

SCOOTER

SOCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY



A Monthly Briefing from the Council for Social Responsibility Office

December 2011

A Feast of Christmas Food

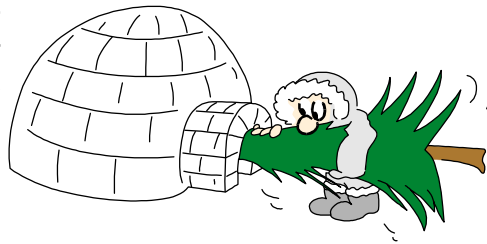
This Christmas and New Year will see the best provision ever for those who are hungry, homeless or socially isolated in Hereford.

A Christmas rota of hot food has been put together by the Churches in Herefordshire Action Team (CHAT) which ensures there are good meals available every day for those in need. The rota runs from Monday 19th December until Monday 2nd January.

As well as good hot food provision throughout the year, the Community Larders in the County make a vital contribution to those who are struggling to survive or to make ends meet.

The Diocese made a stunning response to the recent Harvest Appeal which asked parishes and schools to donate tins for the Community Larders. The response was extraordinary and as well as 5,000 tins of food, generous cash donations were made. A huge thanks to everyone who contributed!

The tins will be invaluable in supplying the Community Larders through the winter months and also in making up Emergency Food Parcels which are given out to families and individuals in desperate need. Cash donations enable fresh food items to be purchased for the parcels.



There is a marked increase this year in the number of referrals from voluntary and statutory agencies for Emergency Food Parcels and an Advent Appeal has now been launched to bring in festive

food items for the Christmas Parcels.

A network of Community Larders is fast developing in the Diocese and a blueprint is available if you think your parish or community needs one.

As well as hot food and company, there is the chance of a good night's sleep at St Peter's Church House during the coldest months of the year for those men who are sleeping rough. The Shelter is open this year from 28th November until 17th March and expert help is on hand to help rough sleepers find long-term accommodation.



For the full rota of Christmas meals or if you would like to volunteer, receive a poster or make a donation to the Advent Appeal, contact Jackie Boys, Social Responsibility Officer, 01432 373311

or email j.boys@hereford.anglican.org or www.hereford.anglican.org

Light in our Darkness



The message of hope and light at Christmas will be offered in a sensitive and peaceful way to families who may be deeply troubled.

A Christmaside service of quiet reflection on the message of hope brought by the Christchild will be held in

the Cathedral.

"The Evening Hour" will take place on Sunday 18th December at 5.30 pm. Some may come to pray for healing in their own lives. Some may come to pray for healing for someone else. Some may come to pray for healing in our broken world. All are welcome.



We wish all our readers a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year!



Just God, Simply Christmas

ALTERnativity began in the churches. Its aim is to recapture some of the values of the first Christmas despite the commercialisation of the season. There is a growing yearning for something different and a dis-ease with what's on offer. Many people comment on the greed which surrounds Christmas, the pressures to conform, the over-indulgence in food and alcohol. Christmas can appear to be a relentless marketing exercise.

The story of the Nativity offers some markers for a Christmas with integrity:

- * It was a simple occasion
- * Many of the characters were poor — the powerful didn't come out of it too well
- * The message of peace was loud and clear.

ALTERnativity offers a range of resources enabling you to reflect on the real meanings of Christmas well into the New Year. This year find ways of doing it more simply!

 Information at www.alternativity.org.uk

HOLY INNOCENTS DAY

Wednesday 28th December
at 3.30 pm in the Cathedral



A Service of Remembrance


for parents who have suffered
the loss of a child,
whether recently or long ago,
and for their families.

*A quiet, gentle service
with space and time
to pray in faith,
to reflect in hope and
to remember in love*

Together at Christmas

With increasing numbers of people falling into poverty, the harsh reality is that for many, Christmas will be just another hurdle to overcome. Downloadable resources to help you and your church explore issues of poverty and to raise vital funds are available from the Church Urban Fund.



 Information and resources at www.cuf.org.uk

Facing Advent (an anxious note to Baby Jesus)

Dear Lord,

I feel tired before it's even started.
The cards (should I bother?)
The presents (who to buy for?)
The decorations (real or artificial?)
The family ... (enough said)
The crowds, the hassle, the weather—
Wake me up when it's all over ...
Will you help me through Advent, dear Lord,
little one?

Give me the grace to greet
you
without suppressed sighs of
weariness.
Give me the generosity to
invite you home
without thought to the inconvenience.
Give me the will to rise to your demands,
to share your love and to receive it.



Extract of poem by Peter Thurston.
Full text at www.methodist.org.uk



This is a MINKY PUBLICATION. For further information contact Jackie Boys, Social Responsibility Officer ☎ 01432 373311 Email j.boys@hereford.anglican.org
The Gateway Office, The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL. www.hereford.anglican.org

Domestic Violence Helpline

Shropshire & Herefordshire Helpline

☎ 0800 783 1359

Free 24-hour National Helpline

☎ 0808 2000 247

In an emergency dial 999