

## Property team take care of clergy needs

FOR Ben and Kelly Sargent, it made a huge difference to their family life.

Ben is the curate at St James, Emsworth, and St Thomas a Becket, Warblington, and he moved into a house owned by our diocese in 2009.

With the arrival of their fourth child, Ben and Kelly found it a bit of a squeeze. A new conservatory was built onto the back of their Godwin Close home to make it easier for them.

And that wasn't all. As work started it became apparent there were two massive leaks in the roof that needed repairing, and that all the windows needed replacing. So that work was also done.

"We're really grateful to the diocese for recognising our need and making this change for us," said Ben. "It's doubled the size of our living area and changed our use of the house - for instance, Kelly can now host a house group with a creche in the conservatory."

Their experience showed the benefit of employing a fully qualified chartered surveyor, Barry Fryer, as property manager. In 2010, he was able to complete quinquennial (every five years) inspections of our properties in-house, rather than having to sub-contract the work.

Our diocese's **property department** is responsible for the management and maintenance of parsonages, glebe (church-owned) land and freehold properties. And Derek Baker, our diocese's property

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maintainer, is on hand for those repairs and decorating jobs that would also cost more to sub-contract to external firms.

Changes to the property team were among the achievements of our Mission and Resources team in 2010. The section supports the business and governance of the diocese, the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of



Ben and Kelly Sargent with their four children in their new conservatory

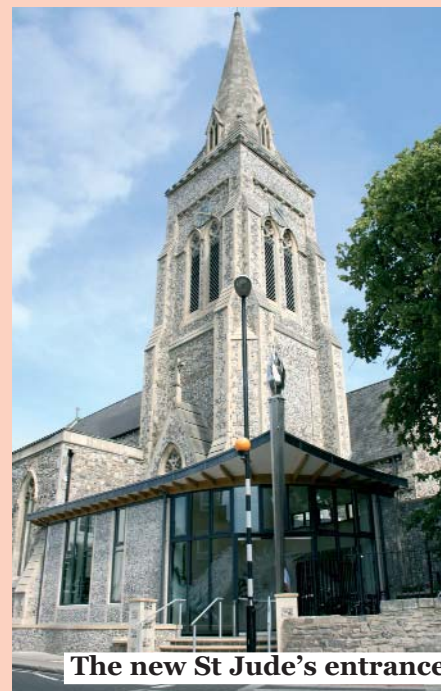
Churches, human resources, safeguarding, IT, financial advice and legal matters.

Among the governance issues are support for pastoral re-organisation, major property developments, advice for parish treasurers, and support for parishes in employment matters. The section also ensures compliance with legislation and financial stability and supports the work of Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod.

The **Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)** advises and supports parishes wanting to make alterations to their church buildings. Among the highlights of 2010 was the opening of a major redevelopment at St Jude's Church in Southsea.

The £1m project involved the creation of an attractive new entrance at the top of Southsea shopping precinct, which prompted more than 1,000 visitors to pop in in the first six weeks after it opened.

In 2010, 82 new cases were submitted to the committee for consideration, of which 25 were approved by archdeacons



The new St Jude's entrance

and 57 involved an application for a faculty (permission) from the DAC.

It also considered 12 ongoing cases and made 13 site visits. And a membership review saw six new members being appointed, which provided the expertise of two local authority representatives.

New **safeguarding** policy and procedures were rolled out in 2010 to protect both children and vulnerable adults, with the emphasis on a good support service to parishes being a key focus. In 2010, every parish had a child protection representative.

During the year 1,218 CRB checks were made.

Workshops led by the team on protecting children were attended by 228 delegates and training on safeguarding vulnerable adults were attended by 95 people.

The main emphasis for **human resources** in 2010 was preparation for the new clergy terms of service, which came into effect in January 2011.

Information was delivered to clergy and churchwardens, a new section on the diocesan website was created and a new clergy handbook and policies were produced to reflect all relevant changes.

Since 2009, Portsmouth, Guildford and Winchester dioceses have shared one **accounts** team. Each diocese's financial accounts are separate, but expertise can be shared across all three dioceses and cover during staff absence is easier to organise.

The three dioceses all use the same IT and accounting systems, and during 2010, work to streamline Portsmouth management accounts and accounting procedures continued.

For the first time in Portsmouth an element of formal in-year forecasting of outturn against budget was introduced, and this will be developed further.

## How our team promotes a genuine community spirit

**SHE had been on long-term sick leave after being diagnosed with cancer, and worried about getting in to work.**

The Leigh Park woman couldn't get a bus or afford a taxi. But the local Good Neighbours group was able to offer her a regular driver.

Offering lifts is one of the most popular services provided by the 118 Good Neighbours groups across Hampshire, which are co-ordinated in our diocesan offices and managed by our Mission and Society team. It's one of the ways they help to promote social justice.

The **Good Neighbours Support Service** helps to set up new groups, recruit volunteers, provide appropriate policies and procedures, run CRB checks, find grants and offer training.

In 2009-10, the such groups carried out 143,741 tasks with the help of their 3,269 volunteers. Among those tasks were shopping, befriending, running lunch clubs, collecting prescriptions, walking the dog and minor repairs in the home. It's what helps to ensure a real community spirit in many neighbourhoods in Hampshire.

There were seven new groups set up during 2010, including a long-awaited group in Havant. It ultimately started in February 2011.

Sandie Osborne, south-east



Many Good Neighbours groups organise drivers who can take people to medical appointments

adviser, said: "We needed a Havant group, as the groups in Leigh Park, Warren Park, West Leigh, Emsworth and Hayling Island would get so many calls from people living in central Havant. In the end, the treasurer of the Leigh Park group said he would be the chairman, and one of the drivers from Emsworth said he would be the treasurer.

"The Methodist church has provided rooms for meetings and activities free of charge."

Chairman Geoff Paffett said: "We're already overwhelmed with requests and the current drivers are doing four or five runs a day. When we take patients to medical appointments, we stay with them, which is reassuring."

To volunteer or to offer sponsorship, contact him on 023-9247 0800.

2010 was the final full year of a three-year funding agreement with Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Primary Care Trust. A new agreement was negotiated in March 2011.

Among the other ways that our



The launch of Havant Good Neighbours group

diocese helps to promote social responsibility is through the **Rapid Parish Development Programme**.

This involves expert practitioners working with parishes to find new ways to use their assets, redesign their buildings or gain a regular income. Work has been completed with 11 parishes. This concept may be sold to other dioceses in 2011.

In addition to this work, several parishes have also benefitted from design work by architecture stu-

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dents from the University of Portsmouth. It's been partly funded by the South East Coastal Communities project.

Other work led by our Mission

and Society team includes the **Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL)**, which continues to thrive, with many deanery and parish connections to churches in Ghana.

The Kumasi retreat centre gratefully received 50 per cent of the proceeds of the Bishop's Lent Appeal in 2010.

Our **disability working group** supports the growing network of disability contacts in each parish with resources and guidance on offer.

Our **environment and ecology adviser** continues to guide parishes on green issues, including the possibility of churches using renewable electricity and solar panels.

And our diocese's evangelism is focussed on **Back to Church Sunday** at the end of September each year. 2010 was the third year of this initiative and the 92 churches who signed up showed an average increase of attendance of 13 per cent on the day.

We also promote **chaplaincy** at Portsmouth's Commercial Port, which involves regular visits and relationship building; and pastoral care and spiritual guidance in the prisons within our diocese.

## Invaluable support for schools

**WE'RE reaching more than 30,000 children every day in 143 church schools whose education is underpinned by Christian values.**

Those schools, across both Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses, are supported by a small team of advisers based in Portsmouth's diocesan offices. In a unique arrangement in the Church of England, there is a joint Board of Education covering both dioceses. It was formally constituted on January 1, 2010.

The work of our education team includes helping schools to appoint the right headteacher and deputy head - each appointment

involves around five days of adviser time, and 35 schools had a change of headteacher in 2010.

Governors are also given training - 10 training events were held during 2010, and 175 foundation governors and 15 ex-officio governors were appointed during the year.

The team also help schools through the SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) process, which assesses the Christian character of the schools. Advisers visit each school before and after the inspection.

A total of 33 inspections took place in 2010. Only one school was classed as

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'satisfactory' - the rest were either 'good' or 'outstanding'.

The team also helps to secure government funding for building projects in both dioceses. In 2010, our schools buildings officer secured more than £3m of funding for such projects in voluntary aided schools.

And the team also helps with admissions policies for church schools. It arranged and conducted 64 appeals in 2010, and ran training courses for appeals panel members.

Nikki St John, headteacher at St Katharine's C

of E Primary School in Bournemouth, said: "It's been invaluable. The advice we've been given enables the school to be better prepared for the appeals process. It's reassuring."

The education team's brief also includes helping parishes to engage with schools and colleges, promoting RE, collective worship in schools and spiritual development, and networking with chaplains in higher and further education.

The team also promotes the scheme of 'affiliated schools', which allows non-

church schools to work in partnership with the diocese and local parish. There are now nine such schools across both dioceses.

Part of the work also involves engaging in regular dialogue with local authorities on a wide range of school issues. In 2010, the education team attended more than 100 such meetings, many of which were on the Isle of Wight and concerned the reorganisation of schools there.

And school leavers' services and workshops are held in our cathedral and Newport Minster. Between 1,500 and 2,000 young people attended in 2010.



Schools adviser Chris Pritchard with Nikki St John and Anita Etheridge from St Katharine's C of E Primary