

St Peter's a Garden of Eden



St Peter's Church, Petersfield

St Peter's Church in The Square will be decked in delphiniums and resplendent in roses for a flower festival on the theme of Creation in June.

Spokesperson Christine Rushton said: "The flower arrangers have been planning and discussing ideas for the festival for many months and at last all is coming to fruition to make a marvellous display with different ways of interpreting the Creation story within the church space.

"There have been many discussions, drawings of possible arrangements, research into availability of flowers and finally putting it all together to make a fantastic flower festival. So much hard work, a few nightmares, but finally it will be a glorious flourish of colour, scent and feast for the eyes!

"The arrangements begin with 'darkness hovering over the surface of the deep' through the seasons, water, days of creation, culminating with the transformation of the Chancel into the Garden of Eden.

"It will be an amazing spectacle!"

With such a large space to fill, St Peter's flower arrangers have been supported by other flower arranging experts from the

PACT churches, friends and other Flower Guilds.

Christine said: "June is such a wonderful month, with a huge variety of flowers to choose from. Challenging decisions have to be made as to which variety to choose, the exact colour for the arrangement to interpret Creation in its entirety from day one through to day seven, creation of music, seasons and flowers; such a broad spectrum of imagination and talent to bring together a dazzling display for all to admire."

The festival will be open on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16, from 9.30am to 5pm and on Sunday, June 17 from 11am to 5.30pm. Entrance will be by donation (a minimum donation of £3 is suggested). There will be refreshments available to purchase each day.

On Monday, June 18, all fresh flowers will be sold, from 9.30am.

If anyone would like to be involved with the festival there are opportunities to steward, welcome and serve refreshments.

Contact the Parish Office email: st.peters_petersfield@btinternet.com

Each little flow'r that opens...

All Things Bright and Beautiful is the theme of the very first Privett Flower Festival, held May 26-27.

The lofty spire of Holy Trinity Church can be seen from the A272. This Victorian church, no longer used for worship, is an ideal venue for events and performances.

One of the busy and enthusiastic team of organisers, Rosianne Pack said: "This magnificent church is an important feature of the local community and a well-known local landmark. The church is in urgent need of essential repairs, the cost of which will be approximately £10,000. That is the target!"

The Flower Festival will begin on Friday, May 25 with a ticketed Preview Evening with drinks and canapés.

At the Preview Evening on Friday 25, Lady Rose Luce, great great grand-daughter of Sir William Nicholson, will open the Flower Festival. In 1863, William Nicholson of the firm of J&W Nicholson & Co, gin distillers, bought the nearby estate of Basing Park. Many of the buildings in Privett (now a conservation area) were built by him for workers on his estate, and the Church of the Holy Trinity was also built at his expense in 1876. The committee hopes that all the generous local sponsors will attend the this special event.

The festival will then open to the public on Saturday, May 26, 10am-5pm, and Sunday, May 27, 10am-5pm. Entrance will cost £5 for adults, and will be free for children.

Local societies and groups including horticultural societies and the church flower rota members, will be creating stunning flower displays reflecting lines and verses from the well-known hymn. The children of Froxfield School, the Privett Montessori School and the Rainbow Nursery School will have their own special corner of the church to use their imagination to create something charming and unique.

Villager and well-known artist Philip Chung has created all the festival artwork, organiser Teresa Brown has been tireless in pulling the various aspects of the event together, and a team of florists led by Amanda Wyatt and Libba Morrison have been running workshops to help participants with their floral designs and displays. Many of the flowers will be collected from Covent Garden, but local growers such as Susanna Jarrett from Flowers By The Bridge will be adding their own blooms to the event.

It is expected that at least 20 displays will fill the church with colour and scent. Caroline Moore will be creating a spectacular Lych Gate display to welcome visitors.

There will be a colouring competition for children, too, and performances from local actors and musicians, on a floral theme.

There will be refreshments in the Privett Centre next door to the church, which will be available all day on both Saturday and Sunday. Parking will be free, close to the church.



Holy Trinity Church, Privett