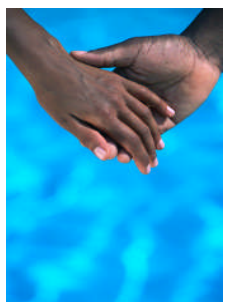


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## ***Everybody's Welcome!***

### ***A Church that Repairs or Repels?***

I recently read about a mother who had become embroiled and imprisoned in a "religious" cult in America. She had been forced into a polygamous marriage, held captive and had eventually tried to escape with her eight children.

Find out what happened to this family on page 3

## ***Valuing Difference – ten years on!***

The part that people with disabilities play within the Church is not one that we assign to them, nor one that they assume for themselves. Rather, it is a response to the calling to Christ given to them in baptism.'

How far have we come in the light of the Valuing Difference Report see page 5

## ***Living in a Multi Faith Britain***

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Phil Butcher reviews the Commission's 2008 Conference with key note speakers Michael Barnes SJ and Harjinder Singh

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## ***Women's World Day of Prayer***

An inspiring talk given by Davina Bolt at St Teresa's, Newbury Park Starting on page 20 the talk is reproduced in full



## ***Coming soon to a school near you!***

Phil and Davina bring the work of the Commission to local schools.

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## ***Foreword***

“I was very honoured when the Bishop asked me to chair the CJSR. I certainly look forward to working with its officers, Phil Butcher, Davina Bolt and Elisabeth Abbott as well as other members of the Commission.

Every individual and community will, one day, have to make a response to Christ’s personal challenge about what I/we did for the dispossessed, the broken, the weak and the marginalised. The parish groups and different societies of our Diocese do excellent work in this part of the Lord’s vineyard. Our commission is, on behalf of our Bishop, to provide an overview of such essential work and provide whatever support we can. Modern society grows more complex as the world shrinks, populations move and the need for support at every level becomes more vital. Throughout Essex and the five London boroughs, individuals and groups in our diocese implement the teaching of the Eucharist to transform lives for the better, to heal, strengthen and enhance. I know I speak for fellow members of the Commission when I say we are very proud to play our part in such an essential process.”

Dr Paul Doherty (Chairman)

### ***The New Commission Members are:***

Bishop Thomas McMahon	President
Dr Paul Doherty	Chairman
Phil Butcher	Director
Davina Bolt	Assistant Director
Elisabeth Abbott	Secretary
Father Dan Mason	Chaplain
Keith Fernet	Anchor House
Father Andrzej Forys	Polish Community Co-ordinator
Denise Grierson	CaFOD
Neil Jameson	London Citizens
Father Graham Smith	Marriage and Family Life
Sr Margaret Gallagher	
	Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Sr Teresa Ann Hughes	CRSS
Frank Maguire	Social Care

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### ***Everybody's Welcome!***

#### ***A Church that Repairs or Repels?***

I recently read about a mother who had become embroiled and imprisoned in a “religious” cult in America. She had been forced into a polygamous marriage, held captive and had eventually tried to escape with her eight children. She could only do this in the dead of night as she was in a community where different families shared the house. Gradually she had wakened and gathered her children and made her way to the car. Breathing a sigh of relief that she had made it thus far she put the key in the ignition and turned her head and counted only seven heads. What could she do? A terrible choice – did she leave the child and save the seven or risk everything and return to find the lost child. She decided in a flash that there was only one choice – to attempt to save the lost child. Again, creeping through the darkness and worrying that every creaking board would wake the household she found the child and made her escape to the welcome arms of her brother who had parked a few safe miles away.

For many of us we thankfully never experience this form of captivity but it is a story that sadly is repeated time and again, not in some country

thousands of miles away but on our own doorsteps. As the poet Richard Lovelace wrote “*Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage*”. We see evidence of many forms of prison and these can indeed range from those caught up in cults to those trapped in addiction in its various forms and many others in between.

I feel privileged on occasions to be able to perform the “welcome ministry” at my parish church. This can sometimes be interpreted as handing out the newsletters or hymn books and maybe a the occasional smile to a parishioner. Whilst I know many of the people coming in, there are others I don’t and they will simply become part of the throng. I never know and never question why someone walks through the doors of any church but fully understand that this simple act may have been their escape from a prison they inhabit in their daily lives. The question that does linger in my mind and focuses my energy is “are we a church that repairs or one that repels?”. I spoke recently with a mother who, for whatever reason, felt that she was unable to even set foot inside a church. It took the celebration of her daughter’s First Holy Communion and the encouragement of those who knew and loved her to help her make that all important first significant step. How fragile that existence and how easy to trample the dream.

We each have a significant role to play in providing a basis for a welcoming, inclusive, family sensitive and friendly parish. Our friends are often simply a stranger we met some time ago.

However, even in the best run communities there can sometimes be a lack of real care shown to the “stranger in our midst”. Speaking with another person recently she commented that she had been in a parish for many years – everyone knew that she was alone yet not one person had ever invited her to their home, shared a meal or even some time with her in their family. Some may say that she could and should “make the first move”. However, like the mother who felt that she was not worthy to set foot inside the church – that move can be difficult.

Whilst many of us lead exceptionally busy lives, for others each day can be long without ever having the opportunity to speak with another human being. The Gospel challenges us to “welcome the stranger”, but by their nature strangers come in a variety of forms. With respect for the individual we need to open the circle to let one another in and be alert to the silent cry for inclusion.

As we approach the wonderful celebration of Easter and reflect upon the fact that Christ died and rose again for all of us, let us pray that we continue to extend out hearts and our hands to the strangers in our midst.

Have a Happy, Holy and Blessed Easter.



Phil

*“Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember to always welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them”*

**Hebrews 13:1-3**

## ***Valuing Difference – ten years on!***

The first part of the Disability Discrimination Act came onto the statute books in 1995 and dealt with the provision of goods and services to disabled people. Later employment, access to buildings and access to information were added. At first the Act was policed by the Disability Rights Commission and it is now covered by the Human Rights Commission along with other discrimination issues such as race and gender.

In 1998 the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales published ‘Valuing Difference’. In the introduction Cardinal Basil Hume writes;

‘The part that people with disabilities play within the Church is not one that we assign to them, nor one that they assume for themselves. Rather, it is a response to the calling to Christ given to them in baptism.’

The report is intended for everyone who wants the Church, the body of Christ, to grow through a closer communion of all its members. It offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for renewal based on Christ’s love and respect for the individual. It does not assume that its message

is only for one audience because the mission of the Church is common to us all. It identifies people with disabilities as a specific part of the Church only insofar as there is a need for each of us to reach out to one another, and in particular to those who may not have felt included in the past. So, people with disabilities, their families and carers, are encouraged to take their rightful place as equal members of the Church, with gifts to bring to its life and mission.

These words come from 'Valuing Difference' and are just as valid now as they were ten years ago. But how much has changed in those ten years? Are all the members of the body of Christ being valued as they should.

Accessibility is expressed through the attitudes, values and actions of members of the Church, as well as in the removal of barriers which impede entry and participation. Removing the physical barriers is usually the easier option. There is a great deal of advice available for churches on how to make their buildings accessible. The most effective source is the local authority Access Officer, who will have all the information on building control which is especially useful when changes need to be made. Organisations such as Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) are an invaluable source for information on signage, large print, posters and websites.

What is frequently forgotten when making physical changes to a building is that those changes will more often than not benefit the whole community not just those people seen to have disabilities. Ramps and wider aisles will help mums with pushchairs. Well marked steps and clearly designated pathways are much easier to negotiate for everyone. Good initial design and involvement of everyone who will be using the building from the beginning is vitally important. Having to go back and put things right later is usually more costly and more disruptive. On the whole most churches have removed the barriers to access wherever they could and the net result has been positive.

The one we are still struggling with is 'attitude'. People with disabilities aren't alone in feeling marginalised, there are many groups in today's society who have similar problems and who feel excluded. Changing the way we look at other people isn't easy. Over the years we have learned to be judgemental. How someone looks, moves or communicates sets up prejudices which are hard to set aside. Such

judgements are usually the result of lack of knowledge and embarrassment.

The most effective thing we can do, and it is often the hardest, is to see the person behind the disability and not the disability itself. It is an experience I have had on more than one occasion. I can vividly remember a job interview in which most of the questions were not about my ability as a teacher but how I functioned as a blind person. And on more than one occasion I have sat at a bus stop and had another passenger having a long conversation with my guide dog whilst seeming totally unaware that I was on the other end of the lead. To put it simply I describe myself not 'as a registered blind person' but as 'an ordinary person who doesn't see too well'.

Through the Roof is a Christian organisation working to promote the inclusion of disabled people in church. It is a valuable resource and includes projects for children and young people amongst its campaigns. It produces a series of Roofbreaker Guides which can be downloaded from the website. These guides deal elegantly with changing attitudes towards people with disabilities and include information for people with a range of disabilities such as physical, sensory, and learning difficulties. A phrase which appears at the end of each guide is, 'Assume nothing – always ask!'

If we only take away that last phrase 'Assume nothing – always ask!' and the willingness to value someone for who they are and not for their disability or their colour or their culture, we will become the welcoming community that is the body of Christ just as the Bishop's conference showed us ten years ago.

**Elisabeth Abbott**

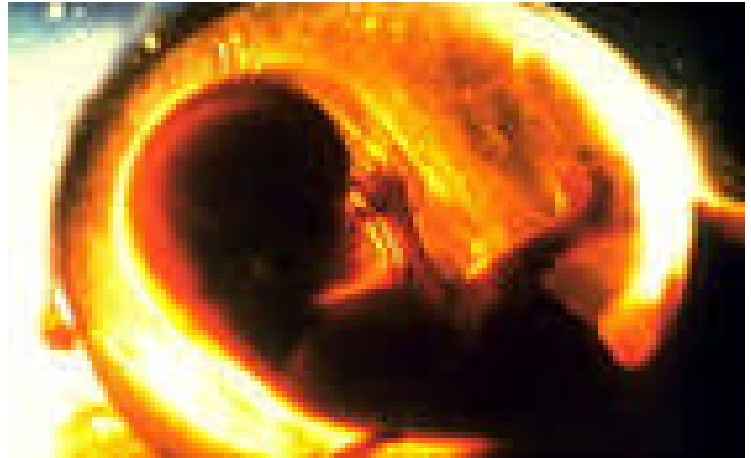
You can download a copy of Valuing Difference from [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

Roofbreaker Guides are available from [www.throughtheroof.org](http://www.throughtheroof.org)

Itzhak Perlman was an Israeli violinist who at the age of 4 had polio, wore braces on his legs and walked with crutches. During a concert where he was playing a violin concerto one of his strings broke. Instead of calling for a new violin he finished playing the concerto on three strings. The audience gave him a standing ovation and asked him to speak. His words were very simple but given the middle east situation at the time, very poignant. He said "Our task is to make music with what we have."

## ***Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill***

This Bill seeks to extend the scope of scientific research on Human Embryos and even allows the creation of animal and human hybrids. It also seeks to prevent a child knowing the identity of the biological father and there is every chance that it will be used as a vehicle to liberalise the abortion laws even further.



This whole issue raises the deepest moral concerns which are shared by many people of all faiths.

This matter was the subject of a recent Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Cormack and has been tirelessly challenged by Bishop Thomas – most recently at the Pro-Life meeting in Westminster at the beginning of February.

Now that the HFE Bill has passed through the House of Lords and awaits the Commons, it is important to pause and reflect. It is vital that we act now to limit the provisions of this Bill. We ask you to write to or meet with your MP and urge them to support the amendments which will limit this Bill, and to recognise the need for children to have knowledge of their biological fathers which would reduce rather than increase the numbers of abortions.

In the previous readings all the key pro-life amendments were lost and all the controversial components of the Bill pushed through. One of the reasons for this failure is that the government “whipped” their members to vote for the Bill and against pro-life amendments (with the exception of abortion amendments). This is unusual for Bills of this kind. Normally highly controversial matters of conscience, e.g. matters relating to the status of the embryo are made the subject of a free vote where MP’s are allowed to vote freely according to their conscience.

In 1990 when the first Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill went through Parliament the then government granted free votes up until the third reading stage. Many MPs are unhappy about not having

a free vote and feel that the usual conventions should be observed. In this context a very important e-Petition has been posted on the 10 Downing Street website, <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/embryovote> which asks Gordon Brown to ensure that Labour MPs are given a free vote with regard to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill.

**Please do sign the petition. The deadline for this is the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 – Don't delay!**

For more information contact CJSR on 01277 265290 or visit our website [www.dioceseofbrentwood.org/jsr](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.org/jsr)

**Phil Butcher**

“A coward is incapable of exhibiting love: it is the prerogative of the brave”

Mahatma Ghandi

## ***New Resources!!!***

### ***Home is a Holy Place: Resource Pack***



Phil Butcher, accompanied by his wife Kathy, attended the Spring meeting of the Diocesan Coordinators for Marriage and Family Life. Part of this meeting was the launch of a new and exciting DVD “Home is a Holy Place”. Feedback from the launch indicated that the DVD and its supporting material is “. *Very helpful in making the point about holiness in the home. Will make a good starting point for people wanting to identify and work at their family spirituality. Good to see the ethnic mix and variety of experiences – likely to ‘connect’ with most viewers.*”

We have ordered sufficient packs for every parish. As soon as these become available we will be launching this at a series of events across the diocese.

### ***No Hands But Ours***

“No Hands But Ours” is a new resource recently launched as an ecumenical project in the Archdiocese of Westminster. It contains an interactive CD, which includes a range of specially filmed “Beacons of Hope” video stories of volunteers working at the grassroots on issues including homelessness, refugees, Fair Trade and peace, together with interviews with some of London’s church leaders. Produced by the Diocese of Westminster’s Justice and Peace Commission, the Diocese of London together with the London Church Group for Social Action, the resource also includes a 28 page booklet packed with information, ideas and spiritual inspiration and details of other resources. We have pre-ordered a number of copies to help both forming and established groups who are keen to work in this area.

For more information or to register an interest in either of these resources please contact CJSR

## ***Marriage Care – Brentwood Diocese – Marriage Preparation 2008***

**Marriage Care has made two types of marriage preparation course available in the diocese**

### **One day group courses**

<b>Date of course</b>	<b>Location of course</b>	<b>Booking contact &amp; Telephone number</b>		<b>Marriage Care Centre</b>
12 April	Rayleigh	Joyce Brown	01702 586988	Southend
19 April	Walthamstow	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford
17 May	Rayleigh	Joyce Brown	01702 586988	Southend
24 May	Brentwood	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford
28 June	Rayleigh	Joyce Brown	01702 586988	Southend
28 June	Walthamstow	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford
26 July	Rayleigh	Joyce Brown	01702 586988	Southend
26 July	Barkingside	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford
17 Aug	Walthamstow	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford
13 Sept	Rayleigh	Joyce Brown	01702 586988	Southend
20 Sept	Walthamstow	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford
11 Oct	Rayleigh	Joyce Brown	01702 586988	Southend
22 Nov	Barkingside	Lucy Williams	020 8227 1068	Ilford

## **Foccus – one provider working with one couple.**

Individual arrangements are made with each couple to be seen during the day, in the evenings or at weekends, whichever suits them best.

For appointments contact the Marriage Care National Appointment line – 0800 389 3801

Or in the Ilford area - Glenda Spencer – 020 590 7775 – email [glenda.spencer@dhl.com](mailto:glenda.spencer@dhl.com)

Or in the Southend area - Veronica Micklewright – 01702 230805 – email [dmickle10@talktalk.net](mailto:dmickle10@talktalk.net)

**Note: - The Chelmsford Marriage Care Centre now only offers Foccus and has 7 trained providers available all year round.**

## ***Are children being ‘damaged by materialism’?***

Most adults in the UK believe that children's well-being is being damaged because childhood has become too commercial, a lifestyle poll has found. The poll was carried out on behalf of the Children's Society and showed how concern is growing that children are being bombarded with advertising for the latest must have toys and clothes. The children's market is worth an estimated £30bn a year.

Many parents who were interviewed for the BBC Today programme felt that constant advertising on some of the children's channels made it hard for them to resist the pressure from their children to have the latest toys. One parent said that she now regularly tuned to CBeebies just to avoid the adverts; another said that as a parent she had to be consistent and teach her children that they couldn't have everything that they wanted.

As chief executive of the National Schools Partnership, Mark Fawcett brings business and marketing into schools, and he believes you cannot shield children from the real world.

"We have to live in the current communications era where children can see a huge amount of information," he told BBC TV news.

"We have to use our judgement and we have to, as an industry, make sure we are working with children and families, and not exploiting them."

Bob Reitemeier, chief executive of the society, said: "A crucial question raised by the inquiry is whether childhood should be a space where developing minds are free from concentrated sales techniques.

"To accuse children of being materialistic in such a culture is a cop-out," he said. Unless we question our own behaviour as a society we risk creating a generation who are left unfulfilled through chasing unattainable lifestyles."

The evidence on lifestyle is part of a six-part series of investigations published by the Children's Society for a continuing inquiry into childhood in the UK which brings together the views of academics, religious communities, teachers, local authorities and authors.

Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is patron of the inquiry, said: "Children should be encouraged to value themselves for who they are as people rather than what they own."

**Elisabeth Abbott**

(Sources : BBC News website.)

"If you want girls to love you, tell them you own a whole chain of toy shops"

Dan Aged 6

"The Sixty Second Marriage" by Rob Parsons, Hodder & Stoughton.

### ***Thomas' Story***

Thomas is 5 and in the Reception Class. Last week on his way to school he found 1p in his Mummy's shoe and another 2p when he reached the bus stop. He was thrilled, 'I can show these to my teacher because we have been doing coins in class,' he told his mum. They had both forgotten about the 'Used Toy Sale' at school to raise money for Lenten Alms that Year 6 was holding later that day

When Thomas got to school he showed his coins but his teacher thought that was his money for the toy sale. She was quietly amused and when he got to the sale that afternoon she told him that the Blue DinoThunder Ranger he really liked was 3p. He looked at other toys but didn't have enough money.

When his mum came to collect him she saw other children coming out with bags of toys they had bought and felt bad that she had forgotten to give him spending money too. He came out very proudly with his DinoThunder Ranger, and said happily, 'I liked lots of other toys but I chose this one because it was what I could afford.'

He's learning more than just the names of the coins.

**Elisabeth Abbott**

"I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no more hurt but only more love"

"We cannot do great things – only small things with great love."

Mother Theresa

## ***Children's Homes in Zimbabwe***

Emerald Hill Children's Home, run by the Dominican Sisters, in Harare, Zimbabwe is in need. Relying largely on charitable donations, they provide a "home" for innocent and vulnerable young people. The youngsters are often affected by the AIDS trauma, rejection and/or abuse, and simply being "lost", literally not knowing where their roots are or where they are from. Ages range between 3 and "independence". For more information, email [ehome@mweb.co.zw](mailto:ehome@mweb.co.zw)

Eden Children's Village, in Doma, North West Zimbabwe, cares for around 175 children between 2 weeks and about 12 years of age, with the same problems as above. It runs 5 differently structured programmes according to the needs of the children. Some children live within the community, the project further reaches out to many others in the local community. People walk up to 35 miles for their assistance, such is their desperation. Assisted by American based churches and

various Christian groups it too is in need of help. For more information, email [ervestpl@mweb.co.zw](mailto:ervestpl@mweb.co.zw)

Couple the above with the internal situation within the country, need I say more?

This is why these homes are the focus of our Parish Project. Coming from near Harare, money raised, articles donated, go directly to these homes by kindness of one of our parishioners who returns there once or twice a year.

**Fr. Paul Fox**

### ***Rich World – Poor World Meal: Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School***

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 the Justice and Peace group held a 'Rich World, Poor World meal' to try and highlight unfairness in the world: how we have more than enough food to eat, yet people starve in countries like Africa. Previously we had been selling tickets for £1 each, putting up posters and talking in assemblies to raise as much awareness as possible.

On Friday lunchtime it was with great nervousness that many pupils (and teachers!) approached the hall, wondering whether they would be one of the select few 'rich people' with yellow stickers, or in the majority as 'poor'. A Year 8 pupil, who on discovering that her best friend would be somebody wealthy and yet she was one of the 'poor', came and cried to me 'It's just not fair!'; a simple statement which greatly highlighted the effectiveness of this event.

Inside the hall music was playing and a slideshow reflected the sixth form pupils' visit to Kenya, to illustrate even more just how divided our world is. The differences were also apparent from the fact that the 'rich' people were seated at a table with a meal of chicken and rice, whereas the 'poor' received a bowl of rice, sitting on the hall floor!

The event was an extremely effective one in getting people to think about the issues of justice and peace today, and we were thrilled to have raised approximately £106; money which we can use to help charities and try and change some of this unfairness. The Justice and Peace group were very grateful to Mrs Allison and her team of caterers who very generously gave up their time to produce the delicious food to make our meal such a success.

We would like to remind everyone that in our world:

*There is enough for man's need, but not for man's greed!*

**Amy Webster 11J**

Member of the Justice and Peace group  
Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School

## ***Fair Wine for the Faithful!***



We are all used to a variety of Fairtrade products ranging from tea and coffee to clothing. However, at last ethically minded mass goers can now drink communion wine safe in the knowledge that there has been no exploitation involved in its production.

*Poterion* – which is named after the Greek for cup – is a blended wine that fulfils the requirements of Canon Law, that is “ it is fermented juice of the grape and good and wholesome”. *Poterion* is also of a consistent high quality. Because it is fortified and has a high sugar content it will keep fresh (important for smaller parishes).

The wine has recently been launched as part of Fairtrade Fortnight. It is competitively priced and recent comparisons showed that it was actually cheaper than a comparable alternative product.

For more information please contact either  
[www.poterionfairtrade.co.uk](http://www.poterionfairtrade.co.uk) or CJSR.



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# *Living in a Multi Faith Britain*

## *Sharing the Common Good*

On a crisp February morning with the music of Bhangra drums resounding in our ears the annual conference of the Commission was opened by Bishop Thomas. In his opening remarks he reflected on the focus of the work and highlighted some of the recent achievements made.



The theme of the conference was timely as recent comment and press articles prompted by both Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Cormack Murphy-O'Connor have raised the debate even higher. One thing is patently evident; we live in a country that for many centuries has welcomed an increasingly diverse range of immigrants. It is this diversity which has led to great strength. Our food, our music our very lives have changed and adapted as we encompass an even wider range of cultures.

Following Bishop Thomas's opening address the conference heard from the Director, Phil Butcher, who outlined both the Commission's aims along with a number of recent achievements. These included the initiative to bring English to speakers of other languages, an initiative spearheaded by Davina Bolt, and the work to create an "academy" focusing on the needs of families. It was very pleasing to be able to announce that the Commission is in line to receive significant funding to energise a number of programmes to both train and support key workers in this area. Phil highlighted the importance of his and Davina's visits to parishes to talk about the work of the Commission and encourage every parish to form a CJSR group. As part of the agreed future objectives, it is hoped to visit every school in the diocese, and already some visits have taken place.

The key note speakers, Fr Michael Barnes SJ and Harjinder Singh, both entertained and enlightened the collective audience. Whilst approaching their talks from a different perspective they both made it clear that there is a need to talk with our neighbours to try to

understand and develop the many different threads of society. Many myths abound in our society and Harjinder was happy to set the record straight on many – including the fact that Sikhs have only one wife – and he showed a picture to prove it!



The afternoon session allowed everyone to ponder both the “stepping stones and stumbling blocks” which prevent a harmonious relationship within society. Whilst the results are still being analysed it is clear that *fear* plays a huge part in preventing the initial contact which is so important in breaking down prejudice.

There is an exciting year ahead – full of promise. The programme will seek to engage with parishes and parish groups to further the work of the commission and ultimately have some impact on making this world a better place for all.

**Phil Butcher**

*“For I was hungry and you fed me, naked and you clothed me, a stranger and you welcomed me, in prison and you visited me”*

## ***South African Choir comes to Forest Gate***



The celebrated Imilonji KaNtu Choir from South Africa, are making a whistle-stop tour of a number of Churches and Cathedrals in April. Their name (roughly translated) means “Sweet Sounds” and they are one of South Africa's most prestigious choirs. The Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society was founded in 1983 by choristers from Soweto. The group has performed at music festivals around the world, as well as at the inauguration ceremonies of former president Nelson Mandela in 1994 and President Thabo Mbeki in 1999.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the choir will perform at St Anthony's Church – Forest Gate on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 pm.

For more information regarding Imiloji KaNtu [www.imilonji.co.za/](http://www.imilonji.co.za/)  
For tickets and further information regarding the concert contact [music@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:music@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

***“Piwnica sw Norberta” Group  
from Krakow in Poland  
invites you to a concert  
“The Symphony of Seven Cultures”***

Today’s world with its noise and fast moving leaves very little room for a deeper reflection. **“The symphony of seven cultures”** concert invites you to take a break from what is occupying our life today, – work, running after more money, fulfilling life ambitions and plans – and to reflect on your life as part of a wider multicultural heritage.

It’s not a coincidence this concert was put together in Krakow, a city placed on the crossroads of great merchant routes, a city which for centuries was a meeting place for people of different nationalities, religions, views and languages. From the stage you will hear music drawing inspiration from the Polish, Jewish, Balkan as well as English and Irish cultures.

In January 1992 **“The Piwnica sw Norberta”** gave its first concert in the cellars of St Norbert’s Church in Krakow. It has ever since been part of the artistic life of Krakow, giving concerts every Tuesday and presenting a wide range of musical styles from meditative through classical to jazz and even rock music. The group also represented Krakow in many European cities including Lvov, Frankfurt, Innsbruck, Pecs, Budapest, Stockholm and Rome.

Here are the dates and the venues for the concerts in Brentwood Diocese:

Friday 25.04.08 , 8.30PM, St Cedd’s Church, 4Blythswood Road, Goodmayes, IG3 8SH

Saturday 26.04.08, 10.30PM, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Howard Way, Harlow, CM20 2NS

Admission free (there will be a collection taken to cover the cost of the events after the concerts)

**Father Andrzej Forys**

## *In Search of God*

**The warmth of the welcome given by the father to the Prodigal Son offers profound hope to us all. In his meditation for the fourth Sunday of Lent, the late Cardinal Basil Hume writes about our search for God, the stumbling blocks we encounter and how these are overcome**

I have long believed, and often said, that humanity is all the time in search of God, though often we do not know it. But, in so far as we are searching for truth, for goodness, for beauty, and in so far as we are in search of love, of justice, of happiness, then we are in search of God. If we live those search experiences, so I believe, we catch a glimpse of God.

Humanity is in search of God, but only because God is in search of humanity. It is always that way round, for in every case, and at every moment, the initiative is always his.

Can anything be more moving, more consoling, than this little scene, which speaks so eloquently of the way God sees and understands each one of us? Just think of those words - your Father sees you, takes pity on you, and, running up, will throw his arms around your neck and kiss you.

The Father is in search of us always, his wayward sons and daughters. But as we pursue our search for God, we shall, as the search progresses, discover Christ. Wounded though we are, lost though we often seem to be, mistaken many a time in the way we should search and serve, nonetheless we come back always to him.

Taken from 'A Turning to God' by Cardinal Basil Hume OSB, edited by Patricia Hardcastle Kelly (Darton, Longman and Todd, £9.95).

### **Scripture reading**

While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, " ... let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine ... was lost and is found." Luke 15:20-24

## ***Women's World Day of Prayer***

***2 pm, Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2008***

***Talk at St Theresa's Church, Newbury Park***

Ladies and gentlemen, Fr Eamon it is a pleasure to have been invited along today to share in your celebration for Women's World Day of Prayer. I am Davina Bolt and I work for the diocese of Brentwood as Assistant Director in the Commission for Justice & Social Responsibility.

St Theresa's, Newbury Park, has a special place in my heart as it was my parish when I was newly married and lived in Homefield Avenue, just over the road, some 42 years ago !

One aspect of my work in the Commission focuses on refugees and asylum seekers and I was struck by Guyana's national motto "*one people, one nation, one destiny*" because this aspect of our work comes under the heading "*one world, one people*", so already I feel an affinity to Guyana !

I began working for the diocese some 11 years ago, following the death of my husband. In those days I was employed in the Justice & Peace Commission and I must confess, didn't fully understand what Justice & Peace was. However, I soon found out on a short holiday in New York. I was there just before Christmas doing some retail therapy with friends. On the Sunday morning, I left them all in bed and went to Mass, quite early, at St Patrick's Cathedral. It was bitterly cold and after Mass I hurried back to the hotel thinking of a welcoming cup of hot coffee. I passed some rubbish, in black plastic bags, when suddenly one moved, and in front of me was a young woman, with hardly anything on, with the bag wrapped round her, begging for money. I bent over her to say I hadn't anything on me (I'd given it in Mass) and that I would be back in a moment. She just looked at me, I guessed she probably was dying of HIV/Aids; I ran back to the hotel, and got some money, but she had gone, when I returned to the spot where she had been lying. That episode really brought home to me what in-justice there was in the world, that human beings could suffer in that way, in what was one of the world's most affluent and rich cities.

I would now like to share with you some information on Guyana and its people which has been given to me by Des Howells, a lady living in our

diocese who has devoted her life to campaigning against injustice and is herself from Guyana.

Guyana is often called the “Land of Six Peoples”. First there were the Amerindians who were there long before the Vikings and European explorers came to the Americas. In the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries Europeans came and established plantations. They brought slaves from Africa to do the work on the plantations. Much is written about the atrocities that occurred during the slave trade but I think that the break-up of families and the separation of the slave from all that was familiar still affects their descendants even now. When eventually slaves were freed, the Plantation owners sought workers from Madeira not as slaves but as indentured labourers, just a step up from slavery.. When their tenure came to an end, many of these Portuguese did not return home but settled in Guyana and opened shops and other businesses. More labourers were needed and Indians were brought in and they found their niche in agriculture. Later, the Chinese came but they did not like working on the plantations and many of them went to other parts of South America and to the Caribbean islands. So the six peoples are Amerindians, Europeans, Africans, Portuguese, Indians and Chinese. They intermarry and learn to cook each other’s dishes. I think an average Guyanese could cook a different dish every day and not repeat it for several weeks. Guyanese food is delicious.

In Guyana itself like almost everywhere in the world, there is a drug problem. Guyana makes world class rum and has won first prize several successive years. Alcohol is reasonably cheap and alcoholism is rife. Much violence and suffering are caused by alcoholism and family life is destroyed. Although there is much international support for the fight against HIV/AIDS, the battle is not being won. There is such a stigma about this illness that families will disown anyone who contracts the illness and not visit them when they are in hospital. Those who have the illness keep quiet about it and often die because they would not go for the medication that could help them.

Now that records of past years are open to public scrutiny, it has been discovered that there was a deliberate move to divide and rule and enmity between Afro-Guyanese and Indo Guyanese was encouraged. Much of the conflict in poor countries has its origins in policies which

sought to divide and rule so that one tribe was favoured over another, one clan over another and so on. In Guyana, particularly at Elections, ethnic hostility becomes apparent. It was a proud day in 2006 when for the first time Guyana had free and fair elections but it is important to remember that although Guyana became independent in 1966, free and fair elections were not held until 1992. In spite of pleas from people working for justice, the international community turned a blind eye to rigged elections in Guyana for over twenty five years. You would have to call Guyana a young Democracy.

Guyana's economy depends on sugar and rice and that is why it will be affected by the unjust Equal Partnership Agreement forced on it by the EU. It also trades in timber, gold, diamonds and bauxite. Guyana is rich in many other resources like semi-precious stones and silica and China clay but it lacks the means to use its resources and foreign investment nearly always aims to benefit the donors and not the country. Its potential progress has also been hampered by two damaging claims from its neighbours – Suriname and Venezuela. The dispute with Suriname was recently settled in Guyana's favour but the dispute with Venezuela drags on and this is a far more serious claim

Like all poor countries, Guyana struggles to keep its head above the tide of unjust international policies. In 1992, Guyana's debt was 800% of its Gross National Product. Thanks to the campaigning for the cancellation of debt, Guyana has reduced this ratio to 50% but this could only be done by abiding with stringent conditions laid down by the IMF and the World Bank which meant public services suffered.

Recently there has been an upsurge in violence in Guyana. Two particularly vicious attacks have left the people of Guyana shocked and afraid. On both occasions Police Stations were attacked but in each instance, the gunmen then proceeded to kill innocent people including children either because they were high on drugs or because they mistakenly felt that they were justified in so doing. Everyone in Guyana is living in fear because of these random killings.

I would now like to turn to our readings today and reflect on how they relate to the history of Guyana the lives of the women present day women living in Guayana:

In the first passage from Job we are encouraged to believe in God's wisdom because with that everything and anything is possible. It is this

belief that enabled those early women in Guyana to stand up for their rights and challenge the inhuman structures preventing their independence and personal growth. It is by building our relationship with God that we are given the strength to fight for injustices to people and countries, and obtain peaceful and just solutions.

In the passage from Luke, I always feel very sorry for Martha because she is like so many of us today as we rush around trying to get everything done, when really we need to take time and do those things in our lives that are so important: talk to each other; spend quality time with our families – try to eat at least one meal a week, at the table, together, and most important of all, talk, pray and listen to God. Unless we have conversations with God/each other, we will not build relationships.

Turning to our last passage from John, I am humbled on reading how much our Lord loves us. I am sure that through all the difficulties the women of Guyana have encountered, it is God's love, and their love and relationship with Him that has enabled them to carry on with their fight against injustice. Personally when things get really tough for me and I am overtaken by despair, I simply tell God I need his help, real bad, and will be handing over all these problems to him to solve. He always, always, comes to my rescue.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fr Eamon, I hope like me, you feel able to become like the labourers whom Jesus sent out ahead of him on his way to Jerusalem, just as those women of Guyana did in 1945 when they campaigned and lobbied their Government for the equality of women in every facet of Guyanese society. And to pray for all the people of Guyana that violence will end and they will live in harmony and that we, in the wealthy countries of the west, will adopt policies that benefit all countries, not just the rich.

Thank you.

**Davina Bolt**

## **Acknowledgements**

Des Howells

Women's World Day of Prayer in England Wales and Northern Ireland

## ***Why Women Cry***

A little boy asked his mother, 'Why are you crying?' 'Because I'm a woman,' she told him.

'I don't understand,' he said. His Mom just hugged him and said, 'And you never will.'

Later the little boy asked his father, 'Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?'

'All women cry for no reason,' was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God. When God got on the phone, he asked, 'God, why do women cry so easily?'

God said:

'When I made the woman she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children. I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue with out complaining. I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly. I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart. I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly.

And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed.'

'You see my son,' said God, 'the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides.'

**by email**

## ***School Visits***

As one of our key objectives, the Commission is committed to promoting our work in schools. We aim to both support those schools that already have active groups and also to encourage all other schools to consider how best they can become more closely involved in this important work

With this in mind, I wrote to every Head teacher in our diocese, just before Christmas, advising that Phil and I would welcome an opportunity to visit their school. We have had a very encouraging response and thus far have visited two schools with more in the pipeline.

Our first visit was an invitation from St Bernard's High School who had an existing J&P group. In addition to wishing to hear about CJSR, they were looking for ideas on widening their current interests.

The meeting took place during lunchtime and was well attended. The group were up to speed on J&P issues and were particularly keen for us to mention, when we visited other schools, the poor human rights' record in China now that the Olympics are to be staged there this year. They also told us about a group they support, the "Benenson Society", which is ecumenical and whose aim is to provide students with the opportunity to be involved in the promotion of human rights for all individuals, with particular emphasis on prisoner's of conscience and asserting the rights of all to basic freedoms.

We explained the role of Pax Christi and CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade),, their campaign against nuclear weapons and how these organisations can be supported. We also asked them to consider "widening their J&P brief" to embrace the four CJSR work areas: J&P Development, One World -- One People, Marriage and Family Life and Pastoral Care.

Our next school visit was to St John Payne, Chelmsford and involved a day's joint event with CAFOD. Both Phil and I, assisted by Des Howells delivered 6 workshops to over 180 students. The theme of the day was peace, nuclear weapons/what the UK spends on Trident and non-violent communications. The students' participation was inspiring and the debating very lively. At the end of each workshop the students

were asked to commit to change one thing – however small that they could do to make the world more peaceful. CAFOD’s workshops focused on Fairtrade, and included a moving and enlightening presentation by Andy Lewis (a teacher at St John Payne) concerning his recent visit to Ethiopia. The day ended with students from the workshops giving a short presentation on what the day had meant for them, and the CJSR students placing their “statements” at the “focus place” in the hall. The closing liturgy was both moving and inspirational. Our Commission will be organising a day for schools, later this year, with particular emphasis on Justice & Peace Development, but also exploring how “justice” features in every aspect of our work.

**Davina Bolt**

### ***ESOL – The students perspective.***

We have been running a series of classes in cooperation with St Aidans School and RAMFEL (the Redbridge refugee and migrants forum). Having visited these classes they are lively and great fun. The students are learning English in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Special thanks to Helen Brown, Headteacher at St Aidans and Stuart and Rita – our qualified tutors.

We set the students a little homework and they have kindly given some thoughts, in there own words. They are to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work!!

"My name is Judith. When I interview Ligia said that she has been coming to class because she wants to get a job. She like the English class as she thinks she can improve her speaking. She likes to talk to the others. Then only she can speak fluently. Specially she loves to speaking, writing and listening." (Judith)

"My name is Rosita Nicalaus. I interviewed my friend Rozi. She came to English class two weeks ago. She like the English class. She wants to speak and listening. because speak to children and she needs a job." (Rosita)

"I would like more conversation around situations. I have general aim to improve my confidence. If I had to choose a specific situation it would be to practise for a job interview." (Wioletta)  
(Wioletta also interviewed others to find their needs)

"Rosita: Grammar At the doctor's  
Susan: I want to improve my accent.  
Mary: At home  
Vahidah: Shopping"

"I interviewed my friends 1) Wioletta 2) Rose 3) Merlin 4)  
Susan (Susan is also the writer)

### **Q 1 When did you come first?**

Wioletta told me that she started her class from the beginning.  
Mary told me that she started in November.  
Merlin started her class from October  
Susan: I started my class from end of December.

### **Q 2 What was the aim?**

W: To improve writing  
M: To learn English  
S: To communicate with other people.  
Merlin: To speak English

### **Q 3 Do you like English class?**

Yes. Everyone enjoyed English class.

### **Q 4 Why?**

Class is good! Teacher help us to learn English. Regular in class. He will do the corrections. We learned new words, stories, grammar. We have improved more.

To find out more or to see how you can start up either a course or an informal "conversation" group in your own parish – please contact CJSR.

**Phil Butcher**  
**Rosita, Susan, Mary, Merlin, Wioletta, Vahidah**  
National Gathering

## ***Catholic Gypsy & Traveller Support Network***

The 2008 National Gathering of the Catholic Gypsy & Traveller support Network took place at the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of the Gathering is to bring together priests, religious and lay people who provide services to, or are involved in a ministry to Gypsies and Travellers and others who are sympathetic to their concerns. It provides an opportunity for informal sharing and for exploring issues of common interest.

I attended the Gathering on 6<sup>th</sup> March and Mgr John Armitage was there on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

During the first session, Rosemary Keenan, focused on the difficulties traveller children experience with the current inflexible, education curriculum, which often results in their not attending school. The reasons for this are varied, families moving on, bad behaviour by children in the classroom, often caused by the parents worrying about being moved on. An example was given of parents taking children out of a classroom because they had just been told they were to be moved on. However, there has been some improvement in attendance at primary school, during recent years, but not so for older children. This is probably because traveller parents feel time spent in secondary education could be time lost in learning the “traveller way of life”. Our group felt the government had done very little, over the past 40 years, to come up with solutions that might improve education for Traveller children, such as providing permanent, available sites for the Travellers. We felt that if you are going to educate, you have to provide somewhere for the families to live.

We then heard from Fr Noel Wynn and Antonia Moffatt who work and support Travellers on their annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. Fr Noel spoke about the problems encountered in 2006 which resulted in a great deal of planning involving the Parish Council (including police, Travellers’ liaison officers from the District and County Councils and representatives from both Shrines). A Pastoral Outreach team was also formed and this made a tremendous difference to the success of the pilgrimage. During the stay of the Travellers evening prayers were held on the fields with input from the Pastoral Team and Travellers

alike. Processions were organised along the Holy Mile. On the evening of the Assumption a special Mass was held for the Travellers at which First Communion and Confirmations were celebrated. Fr David Paul, from Cambridge represented the Bishop. The villagers were grateful for the efforts made by the Pastoral Team and the Travellers seemed to have found their experience prayerful and trouble free. It is planned to produce a DVD of catechesis for Travellers' children to guide them in their preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Following lunch we listened to presentations by Gabriela Smolinska-Poffley and Dragica Felja who both worked at the Roma Support Group in East London, a community organisation working with East European Roma refugees and migrants since 1998. Gabriela gave some basic historical information on Roma groups and an outline of the services and support they give. She also spoke about the discrimination this group of people suffered in their home countries. Dragica made a very interesting (and worrying) point when speaking about her work with the Roma— she said that they were almost 100% Catholic but the majority move away from our faith and join other churches, mainly the Jehovah's Witnesses or the evangelical church. Apparently the reason for this is the welcome they receive from these other churches and a much greater feeling of inclusivity. Most of our group were not surprised to learn this, but we all agreed we must, as an urgent priority, change this in our churches.

An open forum for discussion followed. The main thrust of which was "welcoming the stranger".

At this point, reference was made to a document sent to the Gathering from Ann Kobayashi, a parishioner from Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, Wickford, Essex. Ann had outlined her experiences with Travellers in that location and the support given to them by herself and her parish priest and a parish sister. The Gathering praised the information given in Ann's notes and suggested that the experiences and information it contained could form the basis of a "working document and model" for all parishes in the UK. It was also suggested that the experiences of the Pastoral Team at Walsingham last year could do the same.

Bishop Bernard Longley summed up the Gathering:

- He thanked the presenters for their input and those who had attended for their contributions.
- There were positive outcomes from the Gathering which he would take back to the Bishop's Conference. Specifically they were:
- the need for a dedicated Chaplain or Officer for Travellers and Gypsies;
- making our churches a welcome place, not only for this particular group of people, but anyone who is new to our parish.

**Davina Bolt**

Acknowledgement: Pilgrim Catholic (Newsletter of the National Catholic Gypsy & Traveller Support Network). Contacts: Roma Support Group – [www.romasupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk)

## ***THE NEW NEIGHBOUR (GATEWAY) PILOT PROJECT IN COLCHESTER***

*New Approach – new mission.*

Refugees have formerly been concentrated in quite large groups and in larger towns.

The **New Neighbours Programme** is devised differently.

The New Neighbour Programme has been set up to bring a small number of refugee families into local communities where they can be personally welcomed, befriended and offered the help needed to settle. Two charities are responsible for the overall planning and guidance of the programme: 'Action in Communities' and 'Enabling Christians in Serving Refugees' (ECSR). Local churches are being invited to commit to providing holistic and continuing support for a

year for the five, at most, refugee families who will be arriving shortly into our locality.

The Home Office has given its approval for the programme and has agreed to provide full financial support for the first year that the refugees are in this country. The families will be selected by the UNHCR. They will have been in a refugee camp for a long period and will be chosen with no discrimination as to health or expertise.

**Colchester** has been chosen as one of the places to pilot the scheme. Already some churches have made a commitment. Some will be lead churches, others will offer collaborative support. The scheme was introduced to **St James the Less and St Helen Parish** at the Open Parish Meeting on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> February.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to engage in direct, personal, compassionate justice. What rich resources we have that we might offer; prayer support, especially from housebound people, a wide variety of gifts - from knowledge of languages to DIY, local knowledge (including housing), familiarity with accessing services, experience of form-filling. And above all the hospitality of ourselves, our families and our parish community.

**Sister Stephanie**



## ***Christian Ecology Link Retreat***

### ***Staying on the Edge: New Vision - New Energy***

Christian Ecology Link was founded in 1982 by a small group of Christians with the intention of promoting environmental concern within the Churches. The Retreat brought together over 30 members to reflect, pray and worship together around the theme "Staying on the Edge". This phrase is a quote from Peter Day (of BBC Radio Four) who took part in CEL's 25th Anniversary celebrations last July. It suggests a pioneering, a prophetic role within the Churches at this critical time when global warming challenges virtually every aspect of life as we know it.

That the retreat should take place in Ringsfield Hall nr Beccles in Suffolk was entirely suitable. This gracious yet homely Victorian house stands in 14 acres of countryside. For some 30 years it has served as a place to which groups, especially of children and young people, can be brought to be part of (often for the first time) the natural world with all its beauty and wonder. Chris Walton and Ross Ashley who host these groups spoke of the transforming experience this can be for so many. During our three days, Chris (a Baptist Minister and editor of CEL's "Green Christian" magazine) drew on the stories of Jeremiah and Jonah to exemplify the truth that "staying on the edge" can often involve trauma, grief from which, in his words, a "Storm of Hope" can emerge. Among the participants were several involved, from its inception, in the Operation Noah campaign. This will soon be an independent Charity under Ann Pettifor, Director (from the Jubilee campaign) and with Mark Dowd (TV presenter of "God Is Green") as Campaign Strategist. Like CEL they collaborate with other groups striving to involve Churches and other Faith Communities in this shared effort to prevent climate chaos on a global scale.

During the retreat an hour was devoted to a DVD introducing a One Day Symposium focusing on the story of the Universe as it has unfolded and placing the Earth today within that context. While this was immensely beautiful, it also included pictures of the numerous animals and other creatures facing extinction. A story being repeated all too frequently on our home televisions. The whole retreat provided

an opportunity for walks, sharing prayer, meals and discussions all within a place which inspired the words:

Creator God,  
Giver of all good gifts  
Source of all life,  
Path of Abundant life,  
Breath of Life itself,

We give you praise and honour and glory forever.

To know that generation of children and young people have shared something of this experience is encouraging and challenging since, to quote a recent survey, so many are "pre-occupied with ...the latest fashionable clothes and electronic equipment", an unsustainable life-style.

**Elizabeth Rendell**



## ***Cathedral House Goes Carbon Neutral !***

As good stewards of the earth we all need to be aware of the both the cost and impact of our actions. This is particularly evident when we look at our energy consumption and the effect that this has on the world climate.

Following a series of meetings and negotiations the Diocese has teamed up with a charitable organisation – Tolerance International – that not only allows us to offset our carbon emissions but provide much needed support to communities in Peru and Africa.

In short, the scheme will enable both new tree planting and preservation of endangered rainforest to “soak up” our emissions. Clearly, this is only a start and we have already embarked on plans to reduce our energy consumption which will actually pay towards the cost of the scheme. In a sense – everyone wins!

To our knowledge – Cathedral House is the first Diocesan Offices in Britain to make this step. The scheme is open to Parishes and individual households. For more information contact CJSR or visit [www.toleranceinternational.org.uk/](http://www.toleranceinternational.org.uk/)

**Phil Butcher**

## ***Forthcoming CaFOD Events***

29th March 12pm  
Archbishop Romero Martyrdom Service,  
St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square

30th March - 5th April  
Out of compassion and in solidarity with all of God's people, join the  
Climate Change Bill Week of Action. Climate justice pledge cards  
available from the Brentwood office or perhaps you could lobby your  
MP

13th April  
Stride for Solidarity - Canvey Island sponsored 13 mile walk

3rd and 4th May  
Jump for Justice - Sponsored abseil, Harlow water tower

18th May  
Jubilee Debt Campaign - Journey to Justice: 10 years on  
(contact: [marana@cafod.org.uk](mailto:marana@cafod.org.uk))

21st May - 1st June  
Pure Gold? Free exhibition exploring the impact of gold mining around  
the world - Oxo Gallery, South Bank, London



29th Nov  
Joint CJSR and CaFOD event for World Aids Day  
more details to follow

Contact [brentwood@cafod.org.uk](mailto:brentwood@cafod.org.uk)  
for further information

**CAFOD**  
just one world



Join in during Save the Children Week

27<sup>th</sup> April to 3 May 2008

Hold a Go Tea-potty party and show it's simple to save a child's life.

For your free Go Tea-potty! fund raising pack call 020 7012 6400

or email [supporter.care@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:supporter.care@savethechildren.org.uk)

You can download the pack from

[www.savethechildren.org.uk/goteapotty](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/goteapotty)

## ***Dates for your diary***

March 27	Interfaith Community Cohesion Entertainment 5-8pm Cardinal Heenan Centre, Ilford
May 11-17	Christian Aid Week
May 18	Journey to Justice, Breaking the Chains of Global Debt <a href="http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk">www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk</a>
May 18	Not for Sale Sunday, Raising Awareness about Sex Trafficking. CHASTE <a href="http://www.chaste.org.uk">www.chaste.org.uk</a>
June 5	World Environment Day <a href="http://www.unep.org/wed">www.unep.org/wed</a>
June 8	Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer
June 16-22	Refugee Week, Refugee Council
July 6	Day for Life, <a href="http://www.dayforlife.org">www.dayforlife.org</a>
July 18-20	National J&P Conference <i>'Hear My People Cry'</i>
Nov 29	Joint CJSR and CaFOD event for World Aids Day details to follow

***We warmly welcome contributions for Just Time.  
Please post them to Cathedral House or email  
cjsr@dioceseofbrentwood.org.***

***Please pass this copy on to someone else  
when you have read it.***

***Further copies can be obtained by contacting our office  
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***Diocese of  
Brentwood***