

I love caring for these beautiful churches

WHO is our unsung hero this month? Graham Johnson, who is fabric warden for the churches in Hawkley and Priors Dean.

Who has nominated him? His vicar, the Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne

Why is he a hero? Graham undertakes a huge amount of work on the buildings and fabric side for St Peter and St Paul at Hawkley and Priors Dean Church.

“He often works unpaid, even when he could have charged,” said Rona. “He is always calm, thorough, addresses things intellectually and is a dedicated member of the community.”

Why does he do it? Graham has been the fabric warden for the past 12 years. He loves the fact that both churches are beautiful examples of Hampshire churches.

“The church in Hawkley was built in 1865, and is a fine example of a Victorian church, with its exquisite stone carvings, and detailing. Priors Dean is a simple Saxon church built around 1200, typical of many early Hampshire churches.

“I always say that looking after a church is about the equivalent

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?

to having three houses to look after – there are always things that need doing, but someone has to do it, otherwise they will eventually degrade

“I love both churches – Priors Dean for its simplicity, and I take great pleasure in looking after a building that has stood for over 800 years, and I do not want it to deteriorate in my life time.

“Hawkley church is quite different. It is literally at the centre of Hawkley life, being adjacent to the village green, and once again it gives me much pleasure to keep it in good order and to read the appreciative comments from the many visitors.

“We have a loyal congregation, which is slowly increasing in size, and using one’s God-given

talents is the least that I feel I can do, living in this wonderful community and landscape.

“Our latest project is to make our church more welcoming – more work, but a worthwhile and stimulating little project. I can’t wait to get started!”

● **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.



Graham Johnson, fabric warden at Hawkley and Priors Dean

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

 My name: _____
 My phone number or email: _____



Winchester-based charity, the Brendoncare Foundation, is delighted to be taking part in the national Big Give campaign at the end of November. The Big Give Christmas Challenge is the UK's biggest online match funding campaign, which helps UK-registered charities raise money for their cause.

Brendoncare is attempting to raise £10,000 between 29 November and 2 December. Each pound donated will be matched by funds already pledged to the charity, so a donation of £10



will mean that Brendoncare receives £20. Therefore, all donations, whatever the size, will make a real impact. The funds raised will be used to support Brendoncare's clubs for older people.

Over 1 million older people say they always or often feel lonely. Not only does this impact on their mental wellbeing, it can also affect physical health.

Brendoncare runs over 85 clubs across Dorset and Hampshire during the week and at weekends, providing opportunities for older

people to develop new friendships, enjoy a range of activities and a reason to get out and about. The charity's Head of Club Services, Edwin Ingleton, explains why the clubs are so important for members. “The need for social clubs for older people continues to grow; day care services are closing and families are increasingly spread out. This means that older people may not always have family or friends close by and Brendoncare's clubs offer social opportunities to counter the risk of loneliness.”

The Big Give Christmas Challenge runs from midday on Tuesday 29 November until midday on Friday 2 December and all donations need to be made online via the Big Give website. Anyone wishing to donate during the campaign period should visit www.thebiggive.org.uk and search for Brendoncare.

For more information about Brendoncare's clubs or the Big Give Christmas Challenge, please visit www.brendoncare.org.uk or call the fundraising team on **01962 852133**.

We all rely on seafarers. Seafarers rely on the Mission. 90% of everything is traded by sea.



Help The Mission to Seafarers in our 160th anniversary year.

A gift of £10 helps to provide vital chaplaincy ship-visiting services to seafarers thousands of miles away from home on Christmas Day, in 200 ports in over 50 countries.

Send your Advent prayers for seafarers to: prayers@missiontoseafarers.org

Please send a cheque (Ref: Christmas Gifts Appeal) to The Mission to Seafarers, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4EP.