pompey Chimes

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Big thanks to book donors



A Megauli boy holds his gift

THIS is the smiling face of one of the children helped by *Pompey Chimes* readers. They helped Valerie Shepherd, of St Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green, to collect 1,000 Ladybird books within 18 months.

Valerie's story of her trip to Megauli in Nepal with the charity Clinic Nepal was featured in these pages last December. She asked for Ladybird books which the children use to help them learn English.

Books came in from worshippers at St Faith's Church, Gosport; St Paul's, Sarisbury Green; St Faith's, Landport in Portsmouth; and St Simon's in

Southsea – as well as from jumble sales, charity shops and car boot sales.

"Each kindergarten now has its own library," said Valerie. "The teachers and pupils were so excited when they saw the books arrive! I'd like to thank all those readers of the *Pompey Chimes* who gave us books."

She has already collected another 80 Ladybird books towards her next 1,000, and would also like to receive classic or children's DVDs, which can also be used by villagers to learn English.

If you can help, contact Valerie on 01489-573212.