



Sally-Anne Whitehouse

## New family mentoring worker is recruiting

A NEW worker has been appointed to run the family mentoring project our diocese is helping to pioneer.

Sally-Ann Whitehouse has taken over as development worker for the project that is run jointly by our diocese, Hampshire County Council and Barnardo's. The scheme links volunteer mentors with families who are going through stressful situations.

The job was initially filled by Felicity Keeping, but Andy Gay, from Barnardo's, was doing the job before Sally-Anne's appointment. She will now be looking to recruit volunteers from among our congregations and elsewhere.

"We're looking to support families with issues including debt, domestic abuse, alcohol and substance misuse," she said. "People are often unsure what they can contribute as mentors, but sometimes just a listening ear is what people want."

Volunteers will be asked to attend four training sessions. They can then offer a family as much time as they feel able.

# Tributes paid to Arnold and Anne

**GENEROUS tributes have been paid to two faithful Christians from our diocese who died recently.**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu was among those who praised the life and faith of the Rev Arnold Hirst, rector of St Nicholas's Church, Wickham, for 17 years until his retirement in 2005.

And equally fulsome tributes were paid to Anne Ashton, from St Peter and St Paul Church, Fareham, who was one of our lay representatives on general synod.

Arnold Hirst, who was born and ordained in South Africa, was a vocal opponent of the government's apartheid policy. Following one protest, he was arrested and jailed overnight with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

And the Archbishop said: "What I remember so much about Arnold, apart from being an outstanding priest, was his tremendous sense of fun, even when we were in jail that night together. I praise him for his wonderful ministry and his humanity."

His passionate belief in justice and freedom was complemented by his pastoral care and generosity as parish priest in Wickham. He and his wife Jill were married for 47 years and were a strong partnership in ministry. They had three children and seven grandchildren.

Arnold was diagnosed with liver cancer in February, but was determined to continue his min-



The Rev Arnold Hirst

istry. Only three weeks before his own death, Arnold led a funeral for a young father he had married, who was tragically killed in a road accident.

Long-time friend the Rev Ted Goodyer, from St Mary's Church, Alverstoke, said: "He was a wonderful, caring and trusted parish priest, who was endlessly available to people in need, regardless of the toll this took on his own health. He was a wonderful storyteller, had a great sense of humour



Anne Ashton

and a great zest for life."

St Nicholas's Church was packed for his funeral, and he was buried in the churchyard in a plot allocated for the rector. A memorial service was held simultaneously in St George's, Johannesburg.

Family, friends and former colleagues also paid tribute to Anne Ashton at her funeral, at St Peter and St Paul Church, Fareham - where she had been a member since the age of four. She trained as a lawyer and worked for

Winchester City, Gosport Borough and Portsmouth City Councils.

She became secretary to Hampshire Law Society on her retirement, and was a governor at Fareham College and a general commissioner of taxes.

Colleague David Russell said: "There are some people in life who live in your memory as an example of diligence or kindness or professional competence or fun or honesty. It's not often one can say that a person is remembered for all these qualities."

Her cousin, Prof Richard Hunt, said: "She had the most amazing ability to establish meaningful and often lasting relationships. She was a pragmatic Christian and an example to us all."

And the Ven Peter Hancock, Archdeacon of the Meon, said: "She was a great supporter of the church at every level, a lady of deep personal faith and a person of great professional integrity and experience."

## Repairs ensure wedding couple keep feet dry



Patrick and Kerry Riddell outside the west door

IT was a happy day – but it might not have been quite so joyful if the bride and groom had got their feet wet.

Patrick Riddell and Kerry Pettit were married at St Mary's Church, Portchester, last month. But the church has had drainage problems recently – each time it rained, the building became flooded and had to be closed to the public.

So the wedding couple were relieved that work on the drains started at the end of April and was finished before their big day. No sandbags or wellies were needed.

It's part of a £1.5m restoration project, which was launched at the historic church in March 2006. Worshippers raised £100,000 in the first year, which meant some vital repair-work could go ahead.

Project manager Tony Fuller said: "With the very heavy rainfall during the week before Patrick and Kerry's wedding, this area would've been flooded if it were not for the installation of the new drainage system."

The repairs involved archaeologists working closely with workmen as they excavated in the 1,000-year-old churchyard, which is inside Portchester Castle.

The long-term restoration project also includes work to repair the roof, electrics, boiler room and heating.

## Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 parishes in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Its total circulation is 9,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each of our parishes pays 15p for each copy, which allows our readers to pick it up for free on the final Sunday of each month. Adverts are dealt with by our publishers, Cornerstone Vision.

### DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER

EDITION: Monday 6 August  
(NB: There is no separate August edition)

AVAILABLE FOR PARISHES TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS:  
Thursday 23 August

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH:  
Sunday 26 August

### CONTACTS:

EDITORIAL: Neil Pugmire, First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road,

Portsmouth, PO2 8HB (023-9289 9673 or neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org)

ADVERTISING: Les Walters, Cornerstone Vision, 28 Old Park Road, Peverell, Plymouth, PL3 4PY (01752-242264 or les@cornerstonevision.com)

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Liz Goodyer, First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB (023-9289 9672 or liz.goodyer@portsmouth.anglican.org)