

School celebrates improved statistics

A PORTSMOUTH church school has been praised as one of the best in England for improving pupils' results between the ages of seven and 11.

St George's C of E Primary School in Portsea recorded the best results in the city in the annual tests for 11-year-olds.

And its 'value-added' score – the rate that individual pupils improve during their time at the school – was among the top four nationwide.

Headteacher Sandra Gibb said that extremely good teaching and the chance to tutor children in smaller groups were behind the improved results.

Deputy headteacher Natasha Griggs was able to work alongside Year 6 teacher Tim Gadd to help prepare the 11-year-olds for their tests.

"The children would start the lesson together, then Natasha would take out a small group of pupils to work with them," she said. "It would help to improve their self-esteem and confidence that they could answer the questions. They then joined the rest of the class for a plenary session and marking."

"That improvement in their self-confidence helped them when it came to the tests themselves. Because we serve a deprived area, we put the social needs of children at the forefront. That means that issues like self-esteem and confidence are very important."

"We'll try to do the same next year, but it is a larger year group."

Back at their church after four years away



Worshippers process back to church along Hayling Avenue

IT was a big moment for worshippers from St Cuthbert's Church in Copnor.

After four years away, they returned to their church building for an Epiphany service that marked the next stage of their ambitious £4.2m project.

The congregation started the service at Langstone Junior School, where they have met since November 2003. They then processed along Hayling Avenue to the refurbished building before completing the Communion service there.

The 1915 building has been

split into three while they were away. A GPs' surgery has opened at the east end, and a complex of community rooms created in the middle section.

Although the new worship area at the west end hasn't been built yet, services are now being held in the Bradbury Suite on the top floor of the middle section.

Vicar the Rev David Power said: "This is, of course, just another staging post for our pilgrim church community. But we're delighted to be back under our own roof!"

Let's buy minibus for future priests

BISHOP Kenneth will offer all the money raised by his Lent Appeal to a Ghanaian theological college.

He hopes the cash raised by his 2008 appeal can buy a minibus for St Nicholas Anglican Seminary in Cape Coast. Staff and students there have no dedicated transport at the moment.

The minibus will help students get to their weekday and Sunday placements in parishes in the Cape Coast area, and mean that college groups can visit parishes to encourage others to consider the priesthood. At the moment, students depend on shared taxis, which have no reliable timetable.

The college already has connections with our diocese thanks to our Inter-Diocesan West African (IDWAL) links with Ghana. Theological students have visited our parishes, while parish clergy have spent time at the college as part of an exchange programme.

In 2003, half the funds raised by the bishop's Lent Appeal went to the seminary to help with the building of a new teaching block, complete with library, seminar rooms and computer facilities. That project is now complete.

Bishop Kenneth said: "It's appropriate to support the seminary again in 2008 as a sign of our unity in ministry and mission in the Anglican Communion, and as a mark of the importance this dio-

cese places on the IDWAL link.

"Members of this diocese, both clergy and lay, visit the seminary regularly. The dedication of the staff and the faith and commitment of the students, who are away from their families for long periods of time, is a source of great encouragement to visitors."

Any surplus funds will be placed by the seminary in a bursary fund to support those students whose dioceses cannot always provide the £2,000 a year needed for teaching costs and student maintenance.

In the current academic year, there are 42 students at the seminary training for ordination. They come not just from the nine dioceses of Ghana, but from other parts

of West Africa, including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Togo. Among the 14 first-year students are two women, for the first time.

● Kind-hearted worshippers from around our diocese raised £5,800 to help those affected by flooding in Ghana.

Our cathedral co-ordinated the diocese's response to the appeal, which came after widespread, prolonged flooding in three of the regions of northern Ghana. The Anglican Bishop of Tamale wanted others to help the local churches respond to the desperate need.

An additional £1,500 from a single donor has also been sent to Bishop Emmanuel Arongo for a project to combat HIV/Aids.

Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 parishes in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Its total circulation is 9,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each of our parishes pays 15p for each copy, which allows our readers to pick it up for free on the final Sunday of each month. Adverts are dealt with by our publishers, Cornerstone Vision. For a full list of editorial deadlines for editions during 2008, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org

DEADLINE FOR MARCH EDITION: Monday 4 February

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Bishop of Worcester retires to Isle of Wight

THE former Bishop of Worcester has been made an honorary assistant bishop in our diocese after moving to the Isle of Wight.

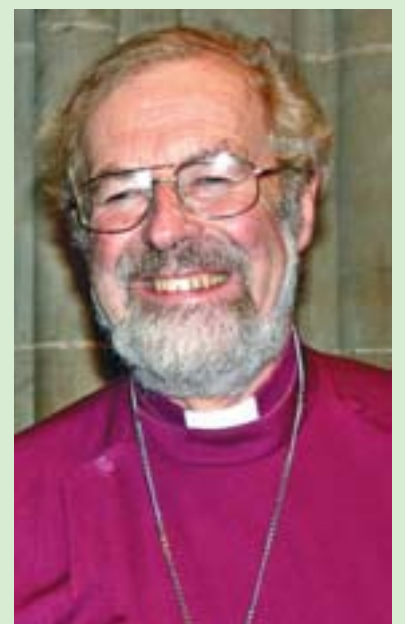
The Rt Rev Peter Selby, who now lives in Freshwater, was commissioned by Bishop Kenneth at a ceremony in his private chapel last month.

He was Bishop of Worcester for 10 years until his retirement last September. He also worked in the Diocese of Southwark, as a residentiary canon and diocesan missionary in Newcastle, and was

Bishop of Kingston from 1984-92. He worked at the University of Durham for five years before becoming a diocesan bishop.

He has now accepted a position as president of the National Council for Independent Monitoring Boards for Prisons.

At his farewell service in Worcester Cathedral, he and his wife Jan were presented with two pear trees to plant in their new garden on the Isle of Wight and a music system for their new home.



The Rt Rev Peter Selby, former Bishop of Worcester