

Church celebrates conservation project

A CHURCH service to celebrate the completion of a conservation project was attended by a special guest.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell of Reading joined members of St James' Church in Finchampsstead for a service led by The Reverend Dr Richard Warden to thank Finchampsstead Parish Council for its support in a £500,000 conservation project on the church building.

The Reverend John Edwards, associate priest at St James' Church, said: "In his sermon the Bishop emphasised that while church buildings are important places for the worship of God, the most important thing for Christians was the living church in the form of people who made up the church."

Members of the local community and local businesses who supported the conservation project appeal were also invited to the service and enjoyed refreshments in the church centre afterwards.

Rev Edwards said: "Visitors were encouraged to look around the church and see all that had been achieved to make the church an



attractive and practical place of worship for many years to come, while at the same time retaining the atmosphere and look of the church which generations of local people have loved."

The service also marked the beginning of a week of celebrations as part of St James' patronal festival week including a cheese and wine evening, a flower festival and a hog roast.



Rev. Dr. Richard Warden, left, and Bishop of Reading Stephen Cottrell at St James' Church. W10960. Pictures by Emma Patterson