

School marks centenary with church service

HE was a rich, God-fearing timber merchant who wanted to found a charity school in Fareham.

William Price died in August 1725, leaving a bequest that was used to found Price's Grammar School in West Street. A master was appointed to teach 30 poor boys and girls in the parish to read the English Bible, do sums and be instructed in Church of England doctrine.

The school was re-established in Park Lane, Fareham, in 1908. The centenary of the re-founded school is this year, and will be marked by a series of events.

There will be an exhibition in Fareham Museum to mark the anniversary. And on June 8, there will be a service at 11.30am at St Peter and St Paul's Church, where William Price is buried. Former pupils and others will be invited to a pre-service reunion walk, which will start at the original site in West Street, progress to the Park Lane site and end at the church. A special lunch will follow the service.

The events are being organised by the Society of Old Priceans, the group for former pupils. They are looking for other former pupils or relatives to join them – or for memora-



Pupils from Price's School in 1914

bia for the exhibition. Former pupil David Williams, who leads the cente-

nary committee, said: "It is a long-held ambition of mine to acclaim the wisdom of

Fareham's greatest benefactor, William Price. At a time when there were no state schools, and few endowed grammar schools, this school offered Fareham's children the rare opportunity of an education."

By 1934, Price's taught 200 pupils and had become one of the leading schools in Hampshire. Reorganisation in the 1970s saw it become a sixth-form college, until 1982 when it merged into Fareham College.

Anyone who would like any further information, or who would like to attend the events, can contact Mr Williams on 023-9238 7869.

Protecting vulnerable from abuse

CHURCH leaders on the Isle of Wight will be urged to think about the Christian response to domestic violence and abuse.

An awareness seminar is being held in the Anthony Minghella Theatre, Quay Arts, in Newport, on April 26. It happens between 10am and 5pm, and was initiated by national charity the Mankind Initiative.

It's supported by the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Caroline Baston, who is part of a working group looking into the issue. The hope is that the day might produce a policy that can be implemented across churches of all denominations on the island, and a network that those in need can call on.

For details, contact Paul Randle-Jolliffe on 07905-937952 or paul.jolliffe@gmail.com

Young people get cash for mission

HOW might young people in your parish want to spread the gospel?

Might they launch some kind of project? Or put on some event to attract other teenagers? Could they use some money to help make this possible?

If so, our diocese could help. It has been allocated £22,000 from the Church of England's Youth Evangelism Fund, for young people to spend on spreading the good news.

Young people from around

our diocese have until July this year to apply for grants of up to £2,000 for each project, and the cash will be available from early 2009. The fund aims to support proposals that involve sharing the gospel in ways that make sense to young people.

Our diocese is one of eight from around the country chosen to receive grants in 2008 from the newly-established fund. Those between the ages of 11 and 20 choose where the money should be spent. They apply by filling out a simple, four-question form.

Ideally, projects should be creative, prayerful and appropriate for young people, planned by young people themselves, demon-

strate God's love in a practical way, and are aimed at young people in a specific community or area.

Priority will be given to evangelism in areas where the Church is weakest in its outreach to young people, and where the project involves partnership with local churches, communities or Christian organisations.

Diocesan youth and children's adviser Ben Mizen said: "This is a great opportunity for young people to choose for themselves what they think would be the best way of sharing the gospel.

"Previous evidence also suggests that this is a good way of raising the profile of youth evan-

gelism in each diocese, and of sharing good practice across dioceses and nationally."

In 2006, the fund supported 180 projects, distributing more than £185,000 to young people in the first eight dioceses chosen.

The fund was started in 2005 and began its five-year life in 2006. The grants group includes young people who will phone or text applicants if anything needs to be clarified. Those young people will then act as advocates for the project at their next meeting.

For more information, or to receive an application form, contact Ben Mizen on 023-9289 9652 or ben.mizen@portsmouth.anglican.org

Pompey Chimes

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Hardy to play God in cathedral



Robert Hardy

ACTOR Robert Hardy will play God in a school production in Portsmouth Cathedral this month.

The veteran actor, best known for his roles in the Harry Potter movies and in *All Creatures Great and Small*, will appear in the Portsmouth Grammar School performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*.

The ambitious production involves more than 150 performers, including the whole of Year 5. They are making animal masks to transform

themselves into monkeys, giraffes, herons, crows and weasels.

It happens at 7.30pm from March 5-7, and at 2.30pm on March 7, under the direction of Jeremy James Taylor, and the musical direction of Andrew Cleary. One of Britain's most distinguished baritones, Stephen Varcoe, is also taking part in the four performances.

Tickets for *Noye's Fludde* are £8 (concs: £6, restricted view: £5) and are available on 023-9236 0036.