

The handyman who fixes things for others

WHO is our unsung hero this month? John Baldwin, a former churchwarden and worshipper at Christ Church, Totland.

Who has nominated him? His wife, Jenny Baldwin.

Why is he a hero? John has helped out countless neighbours and friends, both in the church and the wider community.

Because he built the house that he and Jenny live in, word spread that he was something of a handyman. Locals now ask him to help fix their boiler, look at their electrics, or do simple DIY around their home.

He has also found himself filling out forms or writing letters for people, advocating for people's legal rights with large firms, or being given power of attorney to act on their behalf.

He is also carer to Jenny, who said: "Our congregation say how lovely it is to have my husband around. If he can't help them, he knows who can. And he doesn't just answer pleas from congregation members - they tell their friends and neighbours and he helps them too."

Why does he do it? Helping other people is part of his

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?

Christian faith, which he has held for more than 50 years.

"My Christian faith is the driving force to do things for other people and not to seek anything in return," he said. "I am retired and seem to spend quite a lot of my time doing various odd jobs for church members and others."

"It is local knowledge that I built my own home in 2003/4 and so people seem to think I have some skills in building, plumbing, and electrics. Many people on the island are elderly and need help."

"A neighbour who recently was 100 had been living alone and most weeks, especially during the winter, she would call me to repair her boiler. I also did numerous other repairs for her, as well as sorting out forms, and nuisance calls etc. I am often

contacted at odd hours by various folk to sort out water leaks, electrical failures, as well as more major jobs such as relaying an elderly lady's drains which were backing up.

"It is rewarding to see people being helped, and with some people I do have discussions about my faith."

● 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.



John and Jenny Baldwin

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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