

# Can he fix it? Yes he can!

**IMAGINE the situation: your vicar's house has a broken lock or a kitchen unit has come off the wall.**

Your vicar should get in touch with our property administrator, who – according to charity rules – should ask three companies to quote a price to do the work. The tradesman with the cheapest quote would get the job.

It's a crazy situation that involves a lot of effort and red tape all round. Now it's about to be made a lot simpler, with the employment of a new repairman for vicarages and other property owned by our diocese.

Clifford Giles, who has been working as a self-employed locksmith, will start work this month as a Mr Fix-It

for all diocesan property. He will fix leaks, cisterns and drains; and repair locks, doors, windows and drawers.

He will also be responsible for regular, planned maintenance of diocesan property, including external painting, tiling, and regular work on investment properties that are let.

And he will also do work to upgrade vacant houses, including fitting carpets, shelves, curtain rails and installing bathroom or kitchen units.

His appointment will benefit our clergy, who won't have to wait for contractors to fit minor jobs into already busy diaries.

And it's an idea that fits in well with our Kairos thinking about creating a more efficient diocesan structure to respond quickly to problems and



Property maintainer Clifford Giles gets to work

opportunities. It will also be much cheaper than the current arrangements.

Deputy diocesan secretary Andrew Robinson said: "The situation before was a bit of a nonsense.

"We have found ourselves spending considerable amounts of money on contractors fees to undertake the simplest of tasks. Often the parts cost much less than the labour to fit them."

"Employing someone who will be dedicated to repair and maintenance of our own property will allow us to

respond quickly to requests from clergy, prioritise the repairs and maintenance that we want him to do, and cut out unnecessary bureaucracy."

Clifford will be supervised by our property administrator, Chris Flatman, and will work alongside the diocesan architects who suggest minor work as part of their five-yearly inspections. He will also help with routine maintenance and repairs in our diocesan offices.

To book him for jobs, contact Chris Flatman on 023-9282 5731.

## Fancy a walk across island?

WALKERS will cross the Isle of Wight from south to north during this month's Christian Aid Week.

They will raise money in sponsorship by walking the 17 miles from the sea cliffs above Niton to West Cowes esplanade on May 8. The route goes via Godshell, Merstone and Newport.

Anyone is welcome to join them - for the whole trip or just a part.

Contact the mid-Wight Christian Aid co-ordinator, Jim Curtis, on 01983-526574 for details.

Christian Aid Week runs from May 9-15, when thousands of volunteers raise funds to help tackle the scandal of poverty.

Earl Mountbatten Hospice  
Halberry Lane  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 2ER  
Tel: (01983) 529511  
Email: [chiefexec@wvhospice.demon.co.uk](mailto:chiefexec@wvhospice.demon.co.uk)  
Reg Charity No: 1039086



The Rowans Hospice  
Purbrook Heath Road  
Waterlooville, Hants PO7 5RU  
Tel: (023) 9225 0001  
E: [info@rowanshospice.co.uk](mailto:info@rowanshospice.co.uk)  
Web-site: [www.rowanshospice.co.uk](http://www.rowanshospice.co.uk)  
Reg Charity No: 299731

Between us, our two hospices provide specialist palliative care for some 900 adults with life-limiting illness throughout the Diocese every year. We also help to care for their families and friends.

Both hospices are heavily dependent upon voluntary giving in order to provide their services entirely free of charge. Our combined expenditure this year will be over £4.5 million. The largest single source of fundraising income for each of us is from legacies.

**Please would you remember us in your Will?**

Further advice on making a bequest to your local hospice is available from the Legacies Officer at either of the above addresses, or you can ask your solicitor to help you.

## Being mission-shaped

IT was the writer of Ecclesiastes who said: "Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh." (12:12).

If I had a fiver for every time someone has said to me: "You ought to read this book," I could probably pay for the cost of the Portsmouth Millennium Tower on my own!

At the risk of upsetting the readers of *Pompey Chimes* however, can I encourage you to get a copy of *Mission-shaped Church*?

This is the recently published report of the working group chaired by Bishop Graham Cray.

It was supported by Archbishop Rowan Williams and commended by general synod for further discussion in parishes and diocese.

It has the subtitle of 'Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context', which is enough to drive the writer of Ecclesiastes back to his eating, drinking and sleeping.

*the last word*

by the Ven Peter Hancock, Archdeacon of the Meon



The book, however, seeks to evaluate the way that society in Britain has dramatically changed in the last 30 years, especially in terms of our understanding of community and how we relate to each other in networks as well as neighbourhoods.

The book is practical, realistic and at times controversial. It is challenging and seeks to look candidly at where lessons can be learned.



As a background document to Kairos it is an essential read.

OK, so it is a report from a working party of the Church of England and it is a bit light on cartoons and illustrations, but it is a "wake up call" for the Church

and a crucial tool for all who care about God's mission today.

● *Mission-shaped Church* (pictured above), is priced at £10.95, is by the working group of the Mission and Public Affairs Council. ISBN number: 0 7151 4013 2.