

Her generous legacy to fund parish work

SHE was a committed Christian who has left a generous legacy that could help your church offer ministry to those in need.

Diana Cundall, who was known as 'Janna' and was part of St James Church, Emsworth, died three years ago at the age of 95. And she left the proceeds from the sale of her innovative home to parishioners within our diocese.

Born in 1924, Janna was the daughter of distinguished naval officer Rear Admiral John Cundall, who survived the sinking of HMS Royal Oak at Scapa Flow in 1939. Her parents John and Beatrice bought three small fishermen's cottages in South Street, Emsworth, in the 1940s.

Janna became a qualified architect and helped them to convert these three cottages into a single home called 'Trinity Cottage'. After her parents died, Janna continued to live there for almost 60 years.

During her working life, she led the team that redesigned the centre of Chichester for pedestrians. In retirement, she travelled widely, but found time to work in Emsworth Pastoral Centre, became a church recorder and assisted with the recording of 12 local churches.

She enjoyed sailing and had many friends, but never married and decided against leaving her house to family members.



Diana 'Janna' Cundall and the house in Emsworth that she left as a legacy

She realised the unique value and position of her home and wanted it to be used to benefit the parish and local community. She donated the house to Warblington-with-Emsworth PCC in 2017, moved into a care home in 2018 and died on May 3, 2019. She wanted it to be used to provide spiritual, mental and physical refreshment to anyone within our diocese.

The parish have now created the Trinity Trust, to administer the proceeds from the sale of the house. You can now apply to the trust for grants towards the cost of activities such as respite or recovery from physical, mental or emotional illness; or the deepening or renewing of faith through retreats or similar Christian events.

The trust's secretary, Jamie Barr, said: "Janna was a naturally modest and unassuming person, so initially didn't want others to know of her generosity. Now that the legal formalities have been sorted out, we need to tell people about the trust, so they can apply. As trustees and fellow worshippers, we are overwhelmed by her generosity and are delighted that her legacy can be celebrated by funding valuable work around our diocese."

If you'd like to apply, you can read the full rules and download an application form on www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org/trinity-trust. Applications should be sponsored by a religious leader or headteacher, and the trustees will normally meet twice a year – in March and September – to review the applications and award grants. Urgent applications may be considered at other times.