

Your guide to central diocesan staff team

The *Pompey Chimes* has been highlighting the staff and parish-based advisers who work in the four new sections that make up our central diocesan staff team. Our series concludes with the Mission and Resources section. They are all based at: First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB

4. Mission and Resources Section



Derek Baker, property maintainer
Provides reactive maintenance for parsonages and other property owned by the diocese, and undertakes planned maintenance arising from quinquennial inspections. (023-9289 9662 or property@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Mary Daisy, admin assistant, child protection
Admin assistant to the child protection adviser and responsible for processing CRB checks. Secretary to the child protection panel. (023-9289 9677 or mary.daisy@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Chris Flatman, property manager
Responsible for ensuring that all property owned or managed by the diocese is well maintained and repaired. Manages the portfolio of investment property/land used to generate income for stipends, advises parishes on other property matters, and co-ordinates work of the diocesan surveyors, Roger Boyce and Robert Biggs. (023-9289 9661 or chris.flatman@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Richard King, regional IT manager
Responsible for all areas of IT across Chichester, Guildford, Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses (based in Portsmouth). Currently undertaking a review to explore ways of working collaboratively to provide more efficient and effective IT service. (023-9289 9669 or richard.king@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Alex Reader, admin assistant and receptionist
Responsible for reception and range of clerical tasks with the diocesan office. Also provides general admin support for the Mission and Resources section. (023-9289 9662 or alex.reader@portsmouth.anglican.org)

Andrew Robinson, deputy diocesan secretary and head of section
Deputises for the diocesan secretary and heads up the Mission and Resources section. Also responsible for human resources matters in the diocese, secretary of the diocesan finance committee, member of inter-diocesan finance forum and vice-chairman of the diocesan advisory committee. Also chairman of the Church of England's national job evaluation panel. (023-9289 9664 or andrew.robinson@portsmouth.anglican.org)



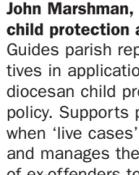
Suzanne Baker, senior finance officer
Diocesan accountant, responsible for maintaining financial records, producing management accounting information and preparing annual accounts. Also oversees tax recovery scheme (gift aid) and assists deputy diocesan secretary in preparing annual budgets. (023-9289 9683 or suzanne.baker@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Jane Dobbs, PA to diocesan and deputy diocesan secretaries
Provides secretarial and admin assistance to the diocesan secretary and deputy diocesan secretary. Also electoral registration officer. (023-9289 9664 or jane.dobbs@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Margaret Hay, finance officer
Assists the senior finance officer and is responsible for the payroll and processing of payments. (023-9289 9667 or margaret.hay@portsmouth.anglican.org)



John Marshman, child protection adviser
Guides parish representatives in application of the diocesan child protection policy. Supports parishes when 'live cases' occur and manages the return of ex-offenders to parishes. (023-9289 9665 or john.marshman@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Becky Williams, central services manager
Manages the central office services and assists in management of office IT systems, secretary to diocesan advisory committee, responsible for matters under the pastoral measure, and assists in human resources matters and undertakes project work for the deputy diocesan secretary. (023-9289 9660 or becky.williams@portsmouth.anglican.org)



Sacrificial love helped bring peace to Uganda

IT'S a love story that spans 24 years and two continents. It's also a story of sacrificial love for the sake of one country's future.

Hugh Mason is a semi-retired university lecturer and city councillor who lives in Southsea. His wife, Dinah, was – until recently – a Cabinet minister in Uganda. For the past 16 years, he has lived in the UK while she has lived in Africa.

Dinah, now 56, risked her life to return to a part of northern Uganda torn apart by civil war in 1990. She has since served her country as a peacemaker, an MP and a minister. But she believes Hugh has sacrificed more for Uganda than she ever did.

"If Hugh hadn't have been the sort of person he is, I wouldn't have gone back," she said. "He has been denied his wife and family for all this time. I have sacrificed my life for Uganda, but it's my country and my people. Hugh has sacrificed just as much, but it's not even his country."

Hugh, 65, goes to St Simon's Church and was lay chairman of our diocesan synod until last November. His first contact with Dinah – who is also called Grace and Akello – came when one of his former university students, Moira Hewitt, was in Tanzania in 1979.

"I was a refugee in Tanzania because I'd run away from Idi Amin," said Dinah. "I'd been asked to fill in some forms in sextuplicate in this hotel, and said 'I just can't be bothered!'. This English lady behind me laughed and we got talking. Moira and I became good friends."

"I wrote poetry in English, which people in Africa seemed to like, but I wasn't sure if it was good poetry. She suggested that I send it to this university lecturer in England to see what he thought."

Hugh wasn't a very good correspondent, but did write back a couple of times. When Dinah came to work in London for the Commonwealth Secretariat, Moira suggested inviting Hugh to a dinner party at her house in Walthamstow.

"I didn't want her to invite him, because I thought it would be embarrassing!" said Dinah. "Neither of us had anything romantic in mind, but Hugh took me home in his old Landrover and met my four children. And it went from there."

The pair met in the summer of 1981, Hugh proposed in the summer of 1982, and they married in the summer of 1983. For the next seven years, Dinah lived in Southsea and commuted to London, where she was assistant editor for publications for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Meanwhile, a new regime had taken over in Uganda in 1986. Dinah's people, from Teso in the north-east of the country, were systematically driven out of influential positions in the army, civil service and special forces. When Karamojong raiders attacked, the Teso people accused the government of being in cahoots with the raiders. The Teso people rebelled against the government in protest.

Tensions were so high that the Teso people were killing and raping their own people, including those from their own region who were urging them to use more peaceful ways of protesting. Then, in 1990, the president of Uganda rang Dinah at her home in Southsea to ask her to set up a commission that would find a way of creating peace in the region.

"It was Tam and I was in bed when the president rang," said Dinah. "He said: 'Please come and change the situation for the better'. It took us three months to decide whether or not I should go. I thought I would be killed. I also had to leave Hugh to cope with the four boys, who were growing into teenagers. It was a big sacrifice for the family, but Hugh said it was OK."

Dinah initially went on a fact-finding mission, meeting displaced people in camps, and reported back to St Simon's Church. She then went back indefinitely to set up the presidential commission.

"It helped that I was from Teso, so I knew them, but I was also from outside," she said. "They wouldn't listen to their own people there – they were just killing them there and then. But I knew that God had gone with me, and I believed that the rebellion had to end. They were killing older women and children, and they were raping women. I said to them: 'What's the difference between you and the army, as you are both killing and raping people?'"

"They were brave words, but they weren't my words. I think the majority of people had had enough trauma. It also helped to use Christian language, as the area is 70 per cent Christian."

"There were moments of danger: we always had escorts, but there was one ambush where they killed six people in our convoy when we were three cars behind them. There were many threats as well, which was frightening. But in the end, we



Above: Dinah Mason working as a peacemaker at a health centre near Kitgum; below: the pair at their Southsea home

managed to pull 5,000 armed boys out of the bush peacefully. We knew that if force was used by the government, we wouldn't get anywhere."

And Hugh said: "Of course, the boys and I missed her terribly and at the beginning there was this constant worry about Dinah's safety. I remember in 1992, I ignored the High Commission's advice not to travel to Teso to see her, and we slept with a detachment of troops around us. But we rebuilt Dinah's father's compound next to the main road to Soroti, which helped to encourage others to return to their villages. They were saying 'Akello has brought her white husband, so it must be safe!'"

The commission lasted from 1990-96, after which Dinah was elected as an MP for the Soroti district. She was re-elected in 2001 as an

MP for the Katakwi region, but lost her seat in 2006. She was Minister for Microfinance Initiatives from 1999-2003, and Minister for Northern Uganda from 2003-06 – both of which were Cabinet positions.

"As a minister, I hoped to educate people about poverty – that they shouldn't borrow money for drinking and marrying second wives, but that they could start their businesses. It helped that I could talk directly to people in northern Uganda. Those microfinance initiatives have made a real difference to people's lives. I also told the government to regulate the

microfinance industry as there were crooks lending money at high rates of interest."

Communication between the couple has become easier over the years, with e-mail and text messaging replacing expensive phone calls. And the only cultural problems they can recall concern Hugh's vegetarianism.

"It was a little odd for someone from a cattle tribe to marry a vegetarian," he said. "When I first met Dinah's father, he couldn't understand why I was eating beans when they had slaughtered a goat in my honour! But one of the great advantages about Uganda is that they speak English and there are elements of British culture that are still very visible there."

"We actually have a remarkable amount in common. It helps that we both have faith, as well as politics in common. Dinah's a poet and I write prose, so we both are keen on the sound of the English language."

"It may seem like a strange way to run a marriage, but it's a bit like a naval marriage where one person is away for long periods of time. Dinah comes here or I go there three or four times a year, and on most days I'd be more sure of where my wife was than many other people!"

Once she was voted out of office in 2006, Dinah and Hugh had to think about the future. Her sons Peter and Paul both live in Uganda, but Emmanuel and Sam are both in the UK.

"Britain is my home as much as Uganda," said Dinah. "I had thought I'd like to be buried in Uganda when I die, but I love this place as well. If I wanted a job in Britain, I could come and settle here."

"Or we could go to live in Uganda," said Hugh. "It's one of those things that may happen. The Lord has led us through our marriage – there are things that happened in the 1990s-2000s that would make your hair curl, but the grace of God has led us through them. But it may be some time yet before we put on our carpet slippers and watch daytime TV – we're not that kind of couple!"



Church helps fund new radio station

ONE way in which St Simon's Church helped the people of Teso was by raising money to fund a community radio station.

Collections at the Southsea church raised more than £6,000 to help equip the station. Dinah took the transmission and studio equipment back to Uganda last year.

The idea is to create a radio station broadcasting a mixture of agricultural information, spiritual input and local news to the Teso population – most of whom are small-scale farmers.

"To be honest, we were hoping St Simon's would give us a few hundred pounds to start the project on its way," said Hugh. "But when we found out how much had been raised, I

bought a basic radio station and Dinah went back to Uganda with it in her luggage – transmitter, antennae, cable, microphones, mixer, CD player, and power generator.

"I expected that she would be charged a huge amount for excess baggage. But the airport staff were remarkably understanding."

"We had planned to build the station in Amuria, but it has turned out not to be suitable. We're now looking at putting the station in Katakwi, but we need to build a house for it first."

"The people of Katakwi are very excited about it. We're very hoping that it will help with peace-making and uniting people, as well as having practical advice on development in that area."

Financial Matters

FINANCE FOR ALL

Personal finances are often looked at during the beginning of a new year. It could be the fact that despite good intentions many of us overspend at Christmas time, it could be that when looking at our New Year resolutions that many of us realise that our finances should be considered.

Are we spending or investing our money wisely or could we take time out to consolidate our resources?

Organisations such as charities and church groups could well take a second look at their banking, insurance and other financial commitments from time to time to make sure that they are getting the best deal, or the sort of ethical policy that they feel they can work happily with.

Competition is high in the financial industry and it is very often possible to negotiate a better deal for financial services or energy supplies.

You might like to look at your giving to the church and charities. It could be that if you are a tax payer they can get extra income from the government who will top up your contribution with extra funds at no cost to yourself. This can be done through covenanting a regular contribution or through the use of a CAF card, a scheme which is organised by the Charities Aid Foundation.

Our finances, like other aspects of our lives need careful consideration if they are to remain in a healthy state.

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