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**WARSASH:** Willing volunteers braved the wet weather to help look after the gardens at Hook-with-Warsash C of E Primary School.

The school has developed a community environmental garden with a wide variety of habitats, including a pond, woodland and sensory garden. The maintenance of this wonderful resource is dependent on willing volunteers giving up their time to clear the area.

An army of parents and children arrived at the school equipped with loppers, forks, spades and wheelbarrows to help clear weeds and cut back over-hanging trees. Some volunteers were even brave enough to enter the pond and clear the reeds away.

The school would like to thank Priory Tree Care who provided a lorry load of bark chippings to use as mulch around the base of the trees, and their hard-working PTFA who provided a delicious hot lunch to feed the troops.

The garden was



**Pupils from Hook-with-Warsash C of E Primary School help to maintain its garden**

## the school report

developed to provide an area that can be used for environmental studies. It was officially opened to the public in the summer. Any local groups keen to use the area, which also includes an indoor classroom, can contact the school on 01489-572393.

**BEMBRIDGE:** Youngsters from

Bembridge C of E Primary School got a lesson in life as they were equipped with the skills to help improve the welfare and happiness of people around them.

The Steyne Road school became the first on the island to be presented with the Red Cross Active Humanitarian School

Award, after successfully completing a series of five challenges. It's only the fifth school in the country to receive the accolade.

To win the award, 145 pupils from four to nine years old took part in Red Cross week, finding out about its work. Year 3 pupils learnt basic first aid skills, and Year 4 pupils took part in a humanitarian workshop.

Pupils took part in a fundraising day and researched issues such as drought, war and illness to prepare for an assembly attended by more than 100 parents and residents.

Bembridge School headteacher, Tina Baker, added: "It's absolutely thrilling to receive the award. The fact that this is about humanitarian education just shows the caring attitude we have, it encourages empathy, support and doing your best."

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**NEWCHURCH:** The new kitchen at All Saints Church, Newchurch, is a fitting tribute to former PCC member John Burrell.

When he died in May last year, the family decided that they wanted to show their appreciation for the care that the church community had given to him and to his wife Elaine in his long battle against cancer.

After the funeral service, friends, family and worshippers gathered in the church hall where the social committee had prepared food. When John's son-in-law Nick Tasquier heard of plans to re-fit the kitchen, he volunteered to fit new kitchen cabinets. The offer was gratefully accepted, and the 'kitchen refurbishment team', co-ordinated by Normah Poingdestre, sprang into action.

Nick's team, from Kings Church, Horsham, worked over a weekend to fit the units, re-wire, and do the plumbing and tiling. The following



**(L to r) Graeme Bowie, Normah Poingdestre, Liam Clark, Shane Portman and Nick Tasquier in the kitchen at Newchurch church hall**

## news from the pews

week, a new floor was fitted and the walls painted.

The new kitchen has three sinks, more wall cupboards, new working surfaces, new flooring and a water heater to replace the old urns. It was put to good use at the church's patronal festival, when diocesan secretary the Rev Wendy Kennedy preached.

Members from St George's, Arreton, and St

Olave's, Gatcombe, joined the All Saints congregation and more than 60 worshippers stayed on to enjoy lunch.

The priest-in-charge, the Rev Janice O'Shaughnessy, said: "This is a fine example of how the Body of Christ should function. And it's the start of implementing the second phase of Kairos – refurbishment of the kitchen is the most significant step to

upgrade the parish hall, so that it can be used for church functions and made available to the wider community.

"The next step is to provide a toilet for the disabled, and improvements to existing facilities."

**NITON:** There's also work planned at Niton Parish Church as a result of our diocese's Kairos: Buildings initiative.

The 'Church Amenities Project' aims to improve the medieval building with a small kitchen, a toilet with disabled facilities and vestry improvements.

The existing boiler room will be replaced by a small extension for a kitchen and toilet. The work could cost around £25,000 and the parish is well on the way to raising the money. Anyone with fundraising ideas can contact Carol Court on 01983-730494.