



## From non-churchgoers to regulars - one couple's journey towards faith

Explore the stages of evangelism: pages 8-9

## Celebrate milestone for unity in the city

CHURCH representatives from around Portsmouth will be invited to celebrate a significant milestone in the city's ecumenical history.

It will be the fourth anniversary of the creation of a website designed to promote churches of every denomination in the city.

Not only does it list information about every church in Portsmouth, but others from outside the city are now also being highlighted - a total of 100 churches are featured.

News, events, questions about faith, a directory of Christian businesses and messages from fellow Christians are also featured.



The birthday event will be held from 11.30am-1.30pm on October 26 at the Milan Mandaric Suite, Fratton Park - home of Portsmouth Football Club. Drinks and canapes will be served.

Representatives of every church featured on the site will be invited to come. Guests will also hear about other techniques designed to promote churches in the wider world - from posters to parish magazines, DVDs to text messaging.

Anyone interested in attending should contact website manager Sally Davies on 023 9266 1600 or [sally@portsmouthchurches.co.uk](mailto:sally@portsmouthchurches.co.uk) by October 19.

# JOINT TEAM TO HELP SCHOOLS

**IT'S a radical step that aims to make our support for schools and colleges more effective.**

Our diocesan education staff have joined forces with their neighbours in the Winchester diocese to create a single team working throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The new Mission and Education team will start work this month, based in our new diocesan offices in Peninsular House. The seven staff will serve 145 schools (teaching more than 30,000 children), as well as all further education colleges and universities across both dioceses.

The two dioceses have been working together for many years, so the new joint working arrangement is a natural development of that reality.

And our diocese's Central Structures Review recognised that formalising this arrangement would help education staff to support and advise *all* schools in both dioceses - not just church ones.

Tony Blackshaw, who was Winchester's director of education, has now been appointed director of education for both dioceses. And his team will include staff members who were working for both Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses.

Those staff, including Tony, have had to apply for jobs with the new joint education team.



Director of education Tony Blackshaw in his new office

This has allowed the dioceses to appoint a team with the appropriate skills.

Those skills include expertise in leadership and management of schools, religious education, collective worship and spiritual, social and cultural development, governor training and school buildings.

That means a wider range of expertise will be available to all schools in both dioceses.

"There are two opportunities to promote learning based on Christian values through schools," said Tony. "Firstly, there are our own church schools where children and young people can learn in the context of an explicitly Christian values framework.

"Secondly in the community schools, colleges and universities, we can work with others of good

towards joint accountancy arrangements with Winchester and Guildford dioceses over the next 18 months. An informal arrangement already exists for Winchester's team to offer professional accountancy guidance to our diocesan staff.

Diocesan secretary Michael Jordan said: "These joint arrangements were thought by the group chaired by Dr Dilloway to be the most effective way of using our resources.

"It's not about saving money or cutting back on overall staff numbers - it's more about how dioceses can pool their expertise in a limited number of specialist areas to provide a more effective service to parishes, and the wider society.

"It also doesn't suggest any kind of future takeover of any one diocese by any other. Each diocese is choosing to work together in this limited way, but will still retain control over all the work that happens in its name."

The Mission and Education team is just one of four new sections working as part of our central staff team after the reorganisation suggested by the Dilloway Report and approved by our diocesan synod. The other sections are Mission and Resources, Mission and Society and Mission and Discipleship.

● **Mission and Discipleship team profiled: page 8; Church-school partnerships examined in 'The Big Issue': page 13.**

faith in developing approaches that are implicitly Christian. Not all our parishes have a church school, but most have a school or college, which we should also be engaging with.

"With the team we have assembled, we are able to offer a much stronger support to our schools and colleges across a much wider area."

Our Central Structures Review Group, chaired by Dr Clive Dilloway, also recommended working with neighbouring dioceses in both IT and accountancy.

Adverts have now been placed to recruit a regional IT manager to serve Portsmouth, Winchester, Guildford and Chichester dioceses (*see page 15*). The post will be based in Portsmouth's diocesan offices.

And our diocese is working