

# How Lizzie has helped youth work to thrive

## unsung hero

WHO is our unsung hero this month? Lizzie Davidson, who is youth co-ordinator for St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham.

Who has nominated her? Margaret Leslie from the congregation at St Peter's Church.

Why is she a hero? Lizzie has developed the village's youth club from a handful of people to a thriving venue for youngsters. According to Margaret, this "needed real courage at the start".

She has also led prayer adventures for young people, runs the church youth group on Sunday evenings, helps to lead family services, and is involved with leading toddler groups in both Bishop's Waltham and Upham. According to Margaret, Lizzie is "exceptional in many, many ways".

Why does she do it? Lizzie was part of the St Peter's congregation before she studied theology at university. She returned to Bishop's Waltham and took on the youth co-ordinator's role unpaid for a year before she was formally employed. She has now been a paid, full-time youth worker there for 18 months.

She has been involved with

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?

outreach work with families in Bishop's Waltham and Upham, as well as running the youth group for between 12 and 15 young people from church.

The open youth group that she helps to run isn't designed to be faith-based. It re-opened five years ago in the church hall and attracts up to 25 11 to 18-year-olds on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

"I enjoy working with people and being alongside young people in their journey through life," she said. "We've run some prayer events and activity days for young people, and the congregation have been supportive because they can see the benefits of working with young people."

"There are three older girls who I've had more in-depth

discussions with, as we've journeyed together. They've asked more questions about applying faith to their lives.

"They had the confidence to help to lead some sessions with me on our weekend away. They are also talking about confirmation as the next step. That kind of thing encourages me."

● 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](mailto:neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org).



Lizzie Davidson (left) with young people from 'The Group With No Name' and her vicar, the Rev James Hunt

I'd like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
from the parish of \_\_\_\_\_  
as my **unsung hero**. This is why: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
My name: \_\_\_\_\_  
My phone number or email: \_\_\_\_\_