

Churches help give gifts to homeless

CHRISTIANS across our diocese will again help to make Christmas a special time for those who otherwise wouldn't receive any presents.

Their generosity will help buy gifts for those who are homeless, asylum seekers or housed in a women's refuge. It's the ninth year that the scheme has been run by the Churches Homeless Action (CHA) group.

Churchgoers and others will buy vouchers and gift cards from shops such as Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Argos and pass them via CHA to agencies who deal with such clients. They include Central Point in Portsmouth, Fareham Direct Access Hostel, the Haslar Visitors Group, Havant Women's Aid, Portsmouth Foyer and St Simon's Church.

Those organisations will then allocate the gift vouchers to their clients, who can then buy what they like. For many of them this will be the only Christmas gift they receive. Last year more than £10,000 was raised in this way.

Canon Bob White, from Churches Homeless Action, said: "We've always been staggered by the generosity of churchgoers and others at what is already an expensive time of year."

For more details, contact Geoff Philpotts on 023-9289 6793 or geoff.philpotts@firstwessex.org

Couple win award for being neighbourly

A COUPLE have been honoured with a Hampshire County Council Good Neighbour award for 2011.

Danny and Cynthia Mullans from Waltham Chase received the prestigious award for helping their 91-year-old neighbour during the winter weather last year.

The vicar of Shedfield and Wickham, the Rev Bruce Deans, nominated the pair for the award after they cared for Helen Little, who was living alone. They ensured she had enough food and was kept warm in the snowy weather, as well as helping her when she urgently called during the night.

Helen has recently moved to a care home after a remarkable life,

including working at Bletchley Park during the Second World War translating coded messages.

She is a long-standing member of Shedfield Mothers' Union and she and her husband Dennis were active members of St John the Baptist Church in Shedfield.

The couple were presented with the award by Councillor Ken Thornber at a reception held by Hampshire County Council. As they were away, Helen's daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Peter Galvin accepted the award for them.

Danny and Cynthia modestly claim that what they've done is quite normal and "just what anyone would do."



Danny and Cynthia Mullans

Priests to work in pioneering style

IT'S a great example of parishes choosing to work together across historic boundaries.

Two priests will be licensed to work alongside each other in neighbouring parishes. Each will be priest-in-charge of one parish and associate priest for the other. It's the first time that's happened in our diocese.

The Rev Phillip Amey will become the new priest-in-charge of Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea. He'll also be licensed as associate priest of St James, Milton.

And the new priest-in-charge of St James, Milton, will be the Rev Paul Armstead, now curate at St Matthew's Church in Northampton. He'll also be licensed as associate priest at Church of the Holy Spirit.

It's the latest in a series of moves designed to encourage parishes to work together more obviously. The principle is embedded in our Ministry for Mission framework which was launched at Diocesan Synod earlier this year.

Phill said: "I am thrilled to be joining the parishes of Holy Spirit, Southsea and St James, Milton at what is an exciting and momentous time in their combined histories.

"This plan is not so much to make two parishes one but rather to explore erasing parish boundaries to share ministry for both lay and ordained whilst maintaining each church's distinct character."

And Paul said: "As well as getting to know and building friendships at St James, it is going to be particularly exciting to have the



The Rev Phillip Amey; above: the Rev Paul Armstead

opportunity to work with Fr Phill and the people of Holy Spirit Church, discovering fellow pilgrims, sharing our many gifts and talents in both communities and seeking new ways of enjoying all that life brings as disciples on the road."

Portsmouth's area dean, Canon Bob White, who also chairs our Ministry for Mission group, said: "This is a first for us, and it's an attempt to be flexible in how we encourage collaborative ministry without going down a complicated legal path."

Other collaborations in our diocese include the clergy and Readers in Gosport deanery, who already minister alongside each other and are working towards the deanery becoming a single parish.

Clergy from the north of Portsmouth have started meeting every six weeks as the 'trans-creek cluster', and there have been two 'mini-synods'. Worshippers joined forces for a spirituality day in September and will hold a joint Advent Carol Service on November 27.

The cluster of parishes that includes Purbrook, Denmead, Portsdown, Waterlooville and Crookhorn met for a joint celebration with the bishop in July.

Training day on vocations

CLERGY and Readers will spend a day thinking about how to discern vocations – as part of our Ministry for Mission framework.

The bishop's training day features speakers, workshops and a midday Eucharist. It will be at our cathedral from 9.30am-3pm on November 14.

The two speakers will deliver their input in the morning. Claire Pedrick, director of 3D Coaching, will speak about encouraging and discerning vocations to focussed roles within our discipleship.

Catherine Williams, the national vocations officer for the Church of England's Ministry Division, will talk about encouraging and discerning vocations for licensed ministry in the Church.

In the afternoon there will be a choice of workshop themes, including praying for vocations, responding to God, interviewing skills, how does God guide us, the theology of vocation, and vocations in young people.

The bishop will also meet with those directly involved in the process of discernment and selection for licensed ministry.

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 circulation is 8,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each parish 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. For a list of editorial deadlines, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org

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AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 24 November

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 27 November

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