

# Stained glass restored for the city's hospital

**THESE are the stained-glass windows that adorn the main corridor in the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth.**

The 12 narrow windows have been mounted outside the chapel and multi-faith area in the hospital. Four similar windows had already been installed inside the chapel.

The newer windows each feature the image of a single saint or prominent figure, such as Florence Nightingale or St Catherine. Six of them are male, six female.

They had previously been at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital at the top of Commercial Road, on the site now occupied by Sainsbury's. They had then been stored for many years before being restored and placed in the newly-built hospital.

Mick Lyons, who co-ordinates the hospital's Rocky Appeal, raised the £2,500 needed to get each of the stained-glass windows mounted on the wall. He



Hospital chaplains (1 to r) John Detain, Gordon Charlesworth and Laura Cameron with (second left) Mick Lyons from the Rocky Appeal

encouraged organisations such as the League of Friends, the Sisters of Bethany and others to sponsor them, or asked individuals to do so in memory of loved ones.

So the window devoted to St Lucy was paid for by Maureen Clark, in memory of Ron Taylor, who was lost on HMS Wren in 1940, and Tom Andrews, who was lost on the Somme.

Chaplaincy team leader the Rev John Detain said: "These are lovely stained glass windows that are in a very prominent position, where everyone can see them. We often see people stopping to look

at them, and they do guide people towards our chapel and multi-faith area. We're really pleased that the hospital and the Rocky Appeal have ensured that they are part of the new hospital."

And Mick Lyons said: "When the Royal Portsmouth Hospital was demolished 40 years ago, they went into storage for years. We needed to get them cleaned up a bit before they could be displayed.

"It took us a couple of years to get them restored, and to get the sponsorship necessary. But we're glad we did it. These are part of our heritage and they are too precious to lose. This is the obvious place for them, in a corridor where everyone can appreciate them."

The Queen Alexandra Hospital chaplaincy team are employed by the trust to offer pastoral and religious support to patients, their relatives and staff of all faiths and none. They are on call 24 hours a day. For more details, see [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/chaplaincy](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/chaplaincy).

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## Could you help schools?

ARE you a school governor? If not, please don't stop reading and if you are please try not to groan with the thought 'surely, not more to read'.

I have been a governor in various church and community schools for the best part of 25 years and both the role and responsibility have changed throughout that time. It seems to change not just from year to year, but sometimes from meeting to meeting. The importance of the position has never been as great as it is now.

From my own school days in Havant – I once had a report that said 'Peter pays little or no attention in class' (that was for RE!) and another that said 'a tendency to act the fool' – to where we are now, the changes in education policy and practice have been phenomenal.

Many of our congregations include school governors in church and community schools. Whether a governor or not, you will have some idea of the amazing ministry and mission that is undertaken by laity and clergy in this area of parish life.



## the last word

by the Ven Peter Sutton  
Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight

Education is politically red hot and, whether governors or not, we should in our churches watch, pray for and respond to that which successive governments do in their bid to improve learning and opportunity for young people.

I now find myself paying much more attention to what happens in class than (sadly) I ever did as a child, and I am concerned with the latest proposals for total academisation and the prospect that schools may not need to have parent governors. There is a danger that the critical role of governors could become too remote from the real lives of the

children they exist to serve.

Are you a governor? You don't have to have been a straight A\* performer when you were at school to qualify, but you do need to care for the future of our young people, who are not a commodity but a cherished gift to nurture, and be prepared to take responsibility for what happens in school.

The Church has a great history in education, but the work is changing and schools and government alike need our prayers, our input as Christians and sometimes our dedicated and practical involvement as governors.