

# The man who knows where everything is unsung hero

**WHO** is our unsung hero this month? Roger Pickard, the unpaid verger at St John's Church, Locks Heath.

**Who has nominated him?** Naomi Fisher, who co-ordinates the pastoral work at the church.

**Why is he a hero?** Thirteen or 14 years ago, Roger was asked to be the church's verger.

He spends more than 20 hours a week in the church centre, setting out chairs, preparing coffee and ensuring that church and secular groups meeting in the centre have everything they need.

Naomi said: "Without Roger our church would not function so smoothly. He is always in the background, spotting what needs to be done. We always say 'See Roger' or 'Roger will know where it is'. He is one of those people who is always there to help oil the wheels. And he always does it so quietly and humbly, with no thought of thanks."

"And on a Sunday, if anyone who is on the rota hasn't turned up, he'll step in to administer Communion or whatever. He's also part of the pastoral team, and is great at spotting if someone hasn't been at church for a while,

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?

so we can get in touch and check if they are OK."

**Why does he do it?** Roger has been part of the congregation for 25 years and sees his role as being an expression of his Christian faith, and part of the church's mission to others.

"Our former vicar Peter Ingrams asked me to do it because he thought it would be good to have a Master of Ceremonies to ensure we were hospitable," he said.

"I enjoy working alongside people and I want to make sure everything runs smoothly. We have a lot of ecumenical and secular organisations who hire the centre, and it's important there is a person there who can be friendly, welcoming and reassuring. It is part of our mission."

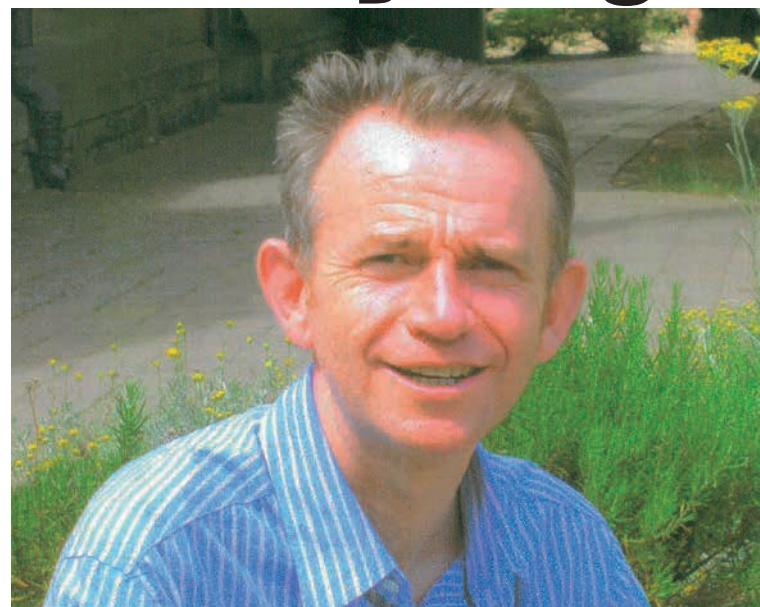
"I also work at Marks and Spencers, and it's interesting how many people say to me there that they have seen my photo in church."

"I'm probably in church almost as many hours a week as I'm at work, but it is a real community that I enjoy being part of."

• 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](mailto:neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org).



Roger Pickard, the verger at St John's Church, Locks Heath

I'd like to nominate _____
from the parish of _____
as my <b>unsung hero</b> . This is why: _____
_____
_____
My name: _____
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