

SCOOTER

SOCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY



A Monthly Briefing from the Council for Social Responsibility Office

July 2010

SEVEN HUNDRED SUPPORTED!

CHAT

More than 700 people have been helped by the Churches in Herefordshire Action Team through the Community Larder, which is open twice a week at Hereford Baptist Church.

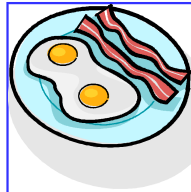
The Larder, which introduced a voucher system in May 2009, has gone from strength to strength, with a growing number of volunteers, more agencies supporting the project and a greater number of donor churches. This was boosted earlier this year when Sainsbury's in Hereford became the Larder's *Food-Partner*, meaning that any slightly damaged canned or boxed food is given to CHAT for use at the Larder or at the churches hot-food outlets across the City.

Recent research at the Larder shows that in the twelve months from May 2009, 398 vouchers were exchanged for food parcels, helping 722 individuals, whilst a further 27 family boxes were distributed directly from the Social Responsibility office to Social Services and other agencies working with families in crisis.

The Churches which provide free hot food are also seeing an increase in the number of people receiving a meal with an average of 40 people per session. Recent research into hot-food provision in Hereford suggests that while around a third of these are homeless, some choose to attend as this is the only social contact they have in their lives.

Nevertheless, whatever the reason people are choosing to use CHAT provisions, the hot meals are an invaluable service, which not only offers company and a sustaining meal but also demonstrates the compassion which as Christians we are called on to show in our lives.

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VOLUNTEERING FOR CHAT

As you can imagine it takes a lot of people to support the CHAT projects, with volunteers at the Larder and at eleven hot meal sessions across Hereford.

However, if you talk to the people who do volunteer, they will tell you that it is worthwhile and often fun, giving an opportunity to do something really meaningful.

If you do not have time to give, but would like to donate cash or food, these are most welcomed. Some churches and organisations have set up a basket at their place of work for people to drop in a tin of food, which is collected for the Larder.

- If you would like to volunteer your time to help either at the Larder or with hot food provision, or if you would like to set up a collection point in your church, school or work-place, contact Shelagh Callaghan, CSR Projects Officer and CHAT coordinator on ☎ 01432 373310, email: s.callaghan@hereford.anglican.org

HARVEST HELP

If your church or school would like to support CHAT projects we would welcome your contribution!

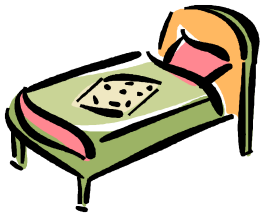
Because of storage facilities, tinned or dried foods are preferred and a list of most-used items is available.

Collection can be arranged at a time to suit you and if you are a primary school Bertie Bear is available to come along and talk to the children about giving and how it's good to help others.

- For more information contact Shelagh (details above!)



SOS FROM SHYPP!



If you live in Herefordshire and have a spare room, you may be able to help a vulnerable young person, between the ages of 16-17 years, by providing temporary bed and lodgings.

SHYPP (Supporting Herefordshire's Young People Project) is introducing a Supported Lodgings Scheme, to supplement its existing Nightstop project.

The Scheme is for young people who have been made homeless as a result of family breakdown and SHYPP needs hosts who can provide a supportive and encouraging environment and who are prepared to look after young people who have nowhere to go, whilst a longer term alternative is sought.

Hosts will receive a payment for the provision of lodgings and support whilst the person stays with them. The hosts will need to undergo an enhanced CRB check, as appropriate for this type of situation.

The length of the placement will vary, depending on the young person's support needs and how long it takes to move them into more independent living, as well as the availability of suitable accommodation.

SHYPP works in Herefordshire with 16-25 year olds, offering emergency and medium term accommodation in supported housing projects, outreach support to young people and young parents, a 'Nightstop' emergency accommodation project and education in schools.

- *If you think you have what it takes to become a Supported Lodgings Provider please contact Duncan McLeod at SHYPP, Supporting Lodgings Service, ☎ 01432 374320*



AN ECUMENICAL WELCOME

Churches Together in Shropshire has brought out a simple *Code of Practice* for making a Formal Ecumenical Welcome in churches.

There are over 300 villages in Shropshire with only one place of Christian worship and with an ever increasing diversity of denominational membership, there is going to be more diversity of those attending the village church.



In these places Christians of different traditions will often combine loyalty to their particular denomination with a desire to worship and witness locally, which is much to be encouraged, and helps to strengthen a Christian Presence.

Few congregations in these places are made up of a single denomination. Informal ecumenism of this sort occurs widely and is a great source of mutual strength, much welcomed.

- *If your village church is in this situation, you may wish to consider making a Declaration. For more information, or a copy of the new Code of Practice, contact the secretary of Churches Together in Shropshire, Ged Cliffe, ☎ 01691 831374 email:ged.cliffe@tiscali.co.uk*

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