

CROSSKEYS



The magazine for the Catholic Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Serving those who serve

Father Mark Hogan explains the role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and their responsibilities

In John's account of the Last Supper, the one which is proclaimed on the evening of Maundy Thursday, Jesus gets up from table, gets down on his hands and knees and starts washing his disciples' feet.

Although all power in heaven and on earth has been given to him, he has the humility to serve his followers. He then encourages them to do the same for others: *"For I gave you a model, so that just as I did for you, you also should do."*

To speak of "servant leadership" in the Church is, or at least should be, tautology. There is no other sort of leadership for a Christian other than that which serves, empowers, enables and equips another. Leadership is a vocation, rooted in baptism, and so a response to God's call to serve, inspire, enable and equip others to bring people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy.

All of us, for better or worse, have an influence on other people, be they family members, friends, neighbours, or just the person we choose to smile at or grunt at when they bring the post, deliver the shopping or greet us at the till. All of us, whether we real-

ise it or not, are leaders – called to serve others.

Those of us who have been baptised have been anointed and called to share in Christ's kingly ministry. Bishop Robert Barron helps us to understand what this might mean:

"In the theological sense, a king is someone who orders the charisms within a community so as to direct that community toward God. In this way, he is like the general of an army or the conductor of an orchestra: he co-ordinates the efforts and talents of a conglomeration of people in order to help them achieve a common purpose. Thus, a Catholic parent directs her children toward the accomplishment of their God-given missions, educating them, shaping them interiorly, moulding their behaviour, disciplining their desires, etc."

In the context of our parish mission, part of my role as leader is to help each and every one of you (and, primarily through you, many outside our parish walls as well) to flourish and blossom and bloom. To help me do this, I have a Senior Leadership Team (SLT), who help me to make good decisions and to ensure we're doing what needs to be done. I sup-

Continued on page 2

What's inside



Volunteers Page 2



Alpha Page 7



Alpha (above left) page 8

New job (above right) page 15

School news (left) page 12

Star garden (below) page 14



Making sure everyone feels supported

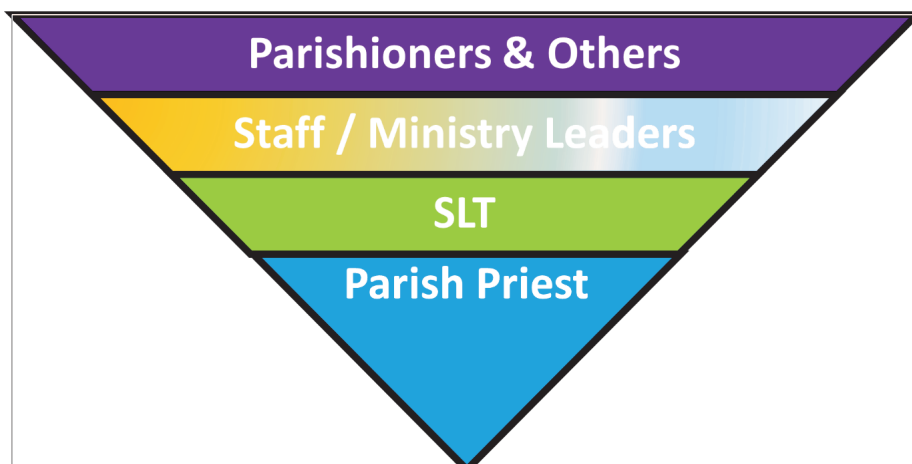
Continued from page 1

port the members of the SLT and they in turn support our staff and ministry leaders, who in turn support those involved in our various ministries (which range from music and other liturgical ministries to SVP and Petercares, sacramental preparation, Alpha and so forth – we currently have over 40 in total).

The hope is that everyone involved in a ministry is supported by someone else, and that a link passes back from each ministry back to the SLT, allowing better understanding and communication of mutual hopes and dreams, needs and struggles. We want all of our ministry leaders, and by extension all of those involved in serving in our ministries, and all those whom they serve, to know they are loved and appreciated, and part of this great mission which God has entrusted to us.

Each of our SLT members has responsibility, delegated by me, for a different area of parish life.

Mike Elks has responsibility for supporting all our parish outreach ministries; Allegra Mutanda is responsible for evangelisation and for the building of Christian community, but she



also supports our parish formation and discipleship, and for supporting Rosanne Walker and Jo Donaldson, who have responsibility for family catechesis and youth ministry respectively; Moira Redmond has responsibility for our parish communications; Dcn Gerard Dailly is responsible for our parish operations, especially the support of Sean Reidy (facilities and resources manager), Annette Parr (finance and property manager) and Michaela Waterfield (parish administration manager, beginning 19 April); and, last but not least, Fr Anthony is just picking up responsibility for what we are calling “Worship and the Weekend”, liturgical ministries and so forth.

The Psalmist tells us that “unless the

Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain” and our hope and prayer is very much that we are building a parish that God wants us to build. At the bottom of our “hierarchical pyramid”, therefore, is Jesus Christ, the one who holds the entire structure up. If you’ll forgive my poor knowledge of building and its associated metaphors, the glue or cement which unites us needs to be the Holy Spirit, the love of God, who overcomes all divisions and unites us.

With all this, we hope to be better placed to fulfil our mission of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy and building a parish where all who worship here and all whom we serve are enabled to flourish and blossom and bloom

Parish helps to distribute £20,000

Mike Elks reports on how the parish is supporting outreach projects through the Albert Gubay Foundation

Since last June, our parish has been entrusted with arranging the distribution of £20,000 for funding food related activities that are be-

ing carried out by groups in the Winchester parish.

The funding is available to us through our Diocese in Portsmouth and has been provided by The Albert Gubay Foundation.

The following extract is taken from

the foundation website:

“Albert Gubay’s entrepreneurial genius was evident even as a young man and it became the foundation he built his business empire around. What was also evident was his drive and passion to leave a legacy, culminating in a pact he made as a young, penniless man, promising to give half of the wealth he created to the service

At the bottom of each page there is a question relating to Easter. You will find all the answers are located on the back page.

Continued on page 3

A) How many stations of the cross are there?

Keeping church open during lockdown

Anna Smyllie describes the role of volunteer stewards

I'm Anna Smyllie, although to some who I pester into volunteering they perhaps would prefer to call me a nuisance (ha)!

I'm in my final year at the University of Winchester, reading law and am thrilled to be able to give my time to the church to help however I can. I come from the Lake District and moved to Winchester three years ago for my studies. I am thoroughly enjoying my time in Winchester and being a part of the parish here is a large reason why.

A considerable amount of my time over the pandemic has been spent helping to facilitate opening our church and ensuring that we have trained volunteers available in order for us to keep the doors open. Being able to offer daily Mass and Adoration in St Peter's is only possible thanks to brilliant volunteers, all of whom I think are fantastic and superb at what they do.

At our height we had around 25/30 volunteers, though as restrictions increased some volunteers paused their duties so at present we have closer to 12.



Anna Smyllie.

The biggest task of our 'stewards' is in protecting the track and trace forms; those entering the church are invited to provide either their details for the TT or to scan a QR code available in order for our church to be able to remain open.

Other duties include stewarding at Communion to ensure the correct space between people is adhered to in order to maintain safe social distancing. Volunteers also are responsible for using the 'fogging machine' to clean the church. We are also snazzy

enough to be given our very own fob and key to open and close the church when necessary – making us all feel very special I'm sure.

Each liturgical event or opening of the doors requires a volunteer in order to carry out the appropriate track and trace needs. Funerals, weddings, baptisms and extra Masses need a volunteer also making a considerable demand on our small number.

In order to welcome visitors and parishioners alike, and to keep the doors open we are in need of more volunteers. I provide training to all those who are interested in the role and allocate people to each slot on the rota to keep everything going and I would love to be able to add your name to my list of people.

I would urge anyone who may be able to help to please get in touch with me! Some of our volunteers have been coming weekly for months, and so it would be fantastic to be able to give them a little break if new volunteers came onto the scene. Even an hour a month would make a huge difference, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

annasmyllie@outlook.com / 07956379542

Cash from foundation for outreach

Continued from page 2

of God. That vision has become a reality...

In February 2011, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI bestowed upon Mr Gubay the Knight Commander with Star of the Order of St Gregory the Great. This is an order which is given for conspicuous service to the Church and society. The award was bestowed on Mr Gubay for the philanthropic work he carried out over

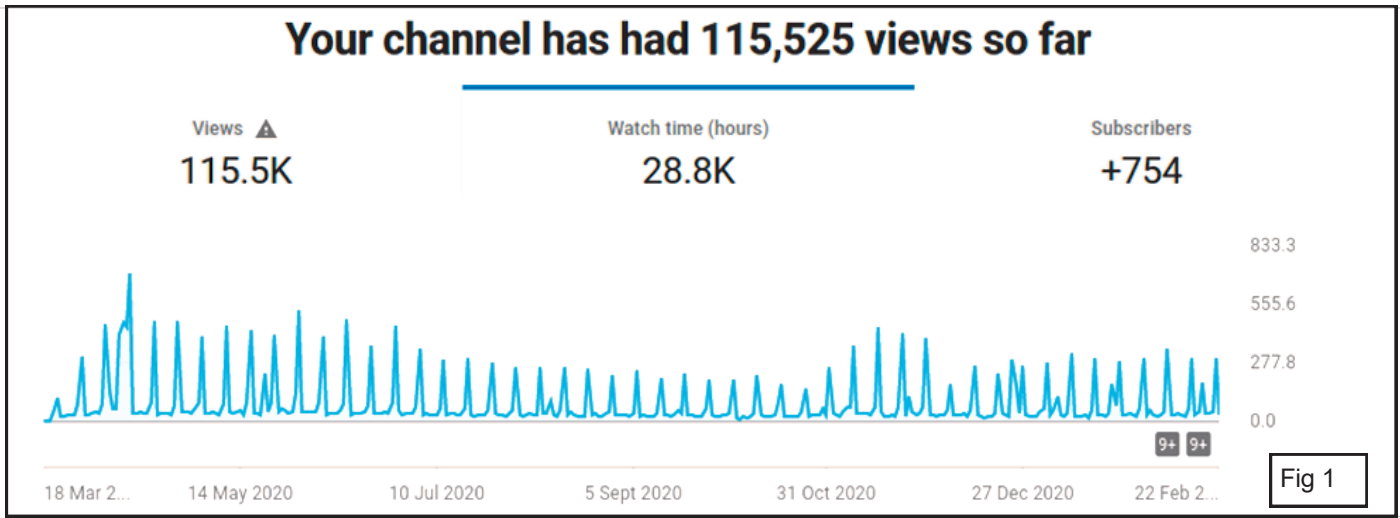
many years and in recognition of the establishment of The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation."

For our part, the parish has talked to and allocated the funding to the following charitable groups:- Live at Home (MHA); Nightshelter; The Salvation Army; St Peter's Primary School; Trinity Centre; Southampton and Winchester Visitors' Group; Unit 12; Winnall Primary School; First Bite; St Vincent de Paul.

This is a wonderful example of how the poor and needy in our community can be served and as a parish, we are blessed by this opportunity to be involved.

Fr Mark writes:- "*During this season of Lent, when almsgiving is one of the three pillars of our faith together with prayer and fasting, we pray that the funding that we have helped to distribute will bring some comfort, healing, hope and joy, and above all love to those in need.*"

B) What is the German word for Easter?



Catching up on livestream viewers

Richard Eastham examines the data about the virtual church viewings

My second favourite quotation about statistics is from Andrew Lang, a Scottish poet and novelist, who reportedly said “Most people use statistics like a drunk man uses a lamppost; more for support than illumination”.

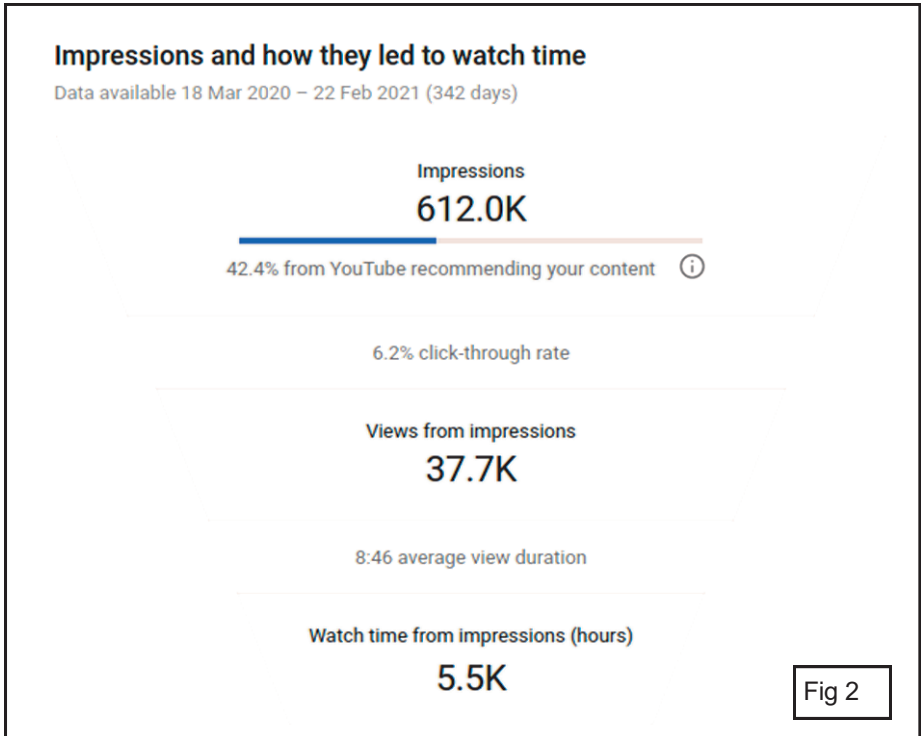
Most of the services from St Peter’s church are livestreamed on YouTube and in the world of YouTube analytics there is a staggering array of lampposts...

The Big Numbers (see Fig 1 top)

Services started streaming on the 18 March 2020 and as of 23 February 2021 the parish channel has 754 subscribers. This has been viewed by subscribers and non-subscribers 115,525 times. In total they have watched over 28,800 hours of services with an average duration of 15 minutes for each view.

The Easter Sunday Mass on 12 April 2020 had the largest audience with 2,163 views.

Parishioners are encouraged to view the site by various means such as through the parish website, newsletter, Facebook and so on, but we also have a significant number of views from people who see our feed through recommended content. This



is the list of videos you see on the right hand side of every YouTube page you visit. These are called impressions and are delivered to you based on your browsing history and the previous YouTube videos you’ve watched. The latest figures are shown above (Fig 2).

This means that St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs has reached out to over 600,000 pages and that resulted in nearly 38,000 views from people who watched in total over 5,500 hours of services.

Most of the views are from the

United Kingdom but we have had viewers from 23 countries, the top five are:-

United Kingdom	92.5%
United States	3%
India	0.2%
Ireland	0.2%
Poland	0.1%

Parishioners reach the YouTube channel through a variety of methods with the parish website being most used:-

Continued on page 5

Small surplus secured despite Covid

The parish finance and property advisory committee presented the annual report for the year ending 31 August, via Zoom on 18 February

It continues to be a vibrant and evangelising parish even in Covid lockdown and there was a small surplus of £29,489.

On the income side planned giving had held up well but other offertory collections fell by 24 per cent (£16,682). Income from hall hire was down by 26 per cent (£6,495), but net income from properties was up by 2.4 per cent. Parish members had continued to make significant charitable donations amounting to £38,887.

Staff costs were down 20 per cent on the previous year, mostly due to the furlough scheme, repair and maintenance costs were also down due to

Covid.

Looking ahead they had budgeted to generate a small ordinary surplus, assuming the ongoing impact of Covid and a gradual recovery.

They are considering the sale of lower yielding properties to facilitate repairs and repay a loan early to the diocese for work on the Milner Hall.

Fr Mark and the strategic leadership team would like to appoint a director of worship to drive further renewal.

It is hoped to repair and decorate St Peter's in time for its centenary in 2026. Therefore a major fund-raising appeal is being considered to support those goals.

A parishioner queried whether diocesan investments were in arms and tobacco and was told Bishop Philip is

forming a new investment committee which would be mindful of such issues.

Other questions were asked about second collections; could costs be related to the five main strategic points?; support for outreach work; whether properties were being maintained long term and divine renovation funding.

Reference was also made to the convent building, and two surveys were being made. The first was to ensure that the structure was secure and sound and a second would be needed to decide how it should be fitted out after a business case has been prepared for its future.

The full report and accounts can be viewed on the parish website

Figures highlight age profile of parish

Continued from page 4

Catholicwinchester.org.uk	45.2%
Facebook	3.1%
Safari app	2.1%
WhatsApp	2.1%
Google Search	1.9%

Interestingly the statistics show that 72% of viewers are female and 28% are male, although I suspect that if it's anything like our household we log-in on my wife's account as she knows how to work the interweb better than me. It also raises an important point that these statistics do not take into account shared views. For example a young family of four participating in the 10am Sunday Mass on a shared laptop only counts as one view.

Another illuminating statistic is the age profile of viewers. It is heartening to see older parishioners rising to

the technological challenges of watching on line, but it also highlights the nature of the age profile of the parish and should spur us on to encourage younger participants:-

18-24 years	0.5%
25-34 years	0.9%
35-44 years	3.3%
45-54 years	4.3%
55-64 years	16.4%
65+ years	74.7%

There are gigabites of data which potentially can be analysed and we hope to use some of that data to inform decisions moving forward. Some feedback is instant and I am invariably asked by the priest and deacon immediately after Sunday's Mass 'What were the viewing numbers?' and 'What were the live comments before and during Mass?'

Without exception they are pleased to see your comments and encouraged

by your support. The average number who participate in this live Mass is about 200, and it's relatively stable even after a lengthy homily!! or a bad joke!!!!.

So on their behalf I thank you for your support and for interacting with the service. It must be very hard for a priest to preach to an empty church and your comments are real-time evidence that their efforts are appreciated.

...and my favourite quotation about statistics? It's from Chris Hart (also a poet and author) "*All the statistics in the world can't measure the warmth of a smile*". At the time of writing this, it looks like the Covid lockdown is slowly coming to an end and I really look forward to seeing the warmth of your smile at Mass and many other parish events in the near future.

D) By what name is Holy Thursday known in Britain?

Allegra reflects on an unusual year

Allegra Mutanda looks back on her first year in the parish as director of evangelisation

I was still working at the French Church in London's West End district when news of the Covid virus in China began making headlines.

Being located only a few hundred yards from Soho, we felt its ramifications sooner than most as its streets emptied of tourists too afraid to visit the area, but the worst was yet to come...

On my second weekend here (and the last before churches were closed in that first lockdown), Fr Mark said in his homily, *'We can choose to pray and trust God or we can choose to worry but we cannot do both. Which will it be?'*

Those words have been with me this past year. Starting a new role brings its own challenges and so does moving home. Add a pandemic to the mix and the word 'challenge' becomes a euphemism! But it is amazing how God prepares us for the journey ahead.

My background is in technology and very often, I have had to pick up the use of different online applications to optimise my work or teach others its use. I didn't expect my work in the

parish to be mostly online!

But going into lockdown, we had two choices: close down and wait until everything awoke again or look at the opportunities God was placing in front of us to continue to be Church in new and creative ways. Our church buildings might have physically closed but 'ekklesia' (the assembly) remained.

St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs is an extraordinary parish! We banded together very quickly so that the parish could continue to be a place where people would encounter Christ and find solace in the midst of turmoil. Our Virtual Church was born from this.

Apart from the live streaming of our liturgies, we developed an interactive Virtual Church allowing for a chat room experience where people could join together for prayer and fellowship.

We had already been running Alpha before that first lockdown and decided to finish the course online. This proved so successful that, after Easter, we decided to run two new series on different nights of the week. In addition to this, we ran an online version of the CaFE DVD course 'The Gift' in preparation for Pentecost and went on to organise a prayer

course online.

Praying with people online has been an incredibly powerful experience and we know that God is definitely not limited by technology!

Although this has all been uncharted territory for us and challenging, the alternative would have been unthinkable.

As Church, we must always be present to the people God is calling us to serve and witness to the hope and joy that can only be found in Christ, even in the midst of turbulence.

I see it like driving through thick fog which can be a terrifying experience, especially when you cannot see the road ahead. But as a driver, however much you might want to apply the brakes, you know you must carry on because sooner or later the fog will lift, and clarity will come again.

My role in the parish has changed, developed and evolved with each passing season as we have risen to meet the challenges we face. We can choose to pray and trust God or we can choose to worry but we cannot do both.

Let us remember that God is always faithful to His people and as long as we remain close to Him and follow His guidance, all will be well.

Alpha core team take up the challenge

Members of the Alpha Core Team (ACT) introduce themselves

Three years and six Alpha courses later, the parish Alpha co-ordinator, Liz Eastham, has decided it is time to move on to a new project.

Liz can look back on the achievements of those years with over 200 people participating and the very successful introduction of online Alpha during 2020. This move online was

precipitated by the pandemic. Despite some scepticism that it wouldn't work, after a number of online Alpha courses around the UK and internationally, even Nicky Gumbel, developer of the Alpha course has expressed his delight that online exceeded all expectations.

The reins of Alpha in St Peter's parish are now in the capable hands of Allegra Mutanda, director of evangelisation and leadership. Over the last three years Alpha has grown and

changed and it is anticipated that this process will continue. As a result, Allegra identified the need for the Alpha Core Team (ACT). She recruited an enthusiastic group from the Alpha alumni.

The team want to be more than faceless workers in the parish and to ensure that they were accessible to parishioners who could ask questions and find out more about Alpha. On

Continued on page 7

E) In which garden was Jesus arrested?

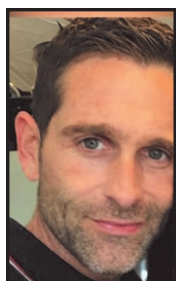
Introducing the Alpha Core Team

Continued from page 6

the next page are their brief bios and photographs. Please feel free to come and speak to them. They will be more recognisable when the wearing of masks is no longer needed.

For more information about Alpha, email Carol Roe at alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or to register for the next Alpha course which we hope to run in September both in-person and online, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha

I am Christian, and have been a parishioner of St Peter's about six years. I am married to Kerrie and we have four young children. Aside from spending time with my wife and children living out our wonderful Catholic faith, I enjoy football, keeping fit, and watching documentaries.



Having first been invited to participate in Alpha I've not looked back and I cannot recommend it highly enough. Alpha is a magnificent experience, which carries the consistent message of peace, love, forgiveness and mercy that our Lord Jesus offers all of us. I would encourage everyone to sign up to experience this too!

I'm Emma. I've enjoyed living in Winchester for over 30 years. I have a grown-up son and daughter-in-law and I work as a property paralegal.



I come from a non-faith background. However, since childhood, I have been aware of a spiritual presence. I joined Alpha in 2020. Alpha provided me with answers to lifelong questions and gave me a sense of belonging and great joy.

I'm Mike Roe. Having an Irish Catholic father and an agnostic English mother, I had a mixed religious childhood. I drifted away from the Catholic Church when the world got in the way, but luckily for me, I met and married Carol who steered me back with her wisdom and faith.



My Alpha course was another step on my 'journey' towards fully embracing all aspects of Christianity. I'm still growing but my participation with the Alpha programme at St Peter's has continued beyond my first course and I am getting great satisfaction in helping others.

My main recreation is photography, and I have a school boyish sense of humour so don't get me started on Monty Python.

I am Carol Roe, married to Mike. above. I was born in Glasgow. On my mum's side – Italian/Scottish and dad's – Irish/French so I am a cradle Catholic.



I first had my faith warmed thirty PC years ago when I went with a colleague to a Billy Graham event. We had both unexpectedly lost our mothers within a few weeks and we were there to support each other.

When I first heard of Alpha I was curious but I didn't think it was for me – because I felt that I am not very spiritual. When the third course was advertised, I remembered the advice given to Andy Murray just before he won the final at Wimbledon – "If not you, who? If not now, when?" I registered and what did I find? I found acceptance, new friends, warmth, joy and a place where I fitted in my community.

I'm Anna Smyllie.

I'm a university student who is usually brought out to bring down the age demographic in church groups! In my personal faith experience I seldom saw young people involved in the church, which to me is a large part of why youth were leaving the church. Knowing that involvement in my faith is where I best feel able to give back, a large part of my faith is dedicated to volunteering. For me, ensuring that we spread the Gospel to as many people as we can is of paramount importance. Alpha is centred on having these big conversations in relaxed settings, which I think is something quite unique. Being involved in Alpha means helping to break the stigma of talking about religion.



I'm Mike Slinn and have lived 40 years in Winchester. I am married to Liz and I have five children and six grandchildren who are all a joy. I am involved in local charitable work. For relaxing I go cycling, play tennis and bridge, read books and occasionally sing and play bass guitar. I retired some time ago.



I started as an Anglican and became a Catholic 43 years ago. I believe Alpha is a great way of introducing the Gospel message to everybody. Alpha is also great fun.

I'm Allegra and I work for the parish as its director of evangelisation and leadership. I am originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo and a na-



Continued on page 8

F) How did Judas Iscariot identify Jesus to the soldiers?

Acorn groups offer faith, prayer, friendship

Calling all **Alpha graduates** exciting developments ahead

We are delighted to share some exciting and long-awaited news with you. We have been running Alpha in the parish for two and a half years now and in that time, over 250 guests have joined the course.

Alpha has helped foster a deep sense of belonging and given us an opportunity to discuss faith, life and God openly and honestly with one another. Bonds of friendship have formed, and, in each other we have found love, support, and encouragement.

Foremost, Alpha has helped us find our place in God's story of salvation and love for us His people! Hearing these Good News, awakens (or re-awakens) a greater or new desire to know God better: in God the Holy Spirit, who reveals Jesus to us and enables us to welcome Him in our hearts and our lives, in God the Son [Jesus] who died on the cross for us to restore us to fullness of life and who calls us into intimate relationship with Him, in God the Father whose depth of love for us is inexhaustible, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life' (John 3:16).

Alpha was not the end of the journey, but rather a new beginning. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would fill and transform our lives and gives us the grace, strength, and gifts we need to continue on our journey of discipleship as we draw closer to Christ.

In your feedback, many of you have expressed a strong desire to grow in faith, prayer, and friendship and we are pleased to offer all three through our Acorn groups. Acorn Groups Forming a community of small groups beyond Alpha connected through faith in Jesus and friendship.

Following on from Alpha, we will be establishing a more permanent network of small groups called 'Acorn' groups and everyone who has completed the Alpha programme is invited to join them.

The vision behind our Acorn groups is to build a community of small groups connected together through faith in Jesus and friendship. They become an environment that fosters spiritual growth and faith-based friendships in a safe and comfortable space where we are nurtured, encouraged, and equipped to use the gifts God has given us.

Acorn groups are more than a programme, initiative or course; they are faith-based small communities we

intentionally choose to adopt as a way of life.

Why Acorn? An acorn is the seed of the mighty oak tree. However small this seed is, it has tremendous potential for growth and greatness. In the bible, the acorn can be seen as a sign of God's promise. Our prayer is that, through our Acorn small groups, our parish will be blessed beyond measure as we walk and support one another in our journey of faith.

What will our Acorn groups look like? We hope to form small groups of 8 – 12 members of mixed age and faith experience. The groups will meet weekly and grow through commitment, engagement and participation.

We expect the Acorn groups to be a place of welcome and have an outwards focus. This means that each small group will have the capacity to receive and welcome new members in order to grow into more small groups.

They will have a mixture of structured and unstructured format. At times, and especially in their first year, these Acorn groups will be more structured as we establish roots and build foundations.

As they grow, each term will continue to have a theme and a focus but the working out of that theme will be at each group's discretion as they develop their own character.

The Acorn groups launch on Thursday, 15 April 2021. More details can be found in the Alpha Graduates' newsletter.

We held a 'Come and See' session for Alpha Graduates on Thursday, 25 March from 7.45pm -9pm; via Zoom. To join our Acorn groups, email Sarah at acorn@stpeterswinchester.org.uk for a link to the registration page. In the future, we hope to launch small groups across the parish.

Continued from page 7

tive French speaker. I have two sisters, four brothers and 21 nieces and nephews with whom I love to do crazy things – I am known as the cool 'Tantine'!

In 2001, I was invited to a course similar to Alpha and had a life transforming experience of the Holy Spirit. For 12 years, I joined a community for evangelism and worked as a missionary! What I love about Alpha is that it enables us to come closer to God and grow in relation-

ship with Him and others in a fun and relaxed way.

At the time of writing, the current Alpha course is approaching its third week. We have learned a strong lesson during the pandemic that nothing stays static and we need to be flexible and responsive. Already we are planning for the future. Online Alpha is probably here to stay but we intend to offer a face-to-face experience and possibly a lunchtime one for later in the year.

G) Whose ear did Peter cut off during the arrest of Jesus?

Memories shared of Alpha courses

Alpha participants share their experiences of the course and what helped them discover more about themselves and God

Father Mark first invited me to try Alpha. As someone preparing to be received into the Church, new to the parish and the city, he recommended it as a way for me to revisit some fundamentals of our faith, meet new people and, hopefully, form some lasting friendships.

So, when lockdown began in March last year, isolating everyone at home, I decided to join the parish's first ever online Alpha which ran from May to July.

Having participated in similar courses in the past, what struck me most were the depth of the Alpha videos and the love and dedication of the parish team. Our 'small group' clicked easily, as we reflected on the videos week by week, sharing our insights and experiences.

It really kept me going during lockdown, spiritually and socially. The highlight for me had to be the 'Holy Spirit away day'. Praying together brought us closer as friends and, as we asked the Holy Spirit to come among us, I experienced a great sense of peace and trust that God was at work.

Going forward, I am delighted to say that I was received into the church in September and accepted onto the Alpha team for the second online season which ended in December. I am now looking forward to my third Alpha in a row!

The current online Alpha course started on 22 February and we would love you to be part of the next one, wherever you are on your faith journey. And please share and spread the word!

Lord, help us invite those we know or meet who are restless of heart. "For



Gregory Tyler

You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." Amen. (Gregory)

I have loved every bit of this course. The Alpha Team have made it so special. I felt privileged to have been part of a really wonderful small group where we shared meaningful discussions together. Having done Alpha previously and really enjoyed it, I wasn't sure how it could work on Zoom, but I loved this course just as much as the face-face course. (Theresa)

Being on Alpha reminded me of the constant need to live my faith and never be complacent. And to become what Jesus wants me to be. It helped me to refresh and reinvigorate my faith. It helped me to learn more about God and get closer to Him. Speaking with others about their knowledge and faith experience and watching the videos helped me to dismiss at least one of my doubts. The videos were powerful, and Nicky Gumbel is a very inspiring and motivating speaker. Some of the people in my group have very challenging personal lives which made me appreciate more what I have. I am constantly grateful to the Good Lord for

the superlative parents I had and for the wonderful family I have. (Giles)

The main themes I have picked up on throughout the Alpha course are those of transformation, community and unity and love. The individual stories were inspiring and thought provoking, demonstrating that all, regardless of their past transgressions, can be redeemed. They only have to turn towards God. (Anna)

Alpha made me think about every single aspect of my life and relationships with others including family in the light of faith in Jesus and the deeper perspective that this gives. And my understanding of the holy spirit has deepened. Furthermore, I felt I was given something that was personal to me that linked with my reception and confirmation into the church. It deepened my understanding of the holy spirit. (Susan)

When the team prayed for me that was a watershed moment. Even though we were online I really felt the power of their prayers and much more peaceful in the days that followed. (Naomi)

What would you say to someone who is unsure/hesitant about joining Alpha?

'Be brave and sign up. Don't miss a chance to expand your horizons, develop new ideas and live your life in a more fulfilling way'.

Alpha is for everyone, no matter your age, your background or wherever you are on your faith journey. Alpha is an opportunity to explore, to learn, to discuss or simply to listen in a welcoming, relaxed, loving and non-judgmental environment. In Alpha I have found a simple, but very effective way of spreading the Gospel message and of showing love for other people, which is after all what Jesus calls us to do. If we can merely extend the invitation – God will do the rest. (Liz)

H) What was the name of the man who helped Jesus carry his cross?

Some moments of great blessing

Jo Donaldson describes the activities of the youth groups

The past year has been very unexpected and unpredictable; a rollercoaster of ups and downs!

We have had moments as a youth team when we struggled to see how we could still operate under the strict guidance. We had moments where it seemed impossible to find a way to run our groups and maintain our connection with our young people.

Throughout these doubts and uncertainties though, we did have moments of great blessing. We were able to make use of various online platforms so that we could 'see' each other and share in our various joys and struggles. Reducing the number of programmes offered to our young people meant that we could seriously evaluate what we were offering, and plan for what we hope the future will look like for youth in our parish.

Youth Groups:

During the lockdown we were able to offer another youth group for those in years 10-13 (aged 14-18). This means that we now have a youth group for those in years 7-9 (aged 11-14) and another for those who are a bit older in years 10-13. Our young people choose their own youth group topics together each year which allows us to deliver the content that they want and need to hear, rather than what we think that they need to hear. We welcome **anyone** to join our youth groups; you don't need to be Catholic! Our focus is on journeying together through sharing our experiences and asking questions, so anyone is welcome to join.

'Uncover' Series:

During Lent we started our 'Uncover Mark' Gospel series. This is for anyone in years 7-13 (age 11-17). We follow a book which includes all of the Gospel of Mark along with dis-

cussion questions. The questions are relevant to us as we hear the Gospel today. They ask us to consider how we personally relate to the Gospel writings and how we think those individuals felt who were there at the time of Jesus. We have had incredible discussions in the time we have been meeting, and we hope to continue the course after Easter. If you'd like to join, or would like to know a bit more, please drop us an email.

Looking forward, we have been evaluating what we plan to offer and the frequency of our initiatives:

Awards:

We have been working on establishing two awards for youth in our parish which will allow those participating to gain credits for their participation and hard work in the life of the parish and local community. The details are yet to be formally decided, but they should be announced very soon! There will be two awards, each with four levels. It will be open to all of our youth from year 6 onwards, so stay tuned for updates.

Youth Alpha:

We usually run a Youth Alpha course annually from December through to Easter as part of our Confirmation course, however we decided against running this course during the restrictions and instead wait until we were able to meet in person. Youth Alpha is an opportunity for young people to gather together, share a meal and engage in faith-based discussion. The programme is already written, but there is freedom during the discussion to ask questions and share thoughts in small groups. In the near future we will be increasing our Youth Alpha to twice a year rather than just once, so again, stay tuned.

Confirmation:

Our Confirmation ceremony for our most recent group of candidates was

postponed from 2020 to 2021. We also had to finish the Confirmation course early due to the restrictions.

All churches in the diocese will be celebrating Mass on 23 May so that all our candidates receive the sacrament 'together'. The Bishop will also be celebrating Mass at the cathedral at the same time. We do now have a date for a 2021 ceremony which is a relief.

We needed to prioritise those candidates who were waiting, therefore we decided not to prepare any new candidates until those prepared in 2019/20 had been Confirmed. Again, this has given us an opportunity to reflect on our programme which has been invaluable. We will be accepting new candidates soon.

Please do continue to keep us all in prayers during these times of uncertainty. There are still many challenges to be faced, so please do continue to pray for our young people especially.

If you would like to know a bit more about what we are doing in our parish, please email us youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

We post updates on our social media: (Facebook) St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs Youth Ministry; (Instagram) @SPATWMYOUTH

Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The annual Diocesan youth pilgrimage to Lourdes is planned to go ahead from 19-30 July. The cost is £545 per person including flights, food and accommodation. All attendees need to be 16+ in order to go with us. Anyone younger than this will be considered on an individual basis. For more information including how to book and/or financial assistance, contact Jo Donaldson (youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk).

I) What are the names of Simon of Cyrene's two sons?

Look carefully and view the imagery

Parish archivist
John Thornhill
describes some of
the windows in
the Lady Chapel
at St Peter's

When St Peter's church opened in 1926, the Lady Chapel was very plain without "Our Lady of Winton", the Jacobean carved altar, Stations of the Cross or stained glass windows.

Today, it is perhaps the windows that first catch the eye. From the similar designs and colours you might think that they were erected at the same time but this is not so. The Winchester Martyrs windows were erected in 1967; whereas, in the west wall, the window in memory of members of the Morley family is from the mid-1970s. Both were designed by Arthur Buss, the chief designer for Goddard & Gibbs who manufactured the glass.

The eagle-eyed will spot the maker's mark in the glass – a small galleon in full sail displaying an inter-linked GG and, on the prow, the initials AEB (for Albert Edward Buss) and the design date. In fact, the galleon is a Dutch herring buss (a sturdy little fishing boat in use until the mid-19th century); a light-hearted play on the designer's name. The Morley window depicts six Catholic martyrs

with Hampshire connections. Like the Winchester Martyrs' glass, the figures are beautifully depicted with fine detailing and vibrant colour that looks superb on a sunny day.

With such images it is easy to neglect the tracery above (pictured here). To do so would be a shame, especially at Easter, for at the very top is an image of the Agnus Dei – one of four to be found in St Peter's.

The Lamb is seen lying on a hilltop with a halo inside which is a cross – the 'cruciferous nimbus'; a symbol of Divinity. His forelegs hold the shaft of a processional cross, from which the red-crossed Banner of Resurrection flies. The Lamb looks down the hill from which four streams run to a river below. In this traditional im-

age, the streams represent the four Evangelists or their Gospels and are the four tributaries named in Genesis of the river that flowed out of Eden. In the window, the river flows around banner scrolls carrying a quotation "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb" taken from the Book of Revelation. In Revelation, the river is the "river of life" that flowed down the street of New Jerusalem from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

On either side of the Lamb are the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, that represent God "the beginning and the end". The phrase "Alpha and Omega" appears four times in Revelation but nowhere else in the Bible;

although God is called "the first and the last" in Isaiah. Further down the window on the left is a flaming torch. Here, this is not the symbolic "torch of learning" (Who remembers the traffic signs where it denoted a nearby school?) but represents the Lamb which is the lamp of New Jerusalem, so the city had no need of sunlight nor the moon.

On the other side opposite the torch is an open book. This may represent the Book of Revelation itself, or possibly the book of life with seven seals which only the Lamb was worthy and able to open.

St John's Revelation is full of rich mysterious imagery but it is the Agnus Dei, interpreted and depicted by generations of artists, that has become a great source for Christian devotion.



The Agnus Dei in the Morley window in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's.

J) What is the meaning of the word Golgotha?

Pupils enjoy wearing non-Covid masks

St Peter's School head teacher **Louise Buxton** describes their latest events

Inside-Out Day!

"When our little people are overwhelmed by big emotions it is our job to share our calm, not join their chaos." ~ L.R. Knost

This February St Peter's School took part in a number of activities linked to *Children's Mental Health Week* as this is something everyone is becoming increasingly aware of. As well as physical health we have mental health and it needs looking after. Some children have been born with more complex needs while others develop problems with their mental health due to their early childhood experiences.

We used this week to remind the children of how we all need to look after our 'inside health' and by wearing our clothes inside out for a day we were reminded that our outside appearance doesn't necessarily reflect how we're feeling on the inside. Teachers worked with the children on thinking about ways to calm down, to laugh and share our 'big' feelings. We also talked about how it is ok to cry and why it is so important to talk. Different year groups worked with children in school and those learning at home on a variety of fun activities to drive home the message.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the Key Worker bubble produced a Gratitude Tree. The children thought about what they are thankful for, created a thank you leaf and

added it to the gratitude tree. What are you grateful for at present?

Even our pre-school, Little Fishes joined in. Having read the story of the paper dolls, and discussed their feelings they made some paper dolls of their own and drew faces to express an emotion.

Following on from the children thinking about their feelings and that it is ok to feel cross or sad Little Fishes made 'Calming Down Bottles'. When we feel cross, or fizzy inside we can shake our calming down bottle, watch the pieces swirl and spin until they settle again. Our feelings will settle down too. We expect many people would appreciate a 'Calming Down Bottle' during this time of lockdown!

Little Fishes children also made worry dolls. In their circle time they whispered a worry to their little doll. One little girl said she was going to put her doll under her pillow at night-time.

As well as some special work to promote good mental health various year groups have been organising 'special days' during this lockdown for both learners in school and at home.

Australia Day

Year 2 have been learning about Australia for their Geography topic this term (photo bottom left). Australia Day was celebrated on the 26 January so we decided to join in the festivities. We had summer outfits (in January!), cork hats, soft Australian animals joining online lessons and much more. As always we were grateful to our parents for their support, especially in helping to put together outfits with very little



notice. Both in school and at home the children had a choice of activities to learn about how and why people in Australia celebrate Australia Day including reading comprehension, word searches, colouring, platypus bookmarks, rain sticks and some aboriginal inspired art.

Mardi Gras!

Our next 'special' day was a whole school celebration of Mardi Gras (photo top right)...who needs to travel when you can party at home?

Everyone was invited to come to school or to their home-learning in their most colourful attire with the aim of brightening up the grey of February in lockdown. Throughout the day children made masks of the carnival variety rather than the ones we unfortunately find ourselves having to wear when out and about!

The PTA at St Peter's has arranged a virtual walk to Bamenda, through Lent. They would like schoolchildren, their families and friends and parishioners to join in. Every time anyone takes a walk/cycle/run, they want them to log their miles. There is also the opportunity to donate.

Money raised will be shared between the school's PTA and the school with which it is twinned in Bamenda, St Jude's primary in Fundong. They want parishioners to get involved, not just in asking for donations but in logging miles they walk or cycle. www.stpetershants.co.uk



K) Who was the Roman governor of Judaea at the time of Jesus' death?

Helping the poor at home and abroad

Peter McManus recalls the projects helped by the Covenant With the Poor during the past year

Over the past year, the Covenant With the Poor team have been working on a series of projects that we have selected from quite a large number of proposals that we receive.

2020 started well, with a very good response to our Lent appeal for the Maasai clinic (*photo below*). The parish contributed over £5,000 to help build a second clinic and fund diagnostic equipment. The project leader, Hennie Marais, joined one of our quarterly meetings to thank the parish for this, and his sincerity and devotion to the Maasai people shone through everything he said.



But then the Covid-19 pandemic struck, and all church services were suspended. We had planned a second appeal for Firefly International,

which does amazing work in Syria and on the Turkish border for refugee children whose education has come to a total halt (*photo top right*). Working with the parish website team, we were able to publicise an appeal at Pentecost via PeterPost, a leaflet on the website, a recorded appeal broadcast during the streamed masses, and help from the parish office to facilitate online donations. Inevitably donations fell short of the usual amount, but we were able to top up from funds returned by a charity whose work in Myanmar had been blocked by Government agencies. And so over £4,000 was sent to Firefly to help their efforts in Idlib.

By September, socially-distanced services had started, and so we were able to plan a hybrid appeal for WaterHarvest (formerly Wells for India), a locally-based charity working in Rajasthan which the parish has supported over a number of years (*photo right*). WaterHarvest has developed a low-cost drip irrigation scheme which is very economical in water usage, while



improving crop yields by reducing soil erosion. Our aim was to raise enough to fund 10 irrigation schemes, and while we fell a bit short of the target, WaterHarvest was able to top up the amount raised to achieve the objective. It was good to be able to appeal in person at the public masses and to thank our donors in person once more – and online donations continued to supplement what was collected with the emblematic buckets!

No sooner had we started to think that normality was returning than the second lockdown hit us all – but this time, after a short interval, public services restarted at the beginning of Advent just in time for our seasonal appeal, this time for a local charity working on behalf of women experiencing domestic abuse. Winchester Women's Refuge is lacking in facilities for children who have taken refuge with their mothers, and they badly need a play area for the welfare of these children. The parish's response to our Advent appeal has been amazing, and we were able to send £5,000 as a major contribution to the new play area – we hope to see the work completed some time this year.

2020 has been a very eventful year, and we still long for the day when our parish masses will be fully attended once more – we hope and pray that the generosity shown by St Peter's parishioners will continue in 2021, and that our projects will command the open-hearted support that has become the tradition for Covenant With the Poor.

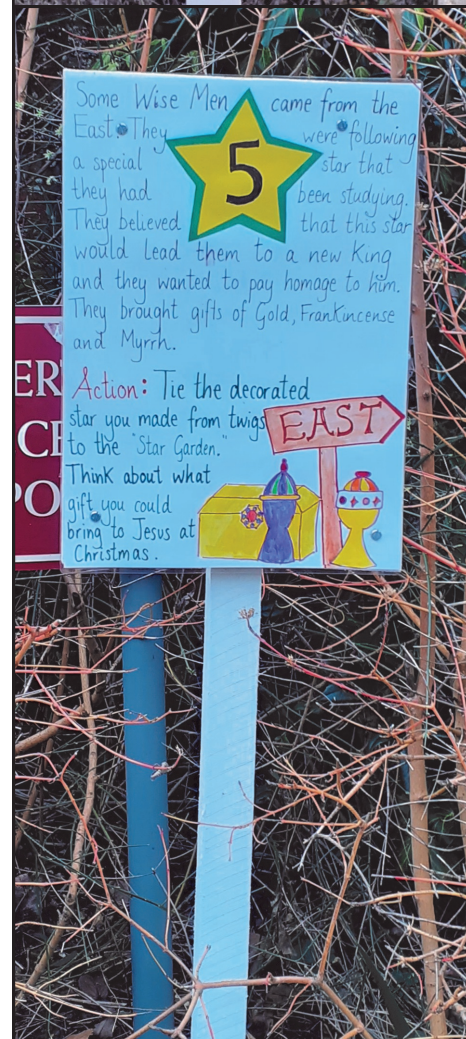
Membership of our team is open to anyone in the parish who would like to take part. We hold quarterly meetings, at present via Zoom, and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10 May at 7.30pm. If you would like to be included, please let us know via the parish office. You could likewise nominate a charity to be supported – we are always open to suggestions.

L) Which woman do all four gospels state discovered the empty tomb?

Children followed the star garden trail



Children were encouraged to follow a star garden trail in the grounds of St Peter's this Christmas. Liza Nahajski's idea for an outdoor crib was inspired by Fr Mohanraj Edward's nativity scene in St Peter's gardens when he was in Winchester. The trail involved children in following the star and discovering, with wonder, Jesus in the crib. With the beautiful figures loaned by St Peter's School lit under a huge star in the parish centre window, all in Winchester could come and reflect on the hope we have in Jesus Christ born for us. It was put together by Colin and Clare Walker, who thought of the 'star garden' and devised the text for each prayer station, and also created instructions and templates for families to make stars and angels at home. Ania Slinn illustrated the boards, Fergus Lyons helped set up on the day and Sarah Layzell co-ordinated.



m) Which apostle was absent when Jesus appeared and doubted his resurrection?

Petercares has reached 300 households

Liz Eastham our new Petercares co-ordinator shares her first impressions about the ministry

I've been in this role for around four weeks and I have to congratulate the whole team on what has been achieved so far.

I'd particularly like to thank Marion Sharpe for the excellent administration of the project to date and for the patient and supportive handover. Marion will now have more time to focus on leading our wonderful SVP. I wish her well and look forward to working closely with her through our respective pastoral ministries and in the interests of those we serve.

Petercares started as a simple project with the aim of linking volunteer parishioner telephone callers with fellow parishioners who might be feeling isolated under the lockdown regulations. It has been a great way of keeping our community connected, passing on information, gathering prayer requests etc. In just a year Pe-



tercares has reached out to almost 300 households. I am extremely impressed with our team of 22 dedicated callers who have undergone the necessary safeguarding and GDPR checks and training.

At the time of writing, they are regularly supporting parishioners from 91 households. Over time, their role has evolved so that they are now not merely a cheery voice on the end of the telephone but also excellent listeners and befrienders to those in our community who may be feeling anx-

ious, have experienced a bereavement or some other kind of loss, or are simply struggling with one of myriads of challenges, great and small, precipitated by the pandemic.

Our callers are extremely well-supported by a team of three supervisors who all have professional expertise in practice supervision. This is an impressive service of which our parish should be proud.

We are aware that there may be parishioners who have not yet received a call but who would appreciate one. Also, there may be parishioners who decided earlier that they did not wish to receive further calls but would now like to do so, or resume doing so. If either of these situations applies please: Phone the parish office and leave your name and contact number on the answering machine (Tel: 01962 852804); or Email petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk with your name and number.

As things, God-willing, begin to move towards normality, Petercares will continue to evolve and develop to ensure that it remains responsive to the changing needs of our parish community. I am grateful to be a part of it.

Michaela set to join the admin staff

Michaela Waterfield will be joining as parish administration manager on 19 April.

She says: "Anyone who knows me well, will tell you that the three most important things in my life are my faith, my family and my work as a primary school teacher. My personal journey in faith began in Basingstoke, my hometown, continued when I made the move to Southampton to train and work as a teacher in a Catholic school, and now it seems, it is leading me to Winchester,

to join you on your journey and to support your parish mission.

"I have never been one to stray too far from home. My parents and siblings still live in the Basingstoke area, but I have made my home in Hedge End, where I live with my husband and two daughters (one a teenager, the other, very much practising!). We enjoy being part of



the City Centre Parish in Southampton and attend St Edmund's Church. I am currently one of the assistant head teachers at Springhill Catholic Primary School, but having taught there for almost 24 years, I am now grasping the opportunity God has given me to grow and serve Him in a different way. I will miss teaching, but I very much look forward to learning with you, from you and to doing all I can to support you in my new role as your parish administration manager."

Quiz answers

- A) Fourteen.
- B) Ostern.
- C) Good Friday
- D) Maundy Thursday.
- E) Gethsemane.
- F) With a kiss.
- G) Malchus (John 18:10)
- H) Simon of Cyrene.
- I) Alexander and Rufus.
- J) Place of the skull.
- K) Pontius Pilate.
- L) Mary Magdalene.
- M) Thomas.

CrossKeys summer edition deadline Monday 21 June. Email editor bmustoe@btinternet.com