

## Sts Thomas



**The Church at the Heart of the Island**

Summer  
**07**  
Campaign  
Newsletter 6

**150 Years 1857-2007**

### 'Where is She?'



Photo: B.Woodruffe

Emerging from one hundred and fifty years of grime is a very different-looking Sts Thomas. Phase 1 of the Renewal work will end longstanding damp problems and damage to the Princess Elizabeth chapel. Repairing the roof, replacing damaged masonry, conserving fine stained glass, and putting back breathable limewashed plaster will protect this important royal memorial for future generations.

The workmen are attracting a growing audience and visitors are beginning to realise why this building deserves our support. They are surprised to find the chapel closed and the memorial hidden away. They ask 'where is she?' and 'why all this work?' 'is the rest of the church being done too?' 'when will it be finished?'....and many other questions.

### Vicar congratulates College students at Awards Day: 06.07.07



Photo: WICAT

Debbie Lavin, Principal of the Isle of Wight College reports: 'We were looking for a venue large enough to accommodate 200 award recipients, each with two guests (total 600) on one day. Ideally somewhere central, accessible for people with a disability, and with a community feel. Sts Thomas church was suggested and after speaking with Canon Stephen Palmer we decided it would fit the bill splendidly.

There were a lot of proud and happy people and all the arrangements went extremely well. The church provided an imposing setting and gave our ceremonies a traditional, university-like feeling of importance and value.'

Canon Palmer was invited to address to students during the ceremony and his words were quoted in press reports.

### An important venue for the whole Island Community

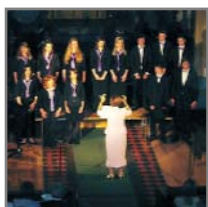


Photo: M.Taylor

How soon all the Renewal work will be completed depends on the continued success of the Appeal. So far, a remarkable £795,000 has been pledged in private & business donations, grants and other gifts.

This is extraordinarily generous and very encouraging. Yet there is much more to be done and at least another £1.5million still has to be raised. With exterior work planning Phases Two and Three for 2007/8 progressing well, we are ready to go ahead with important improvements to the interior as soon as funds allow.

The church is already an important venue for community activities but lacks many of the features needed by potential visitors and performers. By making these improvements the Trustees aim to generate regular event income to cover the costs of maintenance and improvements in the future.



### New 'weekly events' column in the County Press



Thanks to the generosity of a **Spirit of 150** member, coming events and services will now be advertised each week in the Weekend section of the County Press.

This year has seen an explosion of some 50 community activities of various kinds in the church, fulfilling one of the essential aims of the Renewal Campaign. We are delighted to be able to publicise all future events to all readers of the Island's weekly newspaper.

### New Quay Arts partnership



Our very successful neighbour, the Quay Arts Centre is beginning to need more space. At our invitation, director Mick Smith has confirmed that Quay Arts will be including Sts Thomas in their Autumn programme for two big events: a Jill Crosland Piano Recital (30th October) and their popular 'Turn Up and Sing the Messiah' (18th December).

The Quay Arts Centre is now an Associate Member of Spirit of 150-the group of 150 leading Island businesses and organizations backing the Sts Thomas Renewal Programme.

### Name a slate for Posterity



Photo: M.Taylor

During the month of August, 100 new Welsh slates will be available in the church bookshop and will be inscribed with your name in return for a donation of £5 a name. Every named slate will become part of the roof of the Princess Elizabeth chapel for what our architect says will be at least the next hundred years.

'Name a Slate for Sts Thomas' was launched on Sunday 22nd July by the Bishop of Winchester, seen here signing his own slate during his visit to the Parish.

### Never opened in my lifetime!



Photo: M.Taylor

For as long as anyone can remember, the North doors of the church have been unusable.

With a lot of hard work from our excellent contract team on the site the two heavy doors were eventually prized off their rusted hinges last month.

Once repaired they will provide better circulation inside the building, and an important additional fire exit, for major events.

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter by email please enter their address details here. If you would prefer NOT to receive future newsletters please click here.

Copies of this Newsletter can also be downloaded from the Campaign website [www.saintstthomas.org](http://www.saintstthomas.org). For more information, call Canon Stephen Palmer: 01983 821961 or Campaign office: 01983 559257  
Reg Charity No : 1079132