



Diocese of  
Portsmouth

# Pompey Churches

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

NUMBER 152

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

OCTOBER 2016



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**Worshippers launch charity to help people to find work**

# JOBLESS GIVEN A FRESH START

**UNEMPLOYED people are being helped into the building trade - thanks to a charity set up by worshippers.**

The charity Building Steps has helped dozens of jobless people who have found it difficult to find work. They train them in building skills, help them get the right qualifications and provide them with individual mentors.

Then they have the experience and motivation to find jobs with other building contractors. Three-quarters of their trainees have found work.

The social enterprise was created by worshippers from All Saints Church, Steep, who have experience in the building trade. Their Christian faith motivated them to give unemployed people a fresh start.

And Building Steps has offered its expertise to help our diocese and parishes with building projects - such as rebuilding a wall in the churchyard at Steep, and work on the vicarage at St Clare's, Warren Park.

Brian Keys, from All Saints Church, who chairs the board of trustees, said: "The building trade is the second most dangerous people can find employment in, so health and safety is important. We give our trainees the chance to get some experience and then obtain the qualifications so they can work on a building site.

"We all have experience as surveyors, engineers and company secretaries, and are largely retired.



**Brian Keys (centre) with Martin Deadman (left) and Levi Clark, working on Stansted House**

So this was a way in which we could help people who might find it difficult to get into work.

"Some have come to us after being in prison, or because of problems with drinking or drugs. Building Steps provides a two-pronged approach, offering the chance to actually work with others for a few weeks and to obtain the CSCS card necessary for any construction site - trying to put into practice the commandment to 'love our neighbour'."

One recent project was to repaint walls inside the historic Stansted House near Rowlands Castle, and metal fences and gates outside.

Trainee Martin Deadman, 24, said: "I had done plastering and

brickwork for a couple of years, but gave it up to care for a relative. This is helping me to get back into the building trade. Since I started to do this, things have definitely started to look up."

And fellow trainee Levi Clark, 24, said: "I've changed careers. I was in retail, but was sacked, so I wanted to get into the construction industry. I would have struggled to get into it without this course."

Potential trainees are referred to Building Steps from local job centres. Anyone who has had difficulty getting work, because of ill health, family circumstances or lack of qualifications can apply.

They are given a few weeks of unpaid work, alongside qualified supervisors, in brickwork,

painting, landscaping or other aspects of the trade. Mentors help them to work through any personal difficulties.

They then sit a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) test, which tests potential construction workers on their knowledge of health and safety.

This is valid for five years and is necessary to be employed in the trade. Building Steps also hopes to take on some apprentices in future, who would stay with the charity for two years and gain even more expertise.

For details of how to become a trainee, or if your church needs construction work done by Building Steps trainees, see: [www.buildingsteps.org.uk](http://www.buildingsteps.org.uk).

## We'll find out about growing churches

MORE than 100 of our clergy and lay leaders will discover more about church growth at a major conference this month.

They'll attend a residential conference entitled 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' (LYCIG) in Liphook for three days.

It will be led by the Rev Tim Sledge, vicar of Romsey Abbey, and attended by delegates from Portsmouth and Guildford dioceses together. It happens from October 10-12 in Old Thorns Hotel.

Tim will lead sessions that aim to give practical tips about mission and outreach that can be put into effect straightaway. Clergy have each been asked to bring two lay leaders with them, so they can take the ideas back to their PCCs together.

The sessions include looking at how to lead a missionary church; how to develop a culture of invitation, welcome and hospitality; and how to tell our own stories of faith effectively.

It's all part of our 'live, pray, serve' strategy which aims to help our churches achieve numerical and spiritual growth over the next five years.

Clergy and laity from nine of our parishes have already attended a LYCIG conference as part of a pilot scheme last year. They came back brimming with ideas and enthusiasm for mission and outreach.

For more details about our diocesan strategy, see: [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/liveprayserve](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/liveprayserve).