

# Families love Lego Club

**CHILDREN stream into the classroom excitedly and immediately start putting together Lego bricks with their parents.**

Models of all shapes and sizes are created while they grab juice and biscuits, and as their parents sip tea and coffee. After the first few minutes of freestyle building, pioneer minister Nicky Pybus gathers the children around a screen.

She tells the Biblical story of Joseph using images from the Lego Bible, explaining how it helps us to understand how all of us have skills and talents to share.

Then there are four quickfire Lego building challenges, including an Egyptian pyramid and the prison where Joseph was locked up. There's laughter and cheering as families complete each challenge.

This is the after-school Lego Club at Highbury Primary School in Cosham. It's one of the ways that lay pioneer minister Nicky Pybus is reaching families who don't come to church with a Christian message. The club was launched last September and is fully booked.

On this afternoon, Bishop



**Left: the Lego Club at Highbury Primary; above: Bishop Christopher helps five-year-old Lacey Jo Davidson with her creations**

Christopher is visiting, helping children to build their Lego models and avidly listening to the story unfold.

Carly Rainey, who brings her five-year-old daughter Lacey Jo Davidson, said: "I like this because we get to play together. It's 'our time' because often when we're at home there are other things to do."

And Heidi Nathan, who brings her godchildren Tilly Francis and Oscar Jackson, both 3, said: "They love to come back every week.

"They don't realise they are learning about the Bible, they just like making things and are absorbing the stories. This is a great way to teach them because there is so much interaction and they like being set the tasks."

Nine-year-old Owen Williams is another regular, who said: "I

like it because I get to play with Lego stuff, which makes the stories fun."

Nicky was appointed a year ago to pioneer new styles of worship and ministry in the Highbury estate in Cosham. She has developed the links between St Philip's Church and Highbury Primary School.

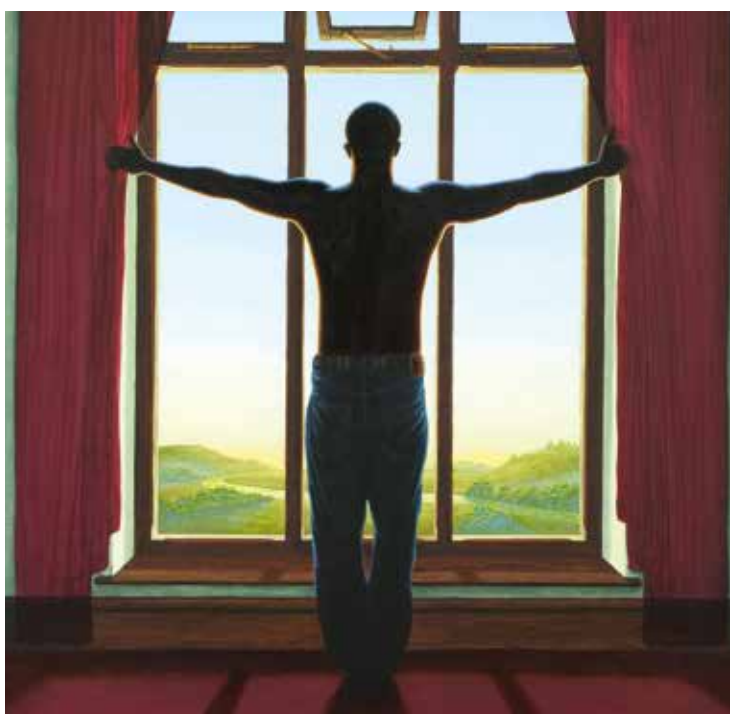
As well as the Lego Club each Wednesday afternoon, she also runs a Café Church one Sunday a month, and a Film Club one

Saturday each month at St Philip's Church.

"It's going well and I love it!" she said. "The parents sign up to the Lego Club for the whole term, so we've been fully booked both terms.

"We insist that the parents are there with their children, because the aim is that they all play and learn together. And the school have been great in welcoming us and working alongside us."

For more details, see [www.porstmouth.anglican.org/pioneer](http://www.porstmouth.anglican.org/pioneer) or ring Nicky on 07946 808833.



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## Our confidence in God

WHAT a relief that Spring and Easter are on our doorstep at last!

The older I get, the longer and darker the winter months seem, and the more I rely on knowing that the light will return and the sweet scent of new life will soon be in the air.

Common wisdom is that the way to succeed in life is to imagine already having succeeded, and many a job interview has been entered into with this advice ringing in ears. Yet research has also suggested that people who think they have already achieved may put less effort in, and perhaps risk losing out.

The first Christians were empowered and released by the reality of Christ's resurrection and their assurance through him of their final victory over adversity and death. In the face of persecution and ridicule, their faith burned bright and their possession of the 'peace that passes understanding'



# the last word

by the Rev Wendy Kennedy  
Diocesan Secretary

shone in their faces and through their lives. As a result they inspired others to believe and to follow Christ.

We all have our own stories about those whose faith, perseverance, and love transcends and inspires us: even as I write this, a number of people's faces leap out in my memory as testimony. But complacency seems to me to be a real and ever present risk for Christians.

Where things are just about 'rolling along' or even when our wheels are very clearly

slowly clogging up with the mud of process or a focus on self preservation and we know we are heading for a standstill, we risk becoming distracted and semi or disconnected from the inspiration of our hope.

As together we revisit and relive the Easter story in the weeks ahead, may we be led in prayer and meditation back to the only true source of inspiration and confidence, Jesus Christ, so that we, and his whole church, may shine forth in the world to the Glory of God the Father.