

Social Responsibility in the Diocese of Wakefield

BARNESLEY'S BOND

Saint Mary's Parish Church in Barnsley was the venue for a moving Jewish Holocaust Memorial Event in January. The pain and shame of the Holocaust was shared by many people of other faiths and cultures. Repentance and a desire to share lessons from the Holocaust experience were

strong features of the Event. All felt that our common humanity had be enhanced. A time of reflection was helped by a spectacular light-show. The whole evening ended with a sumptuous buffet meal.



Faiths and cultures brought together in Barnsley

For crying out loud

HIV/Aids is a major barrier to world development. There are expected to be 26 million Aids Orphans by 2010.

You can help by supporting mission agencies

working in prevention and education.

You don't have to be infected to be affected

The Mothers' Union is making significant impact worldwide on this issue.

Inside this issue:

Up to speed	2
Gordon's Day	2
Partners	3
Access to law	3
Nothing to fear	3
Poem for a person	4
Buzz words	4

The Government are set to reform the law on Domestic Violence.

Among the changes will be:

- *A code of practice to help victims*
- *Increased police powers*
- *Making common assault an arrestable offence*
- *Power to courts to impose a restraining order where the defendant has been acquitted but the victim still needs protection*



Getting up to speed

Justine Wyatt and Heather Wood are at the forefront of helping church members understand the issue of drugs. Understanding the drugs terrain is the best way to help those parents whose children or partners are caught up in the difficult affliction which can easily become an addiction.

Keeping firm in the faith when someone you loves is turned into someone you hardly recognise is an area where Justine and Heather can help.

This educative training provided by Justine and Heather has been highly valued by those who have taken part.

Contact Justine or Heather on
0113 274 4940
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One area where there has been confusion surrounds the reclassification of cannabis. But here's a reminder that the law, and society, is still tough on drugs

Class A

Heroin, cocaine, crack, LSD, ecstasy
Penalties: possession, seven years', jail plus/or unlimited fine, or both;
possession with intent to supply, life imprisonment, unlimited fine or both;
supplying, life imprisonment, unlimited fine or both

Class B

Amphetamines, barbiturates, codeines,
Penalties: possession, five years or unlimited fine, or both;
possession with intent to supply 14 years or an unlimited fine or both;
supplying, 14 years or unlimited fine or both

Class C

Cannabis, GHB, steroids,
Penalties: possession, two years plus/or unlimited fine,
Possession with intent to supply, 14 years' jail plus/or unlimited fine
supplying, 14 years plus or unlimited fine

Gordon's way

Clergy gathered at Illingworth to experience the factors which create social exclusion. In the afternoon, in a back room at the Talbot Inn, **Canon Gordon Dey, Vicar of Holmewood** in the Diocese of Bradford and star of The Parish a YTV programme set the Church's ministry in a positive light. Gordon described the Church's ministry to the socially excluded as a "privilege".

Canon Gordon Dey (*below*) who described his ministry as a "privilege"



We celebrate this ministry because it makes us:

- Design liturgy, teaching and mission programmes without relying on books.
- Encourages people to tell their story
- Sustains the network of community
- Develops relevant and inclusive social programmes

Better together

You are never on your own. That's the message of the partnerships we have in the Diocese. Developing a coincidence of interests to discover the common good and build God's Kingdom is what partnership is about. Besides many informal partnerships our **Social Responsibility Team** have formal Partnerships with **Kirklees MC, Barnsley MBC and Calderdale MBC**. We're willing to work with anyone who seeks to ensure that our Saviours' words "I have come that you may have life and life in all its fullness" become a reality.

Legally binding

Lindsey Rhodes from Wakefield-based Solicitors, Switalski's, came to a meeting of the Diocesan Church in Society Group to talk about her work as a solicitor working in the community.

Access to **Community Legal Services** is important for those who otherwise would be disadvantaged by prohibitive professional fees. Lindsey emphasised the need of access by all sections of society to first-rate legal advice and support.

Confronting the fears

Refugees and Asylum Seekers are made welcome in this country. Our local churches in this Diocese are blessed and enriched by their presence.

But in some places there's a fear that we are being inundated with refugees and asylum seekers. This is not true. Four fifths of the of the world's refugees are received by African and Asian countries.

There's a fear that our welfare and benefit services will be made bankrupt by refugees and asylum seekers. But the evidence reveals that the age profile of the majority of refugees and asylum seekers make little demands on our welfare services. These young people are highly motivated both to support themselves and create wealth.

There is no evidence for the fear of rising crime as a result of immigration.

Finally, there's a fear that our culture will be destroyed or swamped. But the truth is that our culture is greatly enhanced by people from other parts of God's world.

The Old Testament gives us sound teaching about welcoming the foreigner or sojourner. The ministry of hospitality is a gospel command. We have nothing to fear.

◆ HAVE YOU HELPED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS? Many parishes have in the Diocese. CANON IAN GASKELL would like to hear from you. He's trying to form a network of parishes and groups so they get hold of the most up to date information to help this important ministry. Ring 01924 371802 or email: ian.gaskell@wakefield.anglican.org



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY'S
NEWSLETTER

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*".....Communities are served"
(The Diocesan Mission Statement)*

We're on the web!
www.wakefield.anglican.org
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We've heard that...

Diocesan Synod looked at the issue of embryology at their March meeting. Here's a poem which was referred to by the late Sir Patrick Steptoe "to show that doctors and scientists care, and that we share in the bereavement which parents have"

A Tribute to an Embryo

This is a story about a very early embryo,
full of energy,
full of vitality
and full of potential.

Everything seems to be going fine,
then,
the chromosomes stop marching,
the spindles disintegrate
degeneration occurs
and the embryo dies

So small and yet so precious

So small!
Just a few tiny cells.
That speck of life was all we had;
All we had hoped for;
All that we prayed for.

The embryo we had created
Had tried so hard
And struggled to survive;
But never did complete its implantation.

Yet we grieve that death:
The loss was all too real.
For if all had progressed;
If that potential had been fully realized;
This would have been that child
We dreamed about.

Somehow in ways we cannot now define:
That entity of life is held in love,
In God's most tender care

To be a vital part of his creation.

The Disability Discrimination Act will be fully enforceable from October this year. If you're struggling with this, give Ian Watson at Church House a ring. He may be able to help

Those with many years of experience often have spiritual insights. To help your church learn more from the Ageing why not contact Pam Kent who has many resources to help you relate to and engage with this very important social group

Preparations are going well for the special Family Day at the Community of Resurrection's Commemoration Day on 10 July 2004