



## Christians offer practical help to late-night revellers in the city centre

Street pastors: pages 8-9

## Cathedral facilities officially opened

IT was appropriate that 160 children saw the official opening of our cathedral's new community facilities.

Cathedral House, the 1950s building that used to house our diocesan offices, has been transformed in the past 12 months. It now includes a spacious hall, modern kitchen and a music centre.

Councillor Ken Thornber, leader of Hampshire County Council, unveiled a plaque last month during one of the cathedral's regular schools workshops, attended by pupils from six schools across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

He and the lord lieutenant of Hampshire, Mary Fagan, saw the children building stone arches, writing with quills and learning about the developing world.

The dean, the Very Rev David Brindley, said: "Education lies at the heart of the cathedral's mission. We can now offer modern and accessible facilities for educational and community use for the city and diocese."

The main Becket Hall in Cathedral House will be used by parent and toddler groups, youth groups, brownies, guides, cubs and a lunch club for the elderly. The music centre will offer education and rehearsal facilities for choirs. And cathedral office staff will work on the first floor.

It's all been made possible by the cathedral's appeal, which has raised more than £1.5m towards its £2m target. Hampshire County Council donated a grant of £150,000.

# CHANCELLOR: WE MUST HELP WITH KAIROS VISIONS



**HE'S the ultimate legal authority in our diocese - and he's backing our 'Kairos: Buildings' initiative.**

Our diocesan chancellor, Christopher Clark QC, is the man who decides whether to allow alterations to our church buildings.

He's urged diocesan advisers to be proactive in seeking out building developments that would improve our Christian mission and ministry. He's also keen to meet churchwardens from all our parishes to encourage them to explore possible developments.

It's a timely boost for our Kairos: Buildings initiative, which will help parishes to focus on how we use and develop our church buildings, issues of maintenance and ownership, and whether we need to open new buildings and close older ones.

The chancellor (pictured left), who is also a Reader in the Winchester diocese, outlined his thoughts to our Diocesan Advisory Committee



for the Care of Churches (DAC), which advises him on whether to approve alterations to church buildings.

"Churches are an expression of living faith, they are not museum pieces," he said. "We have to do whatever we can to help the local worshipping community, and make churches as adaptable as possible. Anyone who thinks it's about preservation, preservation, preservation all the time is wrong. There must be a balance between that and the needs of the worshipping community."

"We need to be more proactive at times. We need to help those church communities that are struggling. There may need to be small sub-committees that visit the church, at the suggestion of the archdeacon, to see what we can do. We could do a lot more to encourage parishes to open their horizons."

"The priest at West Meon made a strong plea at the diocesan conference about the problems of how to look after a Victorian church that needs repairing at huge expense. There are a large number of churches like that. They may need radical solutions."

Our DAC has already encouraged radical developments such as the project to create a GPs' surgery,

community rooms and a new worship area at St Cuthbert's Copnor; the internal re-ordering of St Jude's, Southsea; and the creation of a post office inside Whitwell parish church.

Its chairman, the Very Rev David Brindley, said: "In the four years I've chaired the DAC, only two things have been rejected. The DAC is normally minded to say yes. But the concept of the DAC taking the initiative is a new step, which does fit in with Kairos: Buildings."

The Kairos: Buildings initiative is likely to start early next year. Each deanery will be invited to go through a process that starts with teaching about the theology behind church buildings. It might ultimately involve the creation of radical plans to alter some buildings.

Our DAC is currently working with the Diocesan Kairos Group on how to handle such applications, especially where there is tension between the desire to conserve a beautiful building and a drive to make sure it can be used more by the local community.

And diocesan secretary Wendy Kennedy said: "One thing that's come very strongly out of the consultation that we've done on Kairos: Buildings is that people want someone central to help them manage their projects. The diocese has to decide if parishes can be asked to pay for that."