

Married couple to become Readers



THEY have shared 44 years of marriage already – now they'll share the joy of becoming Readers together.

Paul and Marjorie Arnold from Liphook are two of 11 new Readers who will be licensed in our cathedral at 11am on Saturday 10 September. Existing Readers will be re-licensed at the same service as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of Reader ministry.

Paul and Marjorie have been married for 44 years after meeting through the Christian Union at Queen Mary College, London.

After marrying, they settled in Guildford and became heavily involved in the life of St Saviour's, a large church in the town centre. Between them they have led home groups, helped with Sunday School, served on the PCC, on the prayer ministry team and represented Tearfund.

Around five years ago they moved to Liphook and started attending St Mary's with Liphook Church Centre.

NEW READERS BEING LICENSED

New Readers being licensed on September 10: Marjorie and Paul Arnold (to serve in Bramshott and Liphook); Shirley Brown (Lake and St Saviour's Shanklin); Marilyn Gamblin (St Peter's, Bishop's Waltham); Christine Hollis (St John's, Rowlands Castle); Sally

Jarvis (All Saints, Ryde); Derek Johnston (St Mary's, Portchester); Tony Lawrence (Lake and St Saviour's, Shanklin); Annie Martin (St Francis, Leigh Park, and St Clare's, Warren Park); Ruth McCabe (St Jude's, Southsea); and Jill Phipps (St Barnabas, Swanmore)

At this time Paul worked for the Highways Agency as the senior project manager for the A3 Hindhead Tunnel, which he managed to deliver before retirement – much to the surprise of his family, who joked that he would retire without having finished the project!

And in 2012 he was awarded an MBE for his work on the project. After retiring Paul decided to go on retreat to consider what God wanted him to do next and it was there that he first sensed the call to be a Reader.

"I sensed the call to teach and encourage Christians in their daily life and decided to apply to be a Reader, in fulfilment of something that had been at the back of my mind for a long

time." Paul said. "At first the door seemed shut, so I decided that I would do some theological study instead. I enrolled at St Mellitus College, London, and have spent the last three years doing a degree in theology, ministry and mission.

"Despite trying to put the idea of Readership at the back of my mind, every time I dismissed it completely someone would ask me why I was not pursuing it.

"So 18 months ago I pushed the door again and this time it opened. I am now looking forward to exercising the ministry I was called to."

The couple have two children. When they had grown up, Marjorie started working as an administrator at St Saviour's Church in Guildford.

Paul and Marjorie Arnold

At the same time she decided to train as a spiritual director, a ministry she still exercises. But it was on a quiet day that Marjorie sensed God's call to Reader ministry.

"I had gone through most of my life thinking it would be impossible for me to stand up in church and preach or lead services, no matter how much I wanted to, because of my stammer and my attitude to that," Marjorie said.

"However over the past few years, God has been working really hard at changing my mind and attitudes, so much so that after I had been on an individual guided retreat at Acorn Christian Healing Foundation in Bordon I came home and said to our vicar that I would like to lead a service.

"A few months later when I was at a quiet day, again at Acorn, we were looking at Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush and I felt that he was calling me to be a Reader."

The 150th anniversary of the first C of E Readers has included a number of national events and conferences during this year.

Bell rings 113 times in memory of Gladys

IT was a day when the bell ringers felt they were participating in history.

They helped to mark the funeral of Gladys Hooper at All Saints Church, Ryde. At 113, she had been the oldest person in the UK.

The church's eight bells, half-muffled, started ringing at 11am. After 20 minutes, each bell was stood in turn until only the tenor bell rang.

Then the Royal Air Force-draped coffin entered the church and the full congregation was able to say farewell.

As the funeral cortege prepared to leave the service, which was conducted by Canon Graham Morris, the tenor bell was rung 113 times to acknowledge her age. The full peal of bells then rang out as the cortege and congregation left.

The ringers were Jo Davis, Caroline May, Ken May, Jill Taylor, Roy Tillcock, Adrian Burns and Peter Taylor.

Tower captain John Stock said: "I feel sure Gladys would have been amused at all the attention this received. All Saints' ringers offer their condolences to the family, in the hope that hearing our bells gave them some comfort for what must have been a difficult day."

Minister draws comparisons with marathon

THE minister who is running a course for us this month has written a book about running the London Marathon.

The Rev Malcolm Rothwell, a retired Methodist minister, will be leading one of our spirituality days in the cathedral on September 24.

Entitled 'Lose your head and come to your senses', it will focus on how we use all five of our senses to bring us close to God.

His book *Running the Race - Finding God in the London Marathon* tells the story of everything from tough training runs to the day of the marathon itself. He draws comparisons with the Christian life, including the distractions and obstacles along the way.

Malcolm is also a tutor on Engage, our diocesan spirituality course, and leads retreats.

Family has 100 years of Reader ministry

BETWEEN them Jackie Brookfield and her late father have clocked up nearly 100 years of Reader ministry.

Her father was licensed in the Diocese of Liverpool after the First World War, although Jackie is not sure of the actual date.

The family moved to St Albans and when the Second World War broke out her father was given responsibility for a small church on an estate

in St Albans.

"I wonder how he held it all together as he was senior probation officer for a large area of Hertfordshire, an air raid warden and a Reader," Jackie said.

"He served that church faithfully through the war until he was able to hand it over to a younger man."

In the early days Readers wore a tippet and a medal but this was swapped for a

blue scarf during her father's ministry – and Jackie still wears his scarf proudly today.

Jackie was licensed as a Reader in June 1978 in the Diocese of Rochester and served in Holy Trinity Church, Beckenham before moving to Portsmouth to serve at St Mark's, North End.

She was also a member of the central committee for the ordination of women.

She later moved to

Denmead and then to the Meon Valley where the then Rector asked her to develop Corhampton Church as a centre for spirituality and pilgrimage.

"I have wonderful memories of a rich and privileged ministry in that church, and only left because of ill health," she said.

Jackie now serves in the three Anglican churches on Hayling Island.