



Diocese of
Portsmouth

Pompey Churches

Free of charge



CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

NUMBER 154

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017



I've acted with same company for 54 years

My Faith: page 12



Bishop Kenneth's widow unveils town's tribute

Stevenson Court: page 3

'25 Appeal' aims to give £25 hampers to 250 families in the city



Mandi Myers and the Rev Mark James with a hamper

Let's make it a special Christmas for poorest families

COULD you help a needy family in Portsmouth to enjoy Christmas this year?

You can donate towards a project to give Christmas hampers worth £25 each to families who can't afford festive treats.

Christians from our churches have joined forces with Tesco to launch 'The 25 Appeal' which aims to provide £25 hampers for 250 families in the city on December 25.

The curate of Christ Church, Portsdown, the Rev Mark James, is leading a group of Christians who wanted to help after discovering that hundreds of Portsmouth families couldn't afford the food, heating and lighting to make Christmas special.

"I was amazed to discover how many children and adults in

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS SCHEME

AS well as the '25 Appeal', our churches also donate to the annual Christmas voucher scheme organised by **Churches Homeless Action (CHA)**.

You can buy and donate £5 gift vouchers which the homeless and vulnerable families can spend on Christmas presents for themselves or others.

The donated vouchers are given to 10 local agencies and charities who work with rough sleepers, those escaping domestic violence, asylum seekers and families in supported housing

Portsmouth don't have enough to eat and might not be able to really enjoy Christmas," he said. "Economic, family and health reasons have driven some families to desperation.

"So our idea was simple. We thought that individual Christian

within our diocese. You can send a Christmas card and personal greeting with the voucher.

Canon Bob White, who chairs CHA, said: "It arose from a recognition that all who are homeless often lack something we take for granted - the gift of choice."

Last year, £14,000 was donated, and over the years the scheme has raised more than £120,000. Please send donations to St Mary's Vicarage, Fratton Road, PO1 5PA or contact Bob on vicar@portseaparish.co.uk.

families might like to support another family by providing a £25 hamper of goodies for them. Tesco have promised to provide the food, and we will deliver it to those needy families as a complete surprise!

"The Christians involved in

our group and Tesco in North Harbour are in touch with various local charities who already know those who are in need of help.

"The hamper might include a £5 voucher to help pay for gas and electricity over Christmas.

"Or if a church was hosting a Christmas dinner for those who would otherwise be on their own, we could give the church £100 to spend on their meal.

"It would be great if we could put a smile on people's faces this Christmas.

"Maybe your church, your school, your pub regulars or your workplace could work together to raise this money to help those in real need."

Mandi Myers, from St Andrew's Church, Hayling Island, is also community champion for Tesco North Harbour. It already supports a range of charities in

different ways.

"We've discovered that the biggest thing that people need is actually food," she said. "This is one of the ways in which we can help."

The appeal has already collected enough money to feed around 50 families. You can donate to the appeal via the website - www.252525.org.uk - or by sending cheques to Mark James, c/o Christ Church, London Road, Widley,

Those who choose to donate money rather than sending a Christmas present to a loved one can give a card to their friend or relative that explains what the cash is paying for.

The group behind the appeal includes church leaders, business people, community groups, and charities including Faith and Football.