



## Outreach Report September 2011

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Parish we should like to report back on some of the outreach work being done in our Community, locally, nationally and internationally.

### Coordination of Charity donations

One of the purposes of the Outreach Group is to recommend how money, raised in the parish, should be used to support suitable charities and appeals. Organisers of events and parishioners wanting to nominate help for charities are invited (as are all parishioners) to come to Outreach Group meetings to help with this. We usually meet about every 6 weeks in the Parish Centre, Wednesday or Thursday at 7.30.p.m. (see Church newsletter for dates)

Monies raised by the Christmas Fair 2010 were distributed thus:

Padley Centre	£300.00	
Derby Action for Children	£200.00	
Derby Mental Health Unit	£73.75	
CAFOD Pakistan Appeal	£516.25	+ £65 from Fr Paul's Curries
TOTAL	£1090.00	

Recently a surfeit of funds from sales of Fair Trade goods, was distributed as below

Zambia project	£300
CAFOD	£300
Mickleover Live at Home	£150
Sick and Retired Priests Fund	£150
Padley Centre	£100
TOTAL	£1000

In June 2009, **Derby LIFE** took on the lease of premises at 61 Green Lane, Derby, where a host of willing helpers transformed the ground floor into a Charity shop, established their Care Centre on the first floor, the second floor providing storage and sorting areas. Sales of donated goods fund LIFE's priority -- the work done in counselling clients with pregnancy related problems. Donations of clothes, bric-a-brac, books, toys and music are always welcomed. Any clothing and textile articles which are not suitable for selling can be put into the recycling bin in the car park at church. Proceeds from these goods also go to Derby LIFE. Practical help is given to families in need by supplying baby equipment such as prams, cots etc. Donations of such items are always gratefully accepted as are volunteers who could spare a few hours to help in the shop.

On the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> June this year to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Derby LIFE held an awareness raising event in our parish, with displays, a quiz sheet and a party. As a result of this, 20 new members have joined. They will receive regular newsletters and will make a financial contribution to support the work of LIFE.



For more information see the LIFE website [www.lifecharity.org.uk](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk) or contact Margaret O'Brien (516409) or Barbara Gadsby (01283 734965)

### **Derby Tuesday Club**

A wide range of Club Activities have been received with great enthusiasm. These have included pancake tossing, miming fairy tales and the current project on Bible Stories. Away days included the annual holiday at Easter in Llandudno, a retreat in Scunthorpe, a holiday with Fr Frank at Hinckley and the annual fund raising BBQ at the Irish Club. (contact: Ann Barlow)

### **Mickleover Churches Together .**

MCT endeavours to improve our ecumenical spirit by reaching out to the village community through the various events and activities that are organised. During the past year these have included the Alternative Christmas Market, a week -long indoor Nativity event at St John's, The Women's World Day of Prayer in March, Prayer groups and Friday Frugal lunches during Lent, a Pentecost Service and activities for children each half term. MCT has carried out audits to identify the needs of our local community. This has resulted in support for mums with Toddlers at the Methodist Church, activities for young people and social events for the elderly. Last January's audit identified the necessity of better communication and closer links to work together in the face of cuts in public services. (contact: Marika Dimech)

**The Women on Wednesday (WOW) group** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.30.p.m. to foster friendship and support through social and spiritual evenings, talks, discussions, meals out and trips and have developed links with other groups and agencies. They also offer practical help to those in need at home and abroad. They continue to support a local **Womens Refuge** in Derby, with regular collections of essential items for mothers and their children. The Co Workers gave Easter Eggs to all at the Refuge.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, WOW hosted a meeting to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence. It was well attended and emphasised the importance of the Refuge in assisting women to escape from domestic violence. 2 similar events are planned in other parishes.

(contact for further information - Julie Corden Derby 513846)

## Water for Ghana project.

This year we have welcomed Father Leonard from Ghana to our Parish. The Women on Wednesday and Co workers of Mother Teresa groups have responded very generously to his request for funds to drill a water borehole in a village in his Parish. Since the beginning of February they have raised the full cost of £4125, through donations and fund raising events.

Fr Leonard co-ordinated an African Mass on 10<sup>th</sup> July. We were joined by people from other parishes in a wonderfully colourful event with lively music, singing, dancing and great food afterwards, courtesy of our generous African friends.



Bishop Joseph Osei-Bonsu, Fr Leonard's Bishop, visited us and said Mass for us the following Sunday and hopes to be here for an African Mass next year.

**Our Parish Project** to support an orphanage run by Sister Mary Vianney, in Kaoma began in Lent 2009 and we have pledged our help, initially, for 5 years. Kaoma is in a very poor area, in the Western Province of Zambia. Sr Vianney, a Presentation Nun, started the orphanage for children whose parents had died from Aids. At present there are 150 children in the orphanage and 700 pupils in the Community School. It costs £7000 a month to run the Mission, which gets some income from a farm and a small Guest House. Mary Regan went out to the Mission in May last year and saw the wonderful work being done to help the children and indeed the whole of the local community. Through the generosity of our Parish £12,381 has been raised up to April 2011. Fund raising events have included a Presentation /report evening by Mary after her visit, 2 Concerts organised by Gillian Von Fragstein, a craft day, a stage production, a jumble sale, bacon butties cakes and marmalade sales, auction African and quiz evenings, donations and many more.

Sister Vianney and all her helpers send a big thank you.

*“May the good Lord reward you for your help for our lovely children. Be assured of our prayers and we ask you to pray for and support our children here.”*



### **CAFOD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development)**

Our new CAFOD Project, **CONNECT2** was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April this year, with a Cambodian meal. We have chosen to support a project in Cambodia. It is the small community (64 families) of Samrong Meanchey on the edge of Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital. CAFOD works there through its partner, the Salvation Centre (SCC) to help people support themselves and to educate them about health, sanitation and HIV and AIDS. We have had input from Marie Molloy, our Diocesan CAFOD worker and Clodagh Byrne, recently returned from Samrong Meanchey.

In addition, we continue to support the general work of CAFOD and to respond to its emergency appeals. The recent collection for the drought crisis in Eastern African countries raised over £2000 and still counting. Prior to this, for the year 2010 to 2011, our CAFOD donations so far have amounted to £5071.92, raised through Family Fast days, Appeals, Frugal Lunches and donations. (Parish representative: John Rimmer)

**With grateful thanks** to our generous parishioners who support all these projects (and others!) with their prayers, presence, enthusiasm and donations.

Barbara Hemsworth

Outreach Group Chair (tel 515705)