

## Bringing the Bible to Life

St John's Church in Wimborne Minster has just embarked on an exciting new venture for working with children and young people. It has opened the first purpose-built *Godly Play* room in the region.

*Godly Play* is an approach to telling Bible stories to children inspired



by the principles of Montessori schools. *Godly Play* uses symbols and objects as well as words, and values openness and discovery. It invites children into the Bible stories and connects them with their personal experiences.

The room was the brainchild of Church Army Captain Kevin Metcalfe, the Children's and Outreach Coordinator at St John's. Before moving to Wimborne, Kevin worked in Northern Ireland where he first used *Godly Play*.

Kevin found the Upper Room at the church was available and had potential. At the same time, staff in St John's First School were exploring reflective Bible storytelling with

pupils.

Transforming the room involved hard work from volunteers, a grant from the Sarum St. Michael's Charitable Trust, and equipment loaned by the Diocesan Board of Education.

Bishop Graham Kings recently opened what is now a wonderful space shared by the parish and its school.

Bishop Graham said, "It's great to see a local church using innovative and exciting ways to help children explore the Bible."

Learn more about how *Godly Play* works at [www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk)

## Bishop's Letter

The Right Revd Dr Graham Kings  
Bishop of Sherborne

In February, just north of Nairobi in Kenya, I met with 50 South Sudanese students at St Paul's University, Limuru.

They are studying various subjects, including business, communication and theology.

During our three hours together, which included an address by the Archbishop of Kenya, Dr Eliud Wabukala, they shared their love of their new country and concerns about its current crisis. Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day had moving resonances.

Bishop Gwynne Theological College in Juba teaches the Diploma in Theology of St Paul's University and there are close links between the institutions.

Bishop Moses Deng, of the Diocese of Wau, was a leading student at St Paul's and in January was back for a short course in Reconciliation.

St Paul's University has seen remarkable growth in the last 3 years, under its new Vice Chancellor, The Revd Prof Joseph Galgalo.

The number of students has tripled

from 2000 to 6000, and of staff from 100 to 300: six new university buildings have gone up, using income from student fees rather than grants from overseas.

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Bishop Gwynne College hopes eventually to grow into a university: for this, long term peace is essential. Let us pray for peace and be generous in our giving.

Details of Bishop Nicholas's appeal for humanitarian aid for South

## Letting God Speak

Mother Julian of Norwich, a 14<sup>th</sup> Century nun and mystic, wrote movingly of God's love. Julian Meetings do not venerate her, but follow her in the tradition of contemplative prayer.

A Julian Meeting is usually 6 -15 people meeting regularly in a house or church. A brief reading or piece of music leads into 30 minutes of silent prayer. This may be followed by a time for tea or coffee and conversation.

Julian Meetings vary, but all are

Sudan, and of Archbishop Justin's visit to Juba and Bor in January, are on our website.

Many grateful thanks to all who have given so far. The easiest way of giving is via the web through Just Giving, [www.justgiving.com/sdbf](http://www.justgiving.com/sdbf)



based on contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition and welcome people of all denominations. Nine groups currently meet across the Diocese.

Prayer involves listening as well as speaking. If we do all the talking, God doesn't get a word in! Learn more at [www.julianmeetings.org](http://www.julianmeetings.org).

## Meet the Real Life Rev.

Few will see a connection between the centenary of World War One and the clergy sitcom *Rev*. One local churchperson born at the height of that terrible war, however, had a significant influence on the hit BBC show.

A great conversationalist, Bishop John Cavell embodies the phrase '97 years young'. He was asked for advice when scriptwriter James Wood



and lead actor Tom Hollander first decided to make a show about the life of a vicar.

"I've known James for over 50 years", Bishop Cavell said, "and I've known his parents for even longer. I conducted both James' and his mother's wedding.

"When they came to see me, I was already in my nineties, so I made sure they met younger clergy too. Although *Rev*. is set in the East End of London, Salisbury quite influenced it."

Having been a parish vicar for several decades, what does Bishop Cavell think of *Rev*.?

"I think it's very good", he replies confidently. "In the middle of all the absurdities, there are moments where one thinks, 'Oh yes, that's true!'

## How Hunger Happens

Councillors and church leaders heard directly from people using Gillingham's foodbank at an ecumenical event at the town's Methodist Church.

Many had fallen through the cracks of the system while changes to their circumstances were processed.

When Sarah retired due to illness, she was left with no income for 16 weeks. Gary got seriously ill while unemployed and was left penniless for the weeks it took to move from Jobseekers' Allowance to Sickness Benefit.

Colin Brady, Social Justice Manager for the Diocese said, "The people we heard all worked when they could. The parliamentary inquiry into hunger will hear more stories where the system breaks down when people need it most."



"The Vicar nearly always does the right thing, sometimes at real personal cost, although usually only after debating with himself for a while. I think Tom Hollander has been much moved by playing the Rev."

Bishop Cavell entered Holy Orders in 1940, and his first months as a young curate in Croydon's Addington Estate were at the height of the Battle of Britain. Only four miles from Fighter Command HQ at Biggin Hill, bombing was just part of life.

After working for a mission agency and as a parish vicar, John was made Bishop of Southampton in 1972, where he was also Bishop for Prisons. He retired to Salisbury 30 years ago, where he is a regular worshipper at the Cathedral.