

Dad and son work from same base

CHRISTIAN ministry in Sandown Bay is something of a family affair.

Dad Chris Etherton was ordained as curate for Christ Church and St John's Church over the summer. His son Tom is now working as a community outreach worker for the churches in Sandown.

Neither of them goes far when they go to work in the morning - as both of them are based in the family home.

"It's great to be working from the same base, as we get on very well despite the generation gap!" said Chris, "And we can easily keep up-to-date with

what the other is working on and share ideas. For example, there was useful stuff for Tom from the diocesan conference.

"Tom's post is funded partly from grants, partly from the two Anglican parishes. Part of what he is doing involves collaborating with our ecumenical partners on pastoral issues, which is a Kairos goal.

"My own role will include developing a ministry to our tourist industry, which will have similar connections ecumenically and with Kairos objectives. So we may need to schedule some more meetings with each other!"



The Rev Chris Etherton (left) and Tom outside their home

Parish in finals of national contest

THE parish of Hambledon has been chosen as a finalist in a competition to find the nation's most innovative fundraising ideas.

Worshippers at St Peter and St Paul Church launched the 'Stop the Rot!' campaign to raise more than £400,000 to restore its roof. The professionally-organised campaign involved initiatives ranging from golf days to an auction of promises. The target was reached within four years.

It has now been named among the 12 finalists in the contest, run by Ecclesiastical Insurance, out of more than 100 entries nationwide. The winners and two runners-up will be announced on November 27 at a presentation at Windsor Castle.

The first prize is £1,500, while those coming second and third get £750 and £500 respectively. All 12 finalists will feature in the insurance companies' 2008 calendar, so the best fundraising ideas can be shared around the country.

One of the judges, John Preston, said: "Churches all over the country are being very creative and innovative in raising essential funds."

Programme helps PCCs with dates

DOES your PCC need help with the ever-increasing list of things that are done or reviewed regularly?

Retired priest Canon Michael Hodge, from Yarmouth, has written a programme that reminds PCCs when to look again at child protection policies, risk assessments, annual returns and other regular items.

Entitled 'PCCDates', the programme was developed at the request of clergy in the West Wight deanery. It works with Windows software from Windows 98SE to Vista.

"This programme cannot do the work for you, but it can help in the administration in whatever way you wish," he said.

The programme also includes two extras - a way of calculating the date of Easter and of moveable feasts; and dates dependent on the date of the annual parochial church meeting.

To cover costs, Michael is charging £6 for each CD, including postage and packing. Please send a cheque to him at Braxton Cottage, Halletts Shute, Norton, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0RH.

How can we help community life?



Rowan Williams speaks in our cathedral last November

LOCAL politicians, clergy and community leaders in Gosport will join forces to examine how to improve community life.

The Gosport Deanery Churches Conference on November 16 will look at the question: 'What makes a good community?' Among the speakers will be Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Labour MP for Portsmouth North, and Ian Lycett, chief executive of Gosport Borough Council, who will outline the challenges facing the town.

Diocesan social responsibility adviser, Canon Nick Ralph, will speak about the Church's report *Faithful Cities*, and Bishop Stephen Lowe, the Bishop for Urban Life, will provide a theological reflection and conference summary.

It's been organised by the Anglican churches in Gosport, responding to a day on this issue led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, in our cathedral last November. It also aims to find a way of making the Church's Faithful Cities report relevant to Gosport itself.

The Rev John Draper, associate rural dean, said: "It's an important part of the Church's role to get local authorities, community leaders and all the local churches around the table to think about

how we can improve people's lives.

"The day in the cathedral with Rowan Williams - for which many of us brought along prominent community leaders - was fascinating, and crystallised our thinking about what a healthy community looked like. Now we want to translate that to the local level - what would a healthy Gosport community look like?"

"We're grateful to have a range of high-quality speakers. We've invited all sorts of people, and we'll have some time to network and to talk in groups. We expect to take the local agenda forward."

The ecumenical and interfaith Commission on Urban Life and Faith, which presented its Faithful Cities report last year, claimed the gap between the rich and the poorest in our society had widened. The regeneration of Britain's city and urban areas had brought riches and opportunities to many localities, but the extremes of poverty and prosperity still existed, it claimed.

It also stressed that a good city or good town shouldn't just be judged by the quality of its buildings or its economy. The human and spiritual aspects to a community were just as vital for social cohesion.

For more information about the conference, contact the Rev John Draper on 023-9258 1834 or stmrwner@aol.com

Bill Sargent's life and ministry are recalled

HE was one of the seven founders of Portsmouth Housing Association and a Portsmouth priest for almost 20 years.

Canon Bill Sargent is an important figure in Portsmouth's recent history - and now a memoir has been written about his life.

It's been penned by Canon Terry Loudon, vicar of East Meon and Langrish, and includes an account of his life before he came to Portsmouth, as well as describing his ministry both

at St Mark's, North End, from 1970-89 and in the diocese as a whole.

Portsmouth Housing Association now shares Peninsular House with our diocesan offices - one of many links between PHA and the Church.

Copies of the memoir are free of charge, but Terry would welcome contributions to his costs. Contact him at: The Vicarage, Church, Street, East Meon, GU32 1NH or on terrylouden@btinternet.com