

# If Mark can do it, so can mum

**LOTS of clergy see their sons and daughters get ordained - not many see their mums acquiring a dog collar!**

But when Gloria Steadman is ordained at our cathedral later this month, she'll be following her son Mark into the ranks of the clergy.

The 59-year-old former quantity surveyor is one of a bumper crop of new clergy recruits - a total of 26 people will be ordained deacon or priest over the weekend of June 26-27.

Gloria's path to ordination involved many years of service at All Saints', Catherington, as PCC treasurer, house group leader, Alpha course leader and treasurer at Catherington House, the former diocesan retreat centre. But she had felt a nagging calling to the priesthood for many years.

"There were a number of people who went forward for ordination from Catherington," she said. "Seeing them as examples and journeying with them through their training was a big thing.

"I likened God to a small child nagging at me. Then when Mark was selected for ordination, I decided I had no more excuses for not testing my vocation. As soon as I did, the nagging stopped!"

The path to priesthood for Mark, now 30, was very different. He was working as an ecclesiastical lawyer in London when he realised that people both at work and at home were encouraging him to get ordained.

The mother and son were able to compare theological courses - Mark's was residential at Westcott House, Cambridge, whereas Gloria studied at home on the Salisbury-based STETS course.

"It's quite common to find the sons and daughters of clergy



*The Rev Mark Steadman and his soon-to-be clergy mum, Gloria*

## ORDINATIONS: June 2004

### Deacons:

**Jane Beloe** (St John the Baptist, Shedfield); **Frances Gates** (St Mary's, All Saints & St George's, Portsmouth); **Ruth Loveman** (St Mark's, North End); **Daron Medway** (Holy Rood & St Edmund's, Stubbington); **Mary Morfill** (St Barnabas, Swanmore); **Sandra Phillips** (Christ Church, Portsdown); **Colin Prestidge** (Holy Rood & St Edmund's, Stubbington; and War Memorial Hospital, Gosport); **Gloria Steadman** (St Andrew's & Church of the Resurrection, Farlington); **David Stroud** (St Mary's & St Saviour's, Liss); **James Tabor** (St Mary's, St Francis and St Faith's, Alverstoke) and **Debbie Youell** (St Wilfrid's & Westbrook Church, Cowplain).

### Priests:

**The Rev Keith Adlam** (Binstead &

Havenstreet); **the Rev Andrew Bridgen** (St Mary's, Portchester); **the Rev David Butcher** (St Peter & St Paul, Fareham); **the Rev Andrew Fordyce** (Liphook and Bramshott); **the Rev Jane Hemmings** (Bishop's Waltham and Upham); **the Rev Laura Humphrys** (Shorwell, Gatcombe & Chale); and **the Rev Angela Johnson** (Clanfield & Catherington).

**The Rev Charles Keay** (St Faith, Havant & St Nicholas, Langstone); **the Rev Gary Keith** (Botley, Curdridge & Durley); **the Rev Wendy Kennedy** (Leigh Park & Warren Park); **the Rev Wendy Mallas** (St Mary's & St Saviour's, Liss); **the Rev Barry Smith** (Blendworth, Chalton & Idsworth); **the Rev Roger Whatley** (St Thomas's & St John's, Newport); **the Rev David Williams** (St Faith, Havant & St Nicholas, Langstone); and **the Rev Beth Woodgate** (St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent).

being ordained," said Mark. "I think I was the first ordinand at my theological college to acquire a mother who was going to be ordained too!"

Mark is now assistant curate at St Mary's Church, Fratton, whereas Gloria - who has spent two and a half years learning the ropes at All Saints', Denmead -

will now become assistant curate in Farlington.

Among others being ordained are Colin Prestidge, who will divide his ministry between Stubbington churches and Gosport's War Memorial Hospital, and Frances Gates, who will share her time between three parishes in Portsmouth.

## Vigilance urged by new child protection man

THE new man heading up our diocese's child protection system has now started work.

Father-of-three John Marshman, 58, has been appointed as part-time diocesan child protection officer after responding to an advert he saw in the *Pompey Chimes*.

John, who worships at St Nicholas' Church, Bedhampton, has come to the job after careers in banking and the police.

He takes over the diocese's ongoing commitment to child protection from the Rev Karina Green, now priest-in-charge of St George's, Portsea, who was also youth and chil-

dren's work adviser.

His job will involve supporting existing child protection officers in each parish and advising the bishop, as well as training and awareness-raising.

"I would like to re-focus our attention on the potential vulnerability of children in our churches," he said.

"I've had experience as a child protection worker and I'm aware of the need for vigilance, and for us not to become complacent simply because we have procedures in place.

"But I'm looking forward to it immensely, and am delighted to be working in a Christian environment."



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## Church marks 90th year in style

A PORTSMOUTH church will celebrate its 90th anniversary this month with a visit from a bishop.

The Church of the Ascension, in Stubbington Avenue, North End, will host a solemn dedication mass on June 13 to mark 90 years since its consecration. The Rt Rev Edwin Barnes, former Bishop

of Richborough, will celebrate and preach at the service.

The church was one of six provided by a special fund by the Bishop of Winchester before the First World War. The foundation stone was laid in October 1913 and the church was consecrated on June 13, 1914 by the then Bishop of Winchester.

The building is used daily for worship and community activities, including a pre-school group, brownie pack and guide company.

Plans are now underway to develop more modern facilities at the rear of the church to help serve the community more effectively, in line with our diocese's Kairos thinking.