

## **Catenians today.**

The modern day Catenian Association has changed a great deal since it was founded as the 'Chums' over 100 years ago in Manchester. The Latin word 'Catena' means a link or a chain, and signifies the bonds of faith and support for family life, linking members all over much of the English speaking world.

Members, who refer to each other as brothers, meet monthly to share a meal in local groups called 'Circles'. Any member can attend any circle meeting. Brothers of the Portsmouth Circle, which meets in the Brookfield Hotel in Emsworth on the fourth Monday of every month, have visited many adjacent Circles in recent times. The present Portsmouth president, Peter Armstrong, formerly a Major in the British Army, and currently the M.C. at St Joseph's Church in Havant, has spent his year of office visiting many Circles, often accompanied by other brothers from the Circle.

Each year the President has a nominated charity. Peter Armstrong's chosen charities have been; The Blind Veterans and Rowans, our local Hospice, to which cheques for £630 and £500 respectively have recently been sent.

The Circle also has a Youth Initiative and maintains links with, and has provided financial support for, The University Chaplaincy, and our local secondary schools, St Edmund's and Oaklands. Students have taken part in public speaking competitions, have been assisted to attend Catholic Youth Conferences and given support for individual school projects, such as aid to schools in the developing world and badges marking spiritual development.

Peter has now completed his year as President and can be seen in the photograph welcoming the incoming President Tony Tonks who is also from St Joseph's Parish in Havant. Tony has published his programme for the coming year, which includes dates of functions, monthly pub lunches and regular Ladies Nights.

The Catenians are keen to recruit new members. Anyone interested is invited in the first instance, to speak to any member or to contact the Secretary Stuart Thompson by e-mail on; [stuartthompson@live.co.uk](mailto:stuartthompson@live.co.uk). They will then be invited to attend a meeting and to learn more about the association and its' objectives and current activities.