



Emma Rundell plays table football at 'Friday's' - the youth group that meets in the church hall at St Thomas's, Elson

# Teens chill and chat at Friday's club

**IT'S a chance for dozens of teenagers to relax and be themselves.**

Nearly 50 young people mill around the church hall of St Thomas the Apostle in Gosport, flitting between the playstations and the table football, chatting to their friends as they lounge around on sofas or competing ferociously around the table tennis table.

This is 'Friday's', a youth group that aims to build relationships with youngsters from the Elson area by opening the church's doors for two hours every Friday night. Internet access, playstations, table football and table tennis tables are provided - plus the chance to meet friends and volunteer Christian leaders.

It's an initiative created by the local parish in an area where there is little else provided for this age group. It's also part of the Gosport deanery Kairos plan. The idea is to



provide somewhere safe for local teenagers to meet so they don't have to hang around the streets, to offer them advice and support and to develop their spiritual awareness.

The project began as an act of faith and commitment to the local community, and has since forged links with other youth work services, including Hampshire Youth Service and Connexions.

The priest-in-charge, the Rev Simon Rundell, said: "Much of the time at the club appears chaotic and unstructured, with young people flitting from activity to activity, consuming huge amounts of tuck, or simply sitting on the sofas chatting with their friends, or interacting with leaders who are taking an active Christian interest in them.

"After a week of structure and order in school it's useful for them

to have a place to relax, be themselves and ultimately grow into being themselves in the presence of God. It is less unstructured than might be imagined at first.

"Each week we close the session with some group time - a chance to focus on the week past, on God, and on our response to Him. This is growing into a key part of the club - developing a sense of the sacred and a growth in the spiritual.

"Kairos gave us the vision to take an initiative in this much-needed area, and the commitment of the parish to young people has been the driving force behind it all."

The group, which was launched in February, has already been asked by one headteacher to work with certain vulnerable teenagers.

The response to the initiative within the community has also been outstanding, so the project has now been given £1,000 from the Kairos pump-priming fund to help extend its outreach and facilities.

## Assistant Organist Available

### The incredible new HT-300 Hymnal Plus

- ☑ Plays over 2750 UK hymn tunes and worship songs, at the touch of a button
- ☑ Choose from 36 pipe organ presets, and an amazing range of orchestral and band presets
- ☑ Prepare all the music for services in advance
- ☑ Total portability
- ☑ Extra repertoire available
- ☑ Also plays your MIDI files and MP3 audio files



£1899 inc VAT

Call for your FREE information pack with demo audio CD or visit [www.hymntechnology.com](http://www.hymntechnology.com)



**Hymn Technology Ltd**

UK Freephone: 0800 043 0503  
Tel: (+44) (0)20 8255 0270

Hymnal Plus

## P/T Chaplaincy Centre Support Co-ordinator

Directorate

£9,425 - £10,926

Initial one-year contract, 20 hours per week

With the opening of our new Chaplaincy Centre in July 2006, we are looking for someone to work with chaplains who will combine effective administrative skills with a pastoral role, for students and staff who visit the Centre. You'll have experience in a support/pastoral care role and be able to demonstrate sensitive interpersonal skills. The Centre will provide a service for a diverse range of people and you will demonstrate an empathetic understanding of all clients. Effective administrative and organisational skills are also essential, as is the ability to adapt to different work circumstances.

There is some flexibility in the hours, although a core number of 20 per week worked across five days will be essential.

For an application pack, please contact us at the number (24-hour answerphone) or address below, quoting ref: SCAD 0009/PP.

Closing date: 14th July 2006.

t 023 9284 3421 w [www.port.ac.uk](http://www.port.ac.uk) e [jobs@port.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@port.ac.uk)

Personnel Services, University House,  
Winston Churchill Avenue,  
Portsmouth PO1 2UP.

Committed to equality  
of opportunity



Unleashing Potential

## Y i luv 2 snd txt msgs

I WAS going to tell you all about the joys of being a grandmother but the expectant baby does not know about my deadline to write *The Last Word!*

Our son has prepared a text message to let us know when they are on the way to the hospital but still, the baby does not take the hint. So I will tell you how much I love texting instead!

Of all the modern forms of communication it is the one I love the best. Nothing beats the spoken word, of course, but as a vehicle for a spontaneous thought or a practical arrangement, it is brilliant.

At the age of nine I went to boarding school and until the half-term break the only way I could communicate with my parents was by writing a letter twice a week - and even then they were read by the headmistress before posting.



## the last word

by Sarah Stevenson  
the bishop's wife

Such 'stiff upper lip' attitudes have fortunately now gone and we are surrounded by means of communication not dreamt of in my youth or even until the last few years.

With texting I can drop myself, without intruding, into my children's minds and they will reply when it suits them; I can find out how my friends are; I can track travellers and fetch them from the station at the right time. Endless possibilities.

The answerphone is not such a success. The first time I

encountered one, way back in the 1980s, I had to replace the receiver because I was laughing so much. These days it makes me want to cry more than laugh. What is it about an answerphone which turns the most intelligent coherent people into stumbling, rambling, boring, wittersers?

I hope that the Almighty does not feel the same way about some of our long intercessions, but I pray He will tell baby Stevenson to get a move on.