

Organ music can fill church with worship

WHO is our unsung hero this month? David Cain, director of music at St Mary's, Portchester, and secretary of Portsmouth and District Organists' Association (PDOA). He also works in our diocesan office as an executive assistant and DAC secretary.

Who has nominated him? The Rev Wendy Kennedy, our Diocesan Secretary

Why is he a hero? David has been director of music at St Mary's for 10 years, and before that was the organist at St Jude's Church, Southsea. He has been involved in the PDOA for more than 20 years, serving as president and secretary on various occasions.

The PDOA help to support newer organists, and help to put parishes in touch with organists for regular or one-off services. It can also help to find tuition for those who would like to learn or to improve their playing.

Its 60 or so members include both musicians and non-musicians who appreciate organ music, and it organises regular activities and trips to see and to play instruments in churches large and small.

David's current role involves

unsung hero

We're highlighting those unsung heroes in our congregations, 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?

him keeping members in touch with each other and organising events.

Why does he do it? David said: "The organist is a key person in worship, and congregations often appreciate the person who plays for them. People are usually very responsive and welcoming."

"I enjoy it because it is a great instrument for bringing the whole congregation together. Weddings are especially good, and you want to make it as special as possible for the couple's big day."

"The PDOA has a particular role in supporting student organists, who might register with us before they go on to become organ scholars elsewhere."

"It also has a role in putting parishes in touch with those organists who are not permanently

employed in one parish, and who might be available to play for them. It's quite satisfying to get to know new organists and to help to bring people and parishes together.

"I also enjoy the trips when we visit different places, and get to play on the organ at St Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey or somewhere similar."

• Is there someone in your church who works hard behind the scenes, 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.



David Cain, secretary of the PDOA

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

 My name: _____
 My phone number or email: _____

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