

Ten years matching clients to volunteers

WHO is our unsung hero this month? Ann Brown, from St Clare's Church, Leigh Park.

Who has nominated her? Her vicar the Rev Jonathan Jeffery.

Why is she a hero? As well as being churchwarden at St Clare's for around 12 years, she has been secretary of Leigh Park and Warren Park Good Neighbours group for 10 years.

The group carry out more than 1,000 jobs a year such as driving, shopping, befriending and delivering people to their appointments. Ann matched its clients with volunteers who could help. She has just retired from this role.

Ann also organised 'thank you' meals for the volunteers, an annual afternoon tea for clients and a Christmas party every year.

Jonathan said: "Supported by her husband Richard, who is a volunteer driver, Ann has served the wider Leigh Park community, and hands over the role to another volunteer, with the group financially strong and ready for the next phase of support for those who need it most."

Why does she do it? Ann,

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?

now 75, originally started volunteering as part of the group as a driver, but was happy to take over as secretary after a few years.

"I really like meeting people and hearing their stories," she said. "Everyone's got a tale to tell, and when you drive someone to hospital, you wait for them and take them home, so you find out a lot about them."

"It has been a good group of volunteers. We've never had any problems and everyone has mucked in together. It's good to be able to match clients with volunteers who they'll get on with."

"However, I haven't been well, and my husband was diagnosed with cancer. So I thought that this would be a good

time to step aside, but I have enjoyed every moment, and I'm sorry that I can't carry on."

"Sometimes you have to step aside to let others have a go."

The Leigh Park and Warren Park Good Neighbours group is likely to be looking for new volunteers to act as drivers and befrienders. See www.goodneighbours.org for details.

● **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.



Ann Brown

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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