

SCOOTER

SOCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY



A Monthly Briefing from the Council for Social Responsibility Office

February 2010

SELFLESS OR SELFISH?



One month into 2010 and it seems the “noughties” exited with a vengeance leaving in their wake a month of bitter cold, snows and frosts not seen in the

Diocese since the early 1980’s.

Whilst the Winter Wonderland experience brought joy to hundreds of children and pleasure to those able to enjoy the scenery at their leisure, for those housebound or dependent on the infrastructure systems for their livelihoods, the snow and ice presented far more of a threat to their peace and wellbeing.

The television reported regularly from around the country of small towns and villages rallying round to support each other, more than once using the over-worked reference to the “blitz spirit”, as if our very lives were at risk from this secret army of Jack Frosts, and for some this truly was the case.

So, the question is how did we fare in the Diocese? Are we full of this essence which we consider so very British? Did we troop outside with shovels and shopping bags to help our neighbours? Or did we simply return to another of our favourite personality traits, the siege mentality, and bolt the doors determined to dig-in and wait out the big freeze?

It is undoubtedly the case that times of extreme hardships do indeed bring out both the best and the worst of human nature.

As Christians we should of course be more inclined to the former, but as human beings, we are far too frequently drawn to the latter, as survival is generally a stronger motivator for human actions than benevolence.

However, those that are drawn to be self-seeking do not necessarily work to the detriment of the communities in which they live or work. For example, if everyone

shovelled away the ice from outside their own driveways, then the whole pavement would eventually be cleared, enabling individual acts of selfishness to benefit all. It’s worth remembering that philosophers have been arguing about *The Virtue of Selfishness* ever since Plato wrote *The Republic*!

However, putting ethics to one side, we would like to hear how your parish or community managed during January. Did you come across examples of charity or selfishness? Has something good and creative taken root, which may continue to grow throughout the new decade? Have new community initiatives started locally as a direct response to the cold snap to help the less able and vulnerable? Did you witness something which may have originally been an act of selfishness, but which has actually benefited others?

If you have any interesting stories about your community and how it faced the challenges of this winter, please let us know. *Send your stories and anecdotes to Shelagh Callaghan, CSR Projects Officer, s.callaghan@hereford.anglican.org*



Matters of Life and Death

(Or all you ever wanted to know about dying but were afraid to ask!)

National Death Awareness Week

Herefordshire Bereavement Forum present a standing exhibition in
All Saints Church, Hereford,
15th - 21st March

With a panel for questions and answers on
17th March, 2.30pm

- For more information about the event, contact Revd David Vonberg at St Michael’s Hospice
☎ 01432 851000

SOCIAL JUSTICE



The 20th February was proclaimed the World Day of Social Justice by the United Nations in 2007 and was observed for the first time in 2009.

However, it seems appropriate this year, with a General Election looming, that the aims of the World Summit for Social Justice are remembered, especially when deciding where to put your cross on Election Day.

Social justice is about solidarity, harmony and equality within and among all countries. Likewise, social justice, equality and equity constitute the fundamental values of all societies.

To achieve "a society for all" governments made a commitment to promote social justice at national, regional and international levels and pledged to promote the equitable distribution of income and greater access to resources through equity and equality and opportunity for all.

Governments also recognised that economic growth should promote equity and social justice and that "a society for all" must be based on social justice and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Almighty God,
you have given all peoples one common origin,
and your will is to gather them as one family in yourself.

Fill the hearts of all with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our sisters and brothers.

By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure justice and equality for every human being,

and a human society built on love and peace,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



CASH IN ON TOURISM



Tourism is a major industry within the Diocese and 55% of tourists include a visit to the local church in their days out sight-seeing.

This is good news, not only for the churches, but also for the village store, the local pub, and other small businesses because people like to buy a memento of their visit. To enable churches to make the most of these opportunities there are moves afoot to set up a Shropshire Churches Tourism Group, similar to that already working in Herefordshire.

- For more information about the initiative contact Anni Holden, Diocesan Communications Officer, ☎ 01432 373 or email a.holden@hereford.anglican.org



SNAIL-MAIL

CSR is always looking at ways to cut costs and also do its bit towards a greener future. Whilst in recent years we have cut down on the number of *Scooter* recipients who have their copy posted to them, we do still have quite a large postal mailing list.

- If you have email and are happy to swap snail-mail for an e-version of *Scooter*, please make the change by emailing Shelagh Callaghan at: s.callaghan@hereford.anglican.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

Shropshire & Herefordshire Helpline

☎ 0800 783 1359

Free 24-hour National Helpline

☎ 0800 2000 247



In an emergency phone 999



This is a MINKY PUBLICATION. For further information contact Jackie Boys, Social Responsibility Officer ☎ 01432 373311 Email j.boys@hereford.anglican.org or Shelagh Callaghan, Projects Officer, ☎ 01432 373310 s.callaghan@hereford.anglican.org. The Gateway Office, The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL. www.hereford.anglican.org