

# East Solent and Downs Circuit



## CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

### Christmas 2018



***Congratulations!***  
Revd Stephen Wright and  
Mrs Louise Wright

***On behalf of the Circuit Staff and Officers we wish you  
a joy-filled Christmas and peaceful New Year.***

***We thought we would use this opportunity to share with you news of some of the activities of the local churches over the last year which featured in the Trustees Annual Report to the Charity Commission which reflects something of the life of our Circuit.***

**Local Churches** have creatively engaged with their communities in new and exciting ways including:

- \* The walking nativity in the newly formed **Portsmouth** Church that was attended by over four hundred people and is being repeated again this year
- \* Table Talk at **Bordon**
- \* Family Fun Day at **Lindford**
- \* Donkeys for Easter Celebrations at **Midhurst** and **Lindford**
- \* All Aboard at **Drayton** (a breakfast time café style church)
- \* 'Echo', the **Petersfield** folk band has performed at church events in the circuit and local care homes
- \* **Haslemere** church redevelopment project continues as it seeks to update its premises to make it more accessible to the community as a meeting place and a worship space.

Churches have continued to welcome other Christian traditions to share in church life such as the Zimbabwean Fellowship and the Lithuanian Church.

## Local Preachers

We continue to be grateful to our preachers and worship leaders who help, along with local church stewards, musicians and many others, to create and lead worship on Sundays and mid-week. Two new local preachers have been accredited during the year and others are in training.”

However, it has not been possible to provide a named preacher for each service for each church each week and local arrangements have been needed to ensure that worship continues. Don't forget that The Circuit has bought into the Connexional arrangement to supply worship material each week and this should assist local churches in preparing local arrangements.

## Circuit Meeting News

Maintaining our focus on Outreach, The Sharing Our Faith Team (who are available to come to any church) have been busy! In addition to other road shows, they organised a day workshop with Andy Frost of Share Jesus International. This was well attended and provided a focus for ongoing work.

We were pleased that we were able to help the ecumenical initiative to offer overnight accommodation to the homeless in Portsmouth by providing personnel and premises - much was learned from the experience and it is hoped that this will be an ongoing project for future years.

The circuit has also continued to offer help to some people seeking asylum in this country with emotional, legal and financial support and accommodation. We hold Neil Wingrove in our prayers as he continues the candidating process for the Methodist Diaconal Order.

## Finance

We completed the sale of a manse that we had replaced with a smaller property last year. The proceeds of the sale will enable us to support with finance the joint venture with the Diocese of Guildford to develop a new church in the new town currently being built at Bordon. Our conversations with the Diocese continue and it is hoped that within the next year to have concluded the legal formalities to bring the project to fruition.

*There has been much more going on in the life of our Circuit through local churches and we can only mention a few things in the newsletter to give a flavour of what has been happening, but 'Thank You' to all of you as you seek to worship and serve God through the churches and communities in our Circuit.*

## *What a year that was!*

### Plans for the future

- \* To continue to **focus on intentional mission activity** that will lead new people into faith and so grow the number of Christians.
- \* To focus on **worship and spiritual development** by a series of workshops and training events.
- \* To successfully conclude conversations with the Diocese of Guildford regarding a **new church in Bordon**.
- \* To continue to seek ways to **support local churches** with the practicalities of buildings and finance.
- \* To seek to strengthen our lay leadership by appointing additional **Circuit Stewards**.
- \* To continue to make best use of our buildings and **support local initiatives**.



*O come let us adore Him!*