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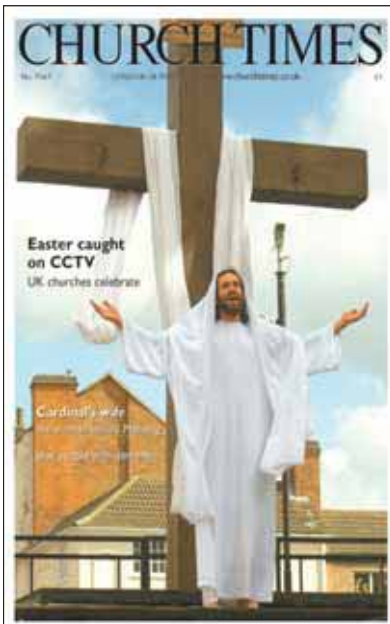
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**GOSPORT:** Families from St Thomas the Apostle Church, Elson, decided to revive the ancient sport of crabbing for a summer fun day.

Worshippers from toddlers to grandparents gathered at the water's edge to renew the battle between humankind and crustacean. Participants dangled bait from pieces of string as they hung off the public jetty at Priddy's Hard. Hundreds of crabs were caught and added to buckets.

The curate, the Rev Margaret Hay, took the prize for the largest crab, catching one with a string-tensing 7.5cm shell. The prize for the most crabs went to eight-year-old Charlie Donaldson who crammed 48 crabs into her bucket within the hour.

Priest-in-charge the Rev Simon Rundell said: "The best bait turned out to be prawns. But if your grandad swore by something even more effective whenever he took you crabbing as a child, you're going to have to put it to the test at next summer's competition!"

**HAVANT:** The town's first literary festival happens this month – with the help of two churches. Havant Literary Festival celebrates the town's rich and diverse literary history from September 25-28.

On September 27, between 12pm-6pm, St



The Rev Margaret Hay and Liz Dean marvel at the size of their crab

## news from the pews

Faith's Church in West Street is hosting a book fair, continuing from 10am-4pm on the Sunday.

Also on that Saturday, the Beacon Church in the Meridian Centre will be hosting 'Food for body and spirit' with some faith-based readings from 10.30am-1pm. Other events include talks by poet John Haynes and playwright Ron Harwood, street theatre, jewellery and a Jane Austen ball.

For more information on the event please visit

[www.havantlitfest.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.havantlitfest.hampshire.org.uk)

**PORTSDOWN:** You'll never need to miss Sunday worship again!

Morning services from Christ Church, Portsdown, are now available to download as podcasts or onto audio CDs.

The church started this for those who are housebound, unwell, on holiday or busy running young church – and so worshippers could listen again to services in their own homes.

Parish webmaster Nigel Wheatley is keen for other churches to think about introducing a similar approach.

He said: "All we needed was a PC, a recording programme and a stack of blank CDs. The most difficult part is finding a group of people to assist with recording and CD production on a Sunday morning."

The Christ Church services can be downloaded from [www.christchurchportsdown.org/services/listen.htm](http://www.christchurchportsdown.org/services/listen.htm)

**FROXFIELD:** Ronald Graham-Clarke only started editing his parish magazine temporarily – but 31 years later, he was still in the hotseat.

He's now stepping down after more than three decades editing Froxfield and Privett Parish Magazine, which serves the two parishes near Petersfield.

Ronald and his wife Anne were asked to take over temporarily in 1977 when a new vicar decided not to edit the magazine, as his predecessor had done.

Their role has also involved producing an annual parish directory of village contacts.

Ronald said, "Anne and I have decided to hand over the editorship while we are both in reasonably good health. I am now 80 while our eldest grandchild is at university."

**RYDE:** Bishop Lovett C of E Middle School followed an outstanding Ofsted report with praise from church school inspectors, who also called it "outstanding".

Its headteacher and governors were praised for their vision, commitment and dedication to maintaining and developing the Christian ethos. Its 380 pupils were praised for their team spirit, being mutually caring, supportive and respectful to all.

The report said the excellent leadership and management skills of the headteacher were transmitted throughout its staff and pupils. Their

spiritual, moral, social and cultural development was outstanding, and pupils were encouraged to develop their readiness for life beyond school.

**TITCHFIELD COMMON:** The headteacher of St John the Baptist C of E Primary School has made another trip to China.

Last year the school established a link with Sanshengxiang Primary

## the school report

School in Sichuan province in south-west China. St John's head April Owen-Jones became the first westerner to visit.

This year she returned, just before the major earthquake that hit the area. The school didn't suffer any damage during from the quake, but was forced to evacuate a few days later following warnings of further tremors.

Mrs Owen-Jones was

presented with a book for her pupils, in which the Chinese children had included letters, drawings and photographs about their activities in school. She also helped teach English to the children's parents so they could help foreign tourists expected in China for the Olympics last month.

● Ofsted inspectors also praised improvements at the school over the past two years. They said there had been "good improvements in pupils' achievements" and that the clear direction of Mrs Owen-Jones had helped the school to improve.