

# Royal honour for our faithful four

**HE'S always willing to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty to help others – and now he has been rewarded by the Queen.**

Malcolm Clubley was one of four men and women from our diocese to receive Maundy money from the Queen for services to the community.

The 71-year-old, who is churchwarden at St Cuthbert's Church, Copnor, said he was surprised when the official-looking envelope came in the post, and when he opened it he couldn't quite believe what he was reading.

"It was quite a shock, to be honest. I certainly wasn't expecting it," he said.

"My wife Val joked that it is was for the many times that I have emptied buckets of water when we have had leaks in the church building!

"I accepted it on behalf of all of the previous churchwardens of St Cuthbert's and all of the work they have collectively put into the reordering of the church building."

Every year at Easter, the Queen presents special Maundy money to men and women over the age of 70 to celebrate their Christian service. The number of recipients is equal to the age of the Queen in the year that the money is given.

It's an ancient ceremony which can be traced back to the fourth century and has its origin in Jesus's commandment to his disciples to love each other after he washed their feet at the Last Supper.

Malcolm attended the ceremony at St George's Chapel in Windsor

## Island stalwart given Maundy money

SHE has often watched the presentation of the Maundy money on the TV, but never imagined that one day she might receive it herself.

Hilary Spurgeon, a Reader in Binstead and Havenstreet, was shocked and surprised to receive the letter telling her that she had been nominated to receive Maundy money

from the Queen.

Hilary, who is also Deputy Warden of Readers for our diocese, said: "It was an awesome experience. It is not something that many people get the privilege of doing, so I feel honoured to have been nominated. The reality of it all is still setting in now. I was privileged to go to a garden

party at Buckingham Palace last summer and so I have seen the Queen in person before, but not at such close quarters as this."

Hilary travelled up to Windsor Castle with her cousin, John. As well as being a Reader for 26 years, Hilary has also served two terms as Lay Canon at our cathedral.

with his wife, Val. It was the first time that he had met the Queen.

"I've seen her on the television but I've never seen her in the flesh not even at a distance," he said.

"It was an amazing and quite incredible experience. The whole ceremony was really quite moving. We were sitting just behind the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during the service."

Malcolm has been part of the community at St Cuthbert's for most of his life and was baptised there during the Second World War.

He is very good with his hands and can often be found undertaking some form of practical work in the church building from general maintenance to making new wooden storage cupboards for the worship space.

Celia Veal, matron to the choristers at our cathedral and crucifer at St Ann's Church in the Naval Dockyard, and Edward Minghella, founder of the Minghella Ice Cream Company on the Isle of Wight, and the father of the late Anthony Minghella, were also given Maundy money after being nominated by our diocese.



Malcolm Clubley at Windsor Castle with his wife Val

## Conference focuses on restorative justice

CHRISTIANS are being invited to discover more about how to reconcile broken relationships and act as peacemakers.

They'll hear about 'Restorative Justice and the Church in Portsmouth' at a conference at Lakeside from 9am-12noon on May 21. It is part of a series of conferences to introduce different faith groups to the concept of restorative justice. That's the idea of bringing reconciliation between the criminal and the victim.

The morning conference is being organised by Portsmouth Mediation Service, which helps city residents to resolve disagreements. The idea is to help worshippers to know how to resolve conflict, become restorative justice facilitators, and volunteer their skills outside churches.

The manager of Portsmouth Mediation Service, Steve Rolls, said: "Wouldn't it be good if Portsmouth was known as a 'restorative city'? Wouldn't it be great if people of faith could make that happen?"

The conference for Christians will be followed by similar events for the Muslim community in September and for the Jewish community in October. Then there will be a multi-faith conference in March 2017.

The event is being supported by the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Safer Portsmouth Partnership.

Email [steve@rollsbiz.co.uk](mailto:steve@rollsbiz.co.uk) for details.

## Find out how churches can use Makaton

A CHURCH in Stubbington will host a session to help you communicate with those who have learning difficulties.

Holy Rood Church will host a taster session in the use of Makaton from 10am-12noon on May 7. It will be run by the organisation Prospects, who support churches that welcome people with learning disabilities.

Holy Rood already holds its Causeway services once a month for those who have any kind of learning difficulty.

You can learn some simple signs and symbols for use in church. To book, see [www.prospects.org/events](http://www.prospects.org/events), or ring 0118-951 6979.

## High Time for a party after work completed



The new welcome area at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham

IT was High Time for a party at Holy Trinity, Fareham, after the completion of a project to transform the church.

Worshippers celebrated last month to mark the completion of the 'High Time' project, which involved raising £500,000 to repair its clock and tower, as well as creating a new welcome area.

It was a way of saying thank you to local businesses, Fareham College staff and students, regular churchgoers,

Fareham councillors and officers, and those from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant-giving bodies who had helped with the project.

Rector the Rev Sally Davenport said: "Together we've been able to make the church safe and more welcoming. People have dug deep into their pockets, and given us their time and talents.

"We've made new friends, learned new things, worked hard and prayed hard."