

# Engage with God in a fresh style

**INNOVATIVE multi-media worship will help churchgoers to think about Holy Week in fresh ways this year.**

Several churches in our diocese are providing alternative ways of helping people think about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection - through visual projections, prayer installations and the chance to meditate.

Blesséd, which is run by Gosport priest the Rev Simon Rundell, will hold a multi-media mass on Palm Sunday at **St Mary the Virgin, Rowner**, in Gosport.

The service, at 8pm on March 16, will use Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17 as the basis for the Eucharist.

It will be followed from March 17-20 with the chance to experience the multi-media Stations of the Cross at **St Thomas' Church, Elson**. This involves worshippers using an audio commentary on MP3 players that guides them around 14 prayer installations, based on the traditional *Via Dolorosa* or *Way of Sorrows* meditation.

Worshippers will be encouraged to use all their senses as they remember Jesus' journey towards his crucifixion. Among the installations are the chance to walk barefoot on sand, to feel the coldness of a tomb, and to experience the bleakness associated with Jesus' death.

It originally began life as an installation at the National Youth Pilgrimage in Walsingham in 2005, and has been repeated in dioceses around the country.

"It's the traditional Stations of the Cross, but done in an alternative worship way," said Simon. "People can drop in at any time and visit some or all of the installations, and take as long as they like at each one."

"The videos that people will see include reflections on the Holocaust, so we're advising that it's not suitable for children under 12. But older youth groups will certainly find something to stimulate their spirituality, and parish groups would be very welcome."

If you would like to book a



**The Rev Simon Rundell considers the lilies at 'Stations of the Spirit' at St Cuthbert's Church**

large group to attend the Stations of the Cross event, contact Simon on 07976-802123 or [simon@rundell.org](mailto:simon@rundell.org). See [www.blessed.org.uk](http://www.blessed.org.uk) for more details.

Three churches will also be providing prayer Labyrinths around Eastertime to help worshippers engage with God.

At **St John's Church, Rowlands Castle**, visitors will walk along a pathway from the church centre, through the grounds, into the church, using word and music, sound and silence, touch and smell to help them pray.

Called 'The Gift of the Cross', each day will be different. Visitors can call in on March 17, 18 and 19, between 2pm-4.30pm or 7.30pm-9pm.

Visitors will also see **Holy**

**Rood Church in Stubbington** help them to meditate. It's available each day between 9am-12noon, 1pm-4pm and 7pm-9pm.

These installations comes hot on the heels of a Blesséd event at **St Cuthbert's Church in Copnor**. 'Stations of the Spirit' was held there in January to mark the return of worshippers to this re-ordered church after four years.

Worshippers were guided by specially-recorded audio tracks around four tents. Each contained activities, reflections and meditations to help them understand more about the gifts of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

More than 50 people experienced the 40-minute multi-media installation in the church's Bradbury Suite.

## BBC to dramatise Jesus's last days

**A BBC drama showing Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection will help us to explain the Easter story this year.**

Millions of people will watch *The Passion*, which will be broadcast in peak-time episodes every day from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday.

It tells the story of Holy Week from the points of view of Jesus, the Romans and the Jewish religious authorities.

Among its stars will be James

Nesbitt, Paul Nicholls and Denis Lawson. Producer Nigel Stafford-Clark, who was also behind the BBC's 2005 adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*, oversaw filming in Morocco.

And the Churches' Media Council is urging Christians to take advantage of the opportunity to talk to non-churchgoers about why Jesus died.

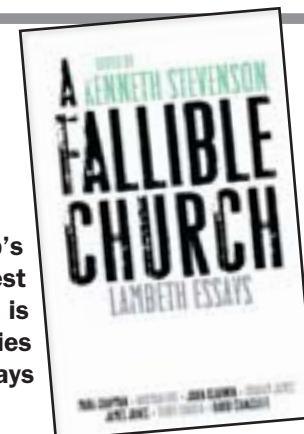
Your parish may want to cancel some meetings to allow

people to watch the series at home - or tie in your Easter publicity material to the series.

What about organising debates or discussions in church, pubs or people's homes about the programme? Or organising some feedback about the programme to the BBC?

See [www.churchesmedia.council.org.uk](http://www.churchesmedia.council.org.uk) for more details.

Bishop's latest book is a series of essays



## New book edited by bishop in headlines

IT was a book that Bishop Kenneth edited while he was in hospital.

*A Fallible Church* is a collection of essays from leading Anglicans of different backgrounds. It has been published by Darton, Longman and Todd as Anglicans across the world prepare for this summer's Lambeth Conference.

It aims to remind people that times of crisis are often the most creative times, however difficult they may be to live through.

It shows that the Anglican Communion is full of life, creativity and generosity of spirit. And it reminds us that there is nothing fundamentally new or different about current conflicts in Anglicanism.

"I had the idea for the book early last year," said Kenneth. "All the essayists said yes and produced their contributions on time. I was then able to edit it in hospital while I was recovering from my second bone marrow transplant."

The book hit the headlines last month because the essay by the Rt Rev James Jones, the Bishop of Liverpool, included an apology for the way he opposed the appointment of Dr Jeffrey John as Bishop of Reading. He also reflected on Biblical study of the loving relationships between David and Jonathan, and Jesus and the disciple John.

The book also includes an essay by Canon Terry Loudon, the chairman of our Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL) about the co-operation between Anglicans in Portsmouth diocese and Ghana.

Other contributors include Mark Chapman, Norman Doe, Bishops John Gladwin, Graham James and David Stancliffe. Kenneth also wrote one chapter himself. The book is available, priced at £10.95 from bookshops, or via [www.darton-longman-todd.co.uk](http://www.darton-longman-todd.co.uk)