

Dynamic duo running two island churches

WHO are our unsung heroes this month? Jill Fothergill and Janette Hornby, churchwardens at St Lawrence Parish Church and St Lawrence Old Church on the Isle of Wight.

Who has nominated them? Fellow congregation member Susan Leeson.

Why are they heroes? The pair have been churchwardens for the past seven years and keep both churches running.

During the week, they keep the churches clean, change the altar frontals, empty the safe of donations, do the catering for special events, and organise the rotas for Sundays.

And on a Sunday, they set everything up on the Communion table and make sure everyone is ready to do their bit. It's all ready for when their vicar, the Rev Nigel Porter, comes to lead the service.

Jill even rings the church bells, not just on a Sunday, but for other special services too.

Susan said: "The other day, she was helping with the Chale Show and in the middle of the day, had to rush over to the church to ring the bells for a wedding.

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?

"And because we don't have a kitchen, sometimes they take the coffee cups home to wash them."

Why do they do it? Jill has been part of the church for her whole life – her parents were married there, and she was baptised and married there.

Several years ago she was persuaded to become churchwarden and a year later Janette and her husband came to the church and they formed a double-act.

"We like to be organised to make it as easy as possible for whoever leads the service," said Gill. "We've had a few interregnums, and even now Nigel has quite a few churches to get round. So he knows he can just zoom in and everything will be ready for him.

"Janette is brilliant at catering, and I think I'm good with people. We also have a close-knit team of half a dozen others who help us.

"Sam Twining is very good with the church building and the Rev Anne Faulkner really helped us to understand how to set things up when she was here. I do enjoy it, or else I wouldn't still be doing it!"

● **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.



Churchwardens Janette Hornby (left) and Jill Fothergill

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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