

# We'll help city groups to care

**WE'LL be helping neighbourly people to care for one another in the city of Portsmouth in future.**

The Good Neighbours Network, which is based in our diocesan offices, already supports more than 120 different care groups across Hampshire – in both Winchester and Portsmouth dioceses.

These groups offer practical help, such as transport to medical appointments, and emotional support to those who might be housebound or lonely. Each is staffed by local volunteers who give their time for free.

Our Good Neighbours Network supports those independent groups by taking care of much of the bureaucracy associated with running a care group. This network has been going for more than 40 years and has been funded by Hampshire County Council and the NHS.

Now it is set to expand into Portsmouth after the city



**Left: Vicky Halliday; above: the network helps groups to care for others**

council confirmed funding for a year. The network will support

care groups in the city who are doing similar work to those in Hampshire.

Our Good Neighbours Network is employing an adviser with responsibility for Portsmouth to work for two days a week. Vicky Halliday

will take on this role.

Our director of social enterprise and engagement, Canon Nick Ralph, said: "As the city council knows, helping us to support and enable volunteers to do very practical tasks to help individuals is not only cost-effective for them, but it also helps to build real community spirit. That's because it is local people volunteering to help those who live near them.

"We have always thought that this model worked and could be exported to other parts of the country anyway, so we're sure that it will make a difference in the city and it will also complement and support those groups already set up here."

Vicky will work alongside network guru Angela Smith and network adviser Debbie Sutton. For details about their work, see [www.goodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.goodneighbours.org.uk).

## Musical tells story of Pentecost

IT was an uplifting occasion that told the story of the birth of the early Church.

Choristers from the Havant area gathered at St Faith's Church last month to tell the story of Pentecost through songs from the Roger Jones musical *Saints Alive!*

Pentecost is a festival commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Christian composer Roger Jones wrote his musical in 1981.

The 10 songs tell the story of the birth of the Church and the dramatic change in the apostles, from frightened, hopeless men to people who turned the world upside down. The 45-minute cantata was performed with gusto by singers at St Faith's Church



**Saints Alive in St Faith's Church, Havant**

to an audience of over 50 people.

It took place the day after the London Bridge terror attack, which prompted the rector, Canon Tom Kennar, to say in his opening speech: "The Pentecost story has

something to say to us in a community that is fractured by division."

Bill Jones, who sang two solos in the performance, said: "I love these songs. Roger Jones' music has such nice harmonies – and I think we could all do

with a little harmony at the moment."

The choir was made up of churchgoers of many denominations from the Havant area. They were brought together for two special performances – one at St Faith's, and one at St George's, Waterlooville, earlier that day.

Tom Kennar provided the piano accompaniment, and the congregation were encouraged to join in with songs, with hymn sheets provided by the church.

The choir was led by Geoffrey Porter, deputy director of music at St Mark's Church, who told the congregation: "I've always wanted to do *Saints Alive* on the day of the Pentecost, and finally here we are."

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