



Pompey Churches

Free of charge



NUMBER 137

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

APRIL 2015



Island artist designed Stations of the Cross

My Faith: page 12

We're sharing buildings with other denominations

Ecumenical partnerships: pages 8-9



Church and school unite to support children and families

WE'RE SHARING VITAL WORKER

A PIONEERING partnership between a church and school will see them share a new children's and families' worker.

Debbie Boyt will start working with children and families at St Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green, and Sarisbury C of E Junior School next month.

The appointment was the brainchild of the vicar, the Rev Sandy Matheson, and the headteacher, Andy Stockton, who realised that both church and school would be supporting some of the same families.

Debbie will lead assemblies and the Christian club at the school, and help to develop its Christian ethos.

She'll also offer advice and support to vulnerable families alongside the school's intervention manager and special educational needs co-ordinator.

At St Paul's Church, she'll work with its two groups for pre-school children and their parents, help to lead all-age services, and support the crèche and Sunday School.

She'll also help to lead the monthly Sunday teatime services that involve craft, worship and bring-and-share tea.

Debbie will also support Whiteley Church, helping with Messy Church there and assemblies at Whiteley Primary and Cornerstone Primary Schools.

The role involves working



Debbie Boyt with (left) Andy Stockton and the Rev Sandy Matheson at St Paul's Church

three-quarters of the time for the church and a quarter for the school.

Andy said: "There was already a part-time families worker post at the church which would have included an element of helping vulnerable families."

"It was Sandy's idea initially to link the role with the school and create a full-time post.

"Because of her work with the church, Debbie will already have met some of our children at the pre-school stage, which will enable us to help the families at an earlier stage.

"It's a partnership between church and school. Sandy and I get on very well.

"We have similar vision and values about what church and school should be, and we're involved with many of the same families. We believe this is actually a model of how church and school can work together."

And Sandy said: "We've seen many times that families who experience bereavement or family breakdown, or whose children have special needs or medical problems, ask for help from both church and school. This kind of joined-up thinking means that families will benefit from us working together."

Debbie, who is 35, grew up in Ringwood and became a Christian 10 years ago. She worked as a

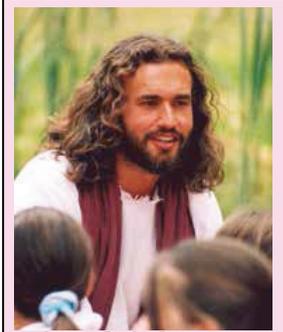
teaching assistant and a teacher before travelling overseas to India, the Philippines and Uganda.

After studying at Moorlands Bible College, her most recent job was as assistant children's minister at Knowle Parish Church in the Midlands.

"This job brings together all the things I've done before," she said. "I love getting alongside children who no one else understands.

"When you do work with those who are at pre-school, you build those contacts with parents, so they'll already know me before their children start school.

"I'm leaving a job I love, but it's the right time to move on, to a role that is exciting and new."



James Burke-Dunsmore

Dates set for Havant Passion in summer

THE dates have been set for the performances of Havant's Passion Play this summer.

The free, community event will take place in Havant Park on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August. Both performances will happen from 3pm-5pm.

Churches across Havant have united for the production, telling the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. Crowds will witness his entry into Jerusalem, his Last Supper, his arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection.

The play is being written and directed by James Burke-Dunsmore, who plays the role of Jesus in the acclaimed annual productions in the Wintershall Estate near Guildford, and in Trafalgar Square.

Organisers are still looking for volunteers who can help with event management, marketing and publicity, administration, production staff and crew, stewards and first-aiders.

To offer help, contact Geoff Paffett on havantpassionplay@gmail.com. For details, see www.havantpassionplay.co.uk.