Is God calling you into ministry?

JACKIE Twine felt her call from God in a very specific place – a multi-storey car park in Portsmouth city centre.

The 52-year-old mum was working for Portsmouth City Council and was on her way there five years ago. As she approached the lift, she saw an image of herself wearing a dog collar.

It wasn’t something she had experienced before, but she talked to her vicar about it. He had been thinking along similar lines. Now she has responded to God’s call and is training to become a priest.

Not everyone is called by God in such a dramatic way. But Jackie will be talking about her experiences as part of a vocations morning at St George’s Church, Portsea, from 9.30am-12.30pm on March 18.

Those who have already responded to God’s call to ordained ministry will share their experiences. Anyone who has felt the first murmurings of a calling is invited.

Jackie said: “I’d parked my car and as I went towards the lift, I felt as though I was outside of my body and looking down at myself. I saw myself wearing a clerical collar, which came as a shock.

“A couple of years later, the same thing happened in the same car park. I went to see my vicar, Paul Gully, who said he had been waiting two years to have a conversation with me about this!

“Looking back, there had been some difficult and painful times over the past 10 years. But all of those experiences had woven together to bring me to this place.

“I went to see a vocations adviser and said ‘I don’t want to be a priest’, but I read lots of books, saw her each month, and began to realise what was involved and what gifts I could bring.

“Over those 18 months I thought many times about the story of Jonah, but ultimately I did respond to God’s call.

“My mistake was that I didn’t realise how supportive people would be along this journey. But the bishop, vocations adviser, vicar, family and friends were all helpful and encouraging. Perhaps

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Island singers to unite for musical

PROLIFIC Christian composer Roger Jones will present his latest musical on the Isle of Wight this month.

Barnabas will be performed at Ryde Methodist Church at 7.30pm on March 18 and St John’s Church, Newport, at 3.30pm on March 19.

It tells the exciting story of Saul and Barnabas’s trip across the island of Cyprus, as recorded in Acts 13, with songs, choruses and worship.

Roger will bring his own team, and choir members from across the island will also join forces to sing as part of the performance. It is free of charge, with a retiring collection taken.

Rehearsals are taking place at 7.30pm each Monday in St John’s Church. Contact June Cox on if you are interested in joining via trebleclef@btinternet.com.

Roger will also lead a teaching seminar on March 21 at Gunville Methodist Church, about the work of the Holy Spirit. It’s based on his new book Spirit Works.

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Artists stage Easter art exhibition

AMATEUR and professional artists have been invited to contribute to an art exhibition on the theme of Easter.

All Saints Church, Botley, will host an Easter art extravaganza from March 27 until April 1. Children from Botley and Darley C of E Primary Schools will be among those with work displayed.

Budding artists have been urged to produce a painting, sculpture, photo, audio clip, or video that represents Easter for them. The church will then be open from 9am-5pm each day so people can see the artwork.

The curator, the Rev Amy Webb, said: “People have promised they will ‘yarn bomb’ the railings at the front of the church with knitting and pom-poms, make and decorate a cake, create an embroidered banner, and create a woven piece using cane from furniture restoration.

“One of our churchwardens is currently painting a full set of Stations of the Cross!”

For details, contact her on rev.amywebb@yahoo.co.uk
For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:9 NLT. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 NIV. As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Is God Calling You? Is God Calling You? It’s not an easy question to answer, because generally, when God calls us, He intends to take us out and away from the things we consider normal. But just because a situation seems acceptable, this doesn’t mean that it’s right, Godly, or even -- actually -- normal. In our own lives, we spent years trying to serve God within our church, but were never satisfied with the options we were given. Not having undergone the newly implemented Leadership Training Classes, we had little ministry selections available to us other than the Interlocking Chair Set Up an The calling to become God's elect. Jesus Christ foretold a time of increasing troubles, with "wars and rumors of wars," "famines, pestilences and earthquakes" (Matthew 24:6-7 Matthew 24:6-7 [6] And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.Â God is calling people to become His children while living in a confusing world. When you recognize and answer God’s call, you must surrender your life to Him for His purpose.