

## Show will mark 500 years of Luther

THE award-winning scriptwriter behind TV shows such as *Bluestone 42* and *Miranda* will bring his take on Martin Luther to Fareham this month.

James Cary has written *A Monk's Tale* to mark 500 years since German monk Martin Luther sparked the Reformation by pinning his 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg.

Christians Together in Fareham will host a performance at Fareham Community Church at 7.30pm on September 22. It will also be performed at Alverstoke Evangelical Church in Gosport on September 9.

It uses comedy sketches in the style of *Monty Python* and *Horrible Histories* to explain the unfamiliar medieval mindset, what exactly Luther was trying to do with his 95 theses – and why it led to the creation of Protestantism.

It explains something about the specifics of the theological disputes of the period.

James Cary, who is also a lay member of General Synod, saw the play as a chance to represent Christianity in a secular world. "I wanted to celebrate this moment in history and just felt that no one was going to deal with it in an accessible way," he said.

Tickets, priced at £5 each (£2 for children) are available on [www.amonkstale.net](http://www.amonkstale.net). Those for the Fareham performance can also be booked on 01329-232688.

## New Garden of Remembrance is dedicated



Volunteers completing their work on the Garden of Remembrance

A NEW Garden of Remembrance was dedicated at St Mary's Church, Warsash – thanks to a local company, Helyers, and an army of volunteers.

It involved clearing the flat ground at the east end of the churchyard, and planting grass and plants to encourage wildlife and insects. Paving was laid in the shape of a Celtic Cross, and finished off with a central circular bench and a flowering pear tree.

Churchgoers hope this will be a natural, quiet place where ashes can be interred,

and where families can subsequently sit in peace to remember their loved ones.

They've also provided a Book of Remembrance to be kept inside the church, displayed in a wooden cabinet handcrafted by Gavin Pettit. He also used the wrought-iron work from the old choir stalls for a stand, providing a fitting mix of the old and new.

The book will be left open to display the names of those laid to rest in that particular month. More details on [www.stmarywarsash.org.uk](http://www.stmarywarsash.org.uk)

# 'Don't stop' plea to Street Pastors

**'DON'T stop' was the clear message for volunteers at the 10th anniversary of Portsmouth Street Pastors.**

Christian volunteers have been patrolling the streets of the city since 2007, helping to keep vulnerable people safe outside pubs and clubs late at night.

They help those who have drunk too much to get home safely, comfort those involved in altercations, hand out flip-flops to anyone whose high heels have broken, and remove whole and broken bottles from the pavements.

And at a celebration to mark the group's birthday, the District



(l to r) Les Isaac with Supt Will Schofield, Stephen Morgan MP and Roshni Jose, a newly-commissioned Street Pastor

Commander for Portsmouth Police, Superintendent Will Schofield, told the volunteers that they are a vital part of the strategy to prevent crime.

He said that though Portsmouth is a relatively safe city, a quarter of serious crimes take place late at night outside pubs, clubs and food outlets, and the vast majority are alcohol-related.

"You are a massive part of our strategy", he said. "Your services – your calming and listening support – are huge. Please don't stop."

This sentiment was echoed by the Rev Les Isaac, head of the Ascension Trust, the umbrella organisation that oversees the work of Street Pastors. He pioneered Street Pastors in London in 2003 and has seen the idea launched in 300 cities and towns around the UK, as well as overseas.

He travelled down to Portsmouth to join in the anniversary celebrations and to

commission the latest intake of newly trained volunteers who were presented with their Street Pastor certificates.

He told them they were following Jesus's command to be the "salt of the earth", and that they shouldn't become weary of doing good things.

And trustee the Rev Tracey Ansell, minister of North End Baptist Church acknowledged the role of Prayer Pastors who underpin the work of Street Pastors with prayer, and the School Pastor initiative which started in 2015 to support young people in schools.

Adding his congratulations and gratitude was Portsmouth South MP Stephen Morgan, who has previously joined the volunteers on patrol.

For more information about Portsmouth Street Pastors contact resource manager Jackie Hunt on 07809-627770 or [portsmouth@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@streetpastors.org.uk).

**'God asked me to do it'**



Pat Jolly

HE has been a Street Pastor in Portsmouth for eight of the 10 years that the project has been running.

And Pat Jolly, from St Simon's Church, Southsea, has seen the attitude of late-night revellers change. Now Street Pastors are actively welcomed and thanked by those outside pubs and clubs.

He patrols twice a month around Albert Road and Southsea, after spending the first few years patrolling around Guildhall Walk.

"I used to think that if people got drunk, it was their problem," he said. "But God changed my heart and told me to do it."

"It is rewarding to do something good to help people. And you do get recognised. People didn't know who we were at first, but now if anyone has a go at us, others will tell them who we are and what we do."

"I believe more Christians should be out there doing this kind of thing to help people."

## Pompey Chimes

The *Pompey Chimes* is the official newspaper of the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 142 parishes in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Its circulation is 8,000, and it is produced monthly except for January and August. Each parish pays 15p for each copy, which allows our readers to pick it up for free on the final Sunday of the previous month. Paid-for adverts are dealt with by our publishers, Cornerstone Vision. For a list of editorial deadlines, see: [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/pompeychimes](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/pompeychimes)

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