

She motivates us as we clean our church

WHO is our unsung hero this month? Tina Brown, who leads the cleaning team at St Francis Church, Leigh Park, and also serves as PCC treasurer.

Who has nominated her? Her fellow worshipper Beryl Jones.

Why is she a hero? Despite being diagnosed with cancer two-and-a-half years ago and battling through surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, Tina still leads a team who regularly clean the church.

Beryl says she often sees Tina Hoovering away or emptying bins with a cheerful attitude.

And that's on top of being the PCC treasurer and managing the parish's accounts.

"She organises us as a team to clean the church and puts together the cleaning rota," said Beryl. "She is a good organiser and a good motivator."

"She's also a very good treasurer, and often finds innovative ways for us to raise money for the church, such as a party we had for the Queen's birthday."

Why does she do it? Tina used to be at St Alban's Church,

unsung hero

Our new feature throws the spotlight on those unsung heroes in our congregations. They are the kind of people who volunteer to do the behind-the-scenes jobs in our churches, like cooking, cleaning and tidying. Do you know someone in your church who you could nominate to be featured on this page?

West Leigh, but switched to St Francis seven or eight years ago because it was a little closer to home.

"They are just lovely people, they are so friendly," she said. "The children there are lovely, and the vicar Jonathan and his wife Carolyn are very supportive."

"Soon after I took over as treasurer I was diagnosed with cancer. I've been battling that for a while, but things are brightening up now after the surgery, chemo and radiotherapy. I still lead a full life."

"And now I'm retired, I can devote more time to doing things for the church."

"We try to do a little bit of cleaning each week in the church, but do it often. I can give three

hours a week, and we have a good team of about five or six of us who do it together.

"I can allocate tasks and every week we can manage a little bit. We can't expect too much as we're an elderly team, but we do what we can."

● **Is there someone in your church who cleans the toilets, polishes the brass or makes the coffee – but rarely gets any public thanks?**

Why not nominate them as an unsung hero in the Pompey Chimes?

Fill in the form here and send it to Pompey Chimes, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB, or email neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org.



Tina Brown, who leads the cleaners at St Francis, Leigh Park

I'd like to nominate _____ from the parish of _____ as my **unsung hero**. This is why: _____

My name: _____

My phone number or email: _____



New Design and Improved Chocolate Blend

The new design 2016 Real Advent Calendar is unique and better than ever. The calendar comes with a free 28 page Christmas story-activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. Behind each of the 24 windows there is a different shaped Fairtrade chocolate.



"...a great idea." Alan Titchmarsh

RRP **£3.99**



The Only Calendar with a Free Christmas Story-Activity Book

How To Buy Calendars

Direct Churches, schools and groups can buy in bulk directly from us at www.realadvent.co.uk/shop. We supply in boxes of 18.

Other Shops A range of independent retailers, bookshops and cathedrals have stocks of the advent calendars. Traidcraft, TLM, Eden.co.uk and Embrace the Middle East also have stocks and some can send bulk and singles.

TESCO Tesco is the only supermarket selling the calendar, but only in their larger stores.

See website for details of stockists: www.realadvent.co.uk

Also Available...

To order Angels or Twelve Days visit www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk



RRP **£3.99**

These Meaningful Chocolate tree decorations are a great way to share the Christmas story and decorate the tree.

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

RRP **£8.99**

With 12 Belgian Marc De Champagne Truffles - one for every day of the Christmas Festival. Also includes a free 16 page guide to Christmas traditions.