

## KAIROS

seizing God's moment for growth

In February 2004, Bishop Kenneth launched the 'Kairos' initiative – an ambitious, diocesan-wide process that aimed to make our Church broader (in its impact on our communities), deeper (in encouraging more meaningful spiritual lives) and leaner (in its structures).

Our eight deaneries were asked to work in clusters of parishes to identify the physical, social and spiritual needs of local communities and draw up five-year plans to try to meet those needs. In July 2005, those plans were blessed in our cathedral. The *Pompey Chimes* is now catching up on how things are going, deanery by deanery.

### 3. West Wight deanery

#### What's going well?

Kairos has given impetus to collaborative ways of working by both lay and clergy.

In the **Medina Valley** cluster (Coves, Gurnard, Northwood, East Coves and Whippingham), churchwardens and clergy from the seven parishes meet regularly, training for a lay pastoral group is underway and the group is exploring the possible development of St Faith's Church, Coves, for church and community use.

The **Newport** cluster (four Newport parishes and Wootton),

there are also regular meetings of clergy and churchwardens, and extensive building developments at St Thomas's, St John's, Barton and Wootton. The group is supporting the planned merger of the Anglican and Roman Catholic middle schools, and lay and ordained ministers are being shared. Strong ecumenical links continue to develop between churches in Wootton.

The **south coast** cluster (Shorwell, Gatcombe, Chale, Brighstone, Brook and Mottistone) share a parish magazine and work well with their local communities. They hope to develop wedding ministry, develop buildings at Gatcombe and Chale, and provide more for teenagers.

The **West Wight** cluster (Totland, Freshwater, Yarmouth, Shalfleet, Calbourne and Newtown) includes some of the most ambitious projects. The parish of Calbourne has produced an award-winning magazine, and worshippers at Totland plan to demolish two dilapidated church halls (pictured above) to replace them with a new

community complex. There are also building developments at Shalfleet, at All Saints and St Agnes churches in Freshwater, and at Thorley.

The **Kairos Archdeaconry Group** continues to monitor progress and is a useful forum for the exchange of ideas across the island.

#### What challenges are you facing?

The deanery hopes it can streamline deanery committees to reduce the proliferation of meetings and to be proactive and visionary, rather than reactive.

Lay training and investment to help finance projects were both seen as universal issues across the deanery. In-service professional development for clergy and the development of buildings were also vital.

#### What's next?

The deanery wants to research the feasibility of employing a youth worker, and how it can resource and equip lay people for ministry and worship. It also hopes to formalise some of the cluster groupings into full-scale group ministries.

Clergy and others will be encouraged to work with schools, there will be a focus on imaginative use of buildings, and a strong emphasis on working ecumenically. An ecumenical Christian discipleship course starts in the autumn.

**The verdict:** "The process has gone well overall and, following the flow of many creative ideas, numerous projects are underway. The next phase of Kairos is well timed as many parishes plan on making their buildings more suitable for community use and outreach."

Canon Richard Emblin, rural dean

# The full story of Linvoy's transformed life is told

**HE'S the most popular player on the Fratton Park terraces, the figurehead for a range of outstanding community work – and the most famous Christian in Portsmouth.**

Now Pompey defender Linvoy Primus has written his autobiography, detailing the transformation of his life – from struggling young footballer to Premiership superstar, and from anxiety-stricken player to peace-filled believer.

*Transformed: Football, Faith and Me* will be launched on September 4. It tells the story of his rejection as a youngster at Charlton, through seasons plagued by doubt about his ability and future in the game, to his dramatic conversion in 2001.

Linvoy recalls how his injured knee was prayed for and healed, how his faith developed in trips to Asia and Africa and how his charity Faith and Football helps deprived youngsters here and overseas.

All this against the backdrop of winning promotion to the Premiership, having to fight for his first-team place each season and the club's dramatic escape from relegation in 2006.

"I was compelled to write this book because I wanted to tell people of the changes that have happened in my life because of God's power," he said.

"Of how God has taken me to new levels of performance and consistency in my career. Of how I have obtained a peace that has enabled me to meet the challenges that have come into my life as a footballer. Of how God has enabled me to overcome rejection, anxiety and lack of self-belief to find a new confidence and assurance."

And it was freelance sports writer Peter Jeffs, from St John's Church, Locks Heath, who helped him to write the book.

The Pompey season ticket holder also wrote the biography of Jimmy Dickinson, *Pompey's Gentleman Jim*, and helped former Pompey keeper Alan Knight write his book *Legend*. For this book, he interviewed Linvoy for several hours each week over nine months.

"He knew me through Faith and Football and approached me to do it," said Peter. "It is a compelling story that



Above: Linvoy Primus in action against Liverpool's Peter Crouch; below: Linvoy with the Division One championship trophy

is well worth telling. Linvoy was a joy to work with. He's a real inspiration, and working with him has taken my faith down interesting roads.

"I was also at pains to try to repeat what he told me. So many ghost-writers end up using words that the subject wouldn't actually use, but these are Linvoy's words."

The book gives insights into the training methods of the managers Linvoy has worked under, how it feels to be dropped without explanation, and what it's like to defend against top strikers such as Michael Owen, Wayne Rooney or Didier Drogba.

It reveals the disillusionment and cynicism that can set in when people only want to be your friends because you are a professional footballer – and the difference it makes to find genuine friends in the Christian community.

It tells of the hostile reception he faced from fellow Pompey players

when he first revealed his faith. And it highlights his life-changing trips to Nigeria – which prompted the creation of the Faith and Football charity – and to Goa in India.

And it unveils more about the club's pre-match prayer routine, when players and backroom staff cram into the tiny Fratton Park laundry room before home games. Incredibly, that routine started on the day Pompey beat Man City with a last-minute Pedro Mendes thunderbolt – the start of the so-called 'Great Escape' from the relegation zone in 2005-06.

Pompey manager Harry Redknapp certainly thinks something has made a difference to Linvoy's career.

"I watched him for eight months and he was diabolical," he said. "Then suddenly he blossomed. I don't know what happened. I thought he was a first division player and I didn't think he would make it in the Premier



Peter Jeffs

League, but I was proved wrong."

When Linvoy retires from football, he intends to devote himself to the work of Faith and Football. It has raised thousands of pounds from treks along the Great Wall of China and across the Sinai desert to help build a school in Nigeria and a medical centre, school and orphanage in Goa.

It runs five-a-side football leagues in deprived parts of Portsmouth and Birmingham, and helps to organise the Linvoy Primus Enterprise Challenge, which involves secondary school pupils forming real businesses to learn entrepreneurial skills. The winning team receive an all-expenses-paid trip to see the project in Goa.

Faith and Football has also run Youth Alpha courses for pupils in Miltoncross School and Admiral Lord Nelson Schools. For more information on the charity, see: [www.faithandfootball.org](http://www.faithandfootball.org)



Linvoy on the Great Wall of China raising money for the charity Faith and Football

### REVIEW

**Transformed: Football, Faith and Me** by Linvoy Primus with Peter Jeffs

IT'S easy for footballers' autobiographies to be boring. Even those who win World Cup and Champions' League medals often end up simply listing what happened in game after game. They describe themselves as elated or gutted, depending on the results.

Linvoy Primus' book isn't like that. It's a genuinely fascinating account of a life that completely changed. It gives a real insight into the psychological make-up of a professional footballer – what it actually feels like to have your ability questioned, how different managers gee you up or freeze you out, and what it feels like when you're playing well.

And it's also fascinating in the way that his faith changed not just his spiritual life, but his approach to the game. Can belief in God really make a decent pro into an outstanding Premiership player?

Well, it worked for Linvoy,

and his secret seems to be the sense of purpose his faith gives him. Being valued by God means that he no longer measures his worth in terms of how the last 90 minutes went.

The book is an easy read, especially if you're a Pompey fan and were there for the crunch matches. But it's a surprisingly good read too if you're not remotely interested in football.

There's enough here about his childhood, his relationship with his wife Trish, his travels around the world and his spiritual experiences for non-football fans to share the emotional roller-coaster of Linvoy's life too.

And Peter Jeffs' work on the book is not intrusive. It certainly feels like Linvoy's own words, and his down-to-earth style – even when talking about dramatic spiritual events – is refreshing. Few football books are as compelling as this one.

● *Transformed - Football, Faith and Me* is now available in hardback, priced at £18.99, from all good bookshops or online at [www.linvoyprimus.com](http://www.linvoyprimus.com)

NEIL PUGMIRE

## Chaplain caters for all Pompey's family

THE pre-match prayer meetings may have caught the headlines, but the role of Pompey chaplain embraces the whole of the club's 'family'.

The Rev Jonathan Jeffery (pictured right), vicar of Leigh Park and Warren Park, took over the role in November 2005. The Rev Andy Rimmer, formerly vicar of Crookhorn, was chaplain before him.

"It is very exciting to see God at work at the club and amongst the players," said Jonathan. "Linvoy Primus, Kanu, Lua Lua and others bring a real spiritual dimension to their lives – which seems to break the perceptions of professional footballers.

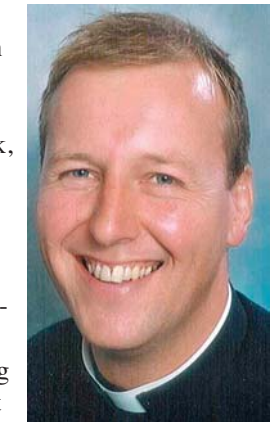
"I seek to serve as a spiritual

safety net, reminding people throughout the club that God wants to be part of their lives.

"Each week I visit the ground and training, meeting players and all those behind the scenes, and on match days my ministry extends to stewards, hospitality and catering staff, programme sellers and fans.

"The club is like a family, with over 600 people employed at home games, so prayer for all of those people is a vital part of my work."

A monthly prayer diary to help you pray for the club – called 'Pray Up Pompey' – is available from Jonathan on 023-9247 5276.



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Between us, our two hospices provide specialist palliative care for some 900 adults with life-limiting illness throughout the Diocese every year. We also help to care for their families and friends.

Both hospices are heavily dependent upon voluntary giving in order to provide their services entirely free of charge. Our combined expenditure this year will be over £5.2 million. The largest single source of fundraising income for each of us is from legacies.

**Please would you remember us in your Will?**

Further advice on making a bequest to your local hospice is available from the Legacies Officer at either of the above addresses, or you can ask your solicitor to help you.

**All our services are FREE**  
please help us to keep them this way