



Who Cares?

Social Responsibility
Diocese of Coventry



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Isaiah 61 v 1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.



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Matthew 22 v 36 – 39

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."



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Matthew 25 v 35-36, 45

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.



Building safer and stronger communities

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Micah 6 v 8

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.



Including everyone | Regional involvement

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It has been some time since the work of Social Responsibility in the Diocese of Coventry has been given the oxygen of publicity and this report, providing a snapshot of what is happening, is timely. In keeping with our strategy, a key parish and diocesan activity is the transformation of communities for the good and this takes many forms, as this report shows. We are blessed indeed by having so many people with a heart for others and a commitment to kingdom values and still this report can only tell a fraction of the story.

Social Responsibility is ever evolving, as new needs arise and new resources become available. Increasingly, work is done in partnership with others in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors as well as with other Christian denominations and other faiths. Networking is key to building understanding and communities of care. The creation of cohesive, integrated and safe communities in which all thrive and flourish is what the call of our Lord to love our neighbour is all about, and this report should be seen as both an encouragement and a challenge.

+ John Warwick

John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick

Rural life: a taste of hell



Bishop John visits Rugby Livestock Market

The farmer stood at the pearly gates, his face was scarred and old. He'd come to gain permission there for entry to the fold. "What have you done," St Peter asked, "to gain admission here?" "I've been a farmer, Sir," he said, "for many and many a year." The pearly gates swung open wide as St Peter rang the bell, "welcome and come in" said he, "you've had your taste of hell!"

Farmers and many others have certainly felt that 2007 was their "taste of hell", says Revd Barbara Clutton, in her role as Rural Life Officer, in a year dominated by the differing problems facing farming and associated industries.

At the beginning of 2007 the industry was just starting to get back on its feet after the debacle of the delay in payment of subsidies in 2006, which had left many farmers struggling financially. However, there was some optimism for the future particularly after a reasonable lambing and good spring weather.

Then along came the floods, followed by Foot and Mouth (twice) and Blue Tongue! This "treble whammy" almost devastated a livestock industry that was already struggling. Barbara, a livestock farmer herself, says her role was two fold:

1. Providing pastoral care. Barbara got alongside farmers at the Rugby Livestock Market (except when it was closed during the Foot and Mouth Outbreak), and at farm sales, hunt meets, etc. She found in listening to them, many farmers were very demoralised and felt that they are not valued either by the Government or by the general public. Calls to the Rural Stress help lines have been very

high and painful memories of the last outbreak of Foot & Mouth in 2001 have been stirred up. Prayers have been widely distributed for use.

2. Promoting Local Food. Barbara has also been raising public awareness as to the plight of farmers and encouraging people to support British farming by buying food locally. She has followed up speaking at diocesan synod by speaking at PCC meetings, school assemblies, harvest services, and on local radio.

Being Rural Life Officer means many things. John Stroyan, the Bishop of Warwick recently joined Barbara at the Rugby Livestock Market where he was very well received by local farmers and market staff. As an Agricultural Chaplain at the Royal Show Barbara provided a faith presence. She has also conducted funerals for farming families – such funerals are community affairs with churches usually packed often with people standing outside.

Unlike livestock farmers, arable farmers have not had such a bad year. Farmers are eternal optimists and their prayer for 2008 is for a taste of heaven after their taste of hell!



Caring in the workplace



Sant Baba Nahar Singh Ji Sunheranwale and Revd Canon Graham Hardwick at 150th Anniversary for Warwickshire Police

Christians from different denominations work together to provide a pastoral service for those at work through 'Workcare', the new name for Mission in the World of Work. Recently that pastoral care has included providing support to those suffering following the Atherstone on Stour warehouse fire in which, most tragically, four Warwickshire firemen lost their lives.

Day-to-day work place pastoral care is provided by a small number of core chaplain staff, ably and enthusiastically supported by up to 40 associate chaplains across Coventry and Warwickshire. To explore the impact that increasing faith diversity in the workplace is having upon Workcare, a Multi-Faith Project was begun with Revd Robert Maloney from the United Reformed Church acting as Project Leader from September 2007.

New chaplaincy work has recently begun on the huge DIRFT/Magna Park/Rugby Logistics site. Revd Malcolm Fife (another URC Minister) is Project Officer. Malcolm was appointed in November 2007. With Revd Canon Graham Hardwick's retirement at the end of 2007, Coventry Diocese have agreed to continue funding a half-time Anglican Officer post and Revd Paul Simmonds will be starting from the end of March 2008.

Some of the recent highlights have been:

- ❖ A West Midlands Industrial Mission Association Day Conference held on the needs of Migrant Workers.
- ❖ Exploratory meetings regarding the possible use of a redundant church (Coventry) as a high-tech business start up base, restaurant and meeting space.

- ❖ Jaguar/Land Rover/Aston Martin chaplaincy team meeting at Gaydon.
- ❖ Coalfield Regeneration Trust agree to extend the final funding period for Kay Aldersley's work in Coalfield areas of North Warwickshire up to the end of March 2008. A new grant from another charitable source has just been awarded to extend Kay's work into 2008-09.
- ❖ A National Grid Warwick site visit by Bishop John Stroyan.
- ❖ In July 2007, the group led the 150th anniversary service for Warwickshire Police.

All this would not happen without Pauline Caldicott as the patient, supportive and ever present Administrator; Mike Hobday as tireless Treasurer; and Chairman Graham Payne steering the Board. Much also is owed to individual Board members for their willing and committed support.



Environment: things are hotting up



Cyclists in Warwick on the Historic Churches Trust ride

In 2007, the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG) continued its campaigning focus, attempting to encourage churches and church schools across the diocese to take action in the name of Christ to demonstrate love and care for God's creation. Group membership has been relatively buoyant, although there is always room for more people and the group has maintained a project focus to its work. Have you seen Al Gore's film, 'An Inconvenient Truth'? The group believes viewing this film can change your life!

Church schools' project

This 2007 project encouraged church schools in the diocese to produce work related to the theme: faith and the environment, with specific reference to the issue of climate change. The project culminated with displays from a variety of schools at the Head Teachers' Conference in October. Displays were all of a very high quality, evidencing clearly that some schools not only think about caring for creation in their collective worship, but have also embedded this understanding in their everyday practice. They recycle, set aside nature areas in their playgrounds and conserve energy wherever possible. All participating schools were commended and presented with a sapling in recognition of their commitment. The winning school was The Revel Primary School. Pupils produced some magnificent artwork on decorative tiles, which showed the cross at the centre of creation, but at the same time showed creation's plight, with a penguin the victim of global warming. The project was enhanced by the participation of Coventry Multi-Faith Centre; and resulted in a comprehensive document that detailed the approach of eleven different world faiths to the environment. This document is to be made available to schools in the diocese.

Churches watching their footprint

Also, in recent months the group has followed up on an earlier project to encourage churches to reduce their carbon footprint. A number of churches were able to demonstrate significant progress, including those who had switched to green energy, conducted transport surveys, installed energy efficient boilers and zoned heating systems and those who had developed a no tolerance policy towards energy wastage. Holy Trinity Coventry and St Andrew's Eastern Green were commended for their efforts.

St John's Kenilworth leads the way

The church that was adjudged to have made the most progress over 12 months was St John's Kenilworth. Local media provided coverage.

Searching for green energy

Attempts have been made to find a partner to deliver green energy to churches in the diocese. These discussions are ongoing, although evidence suggests that many churches either do not see the significance of such a move or consider that there is an insurmountable financial barrier to progressing this.

Food miles in 2008

The issue of 'food miles' is to be promoted. How far is your food travelling to your table?

Church visitors are Heaven sent; it's divine inspiration



Glynis Powell, Warwickshire Museums' Officer (left) with Ambassadors from Holy Trinity, Coventry

Who hasn't heard of Helen McGowan and Janet Sewell. The diocesan answer to Trinny and Susanna, Helen and Janet have been putting new ideas and enthusiasm into getting visitors into churches. They now have almost 100 churches across the Diocese signed up to the Divine Inspiration project. To date 40 church audits have been carried out and these churches have been helped to look again at the way in which they open and welcome visitors to their church buildings Monday to Saturday.

Are you 'visitor' trained?

It has been a busy time for the project designing and delivering training events covering practical issues that concern parishes – like coping with personal security of volunteers, presentation of interpretive material and how to explore and record stories hidden in churchyards, to name a few. More training is planned for 2008.

Do you see the monthly 'Gatekeeper'?

First published in February 2007, this newsletter can be found on their website.

Website launched

The website appeared in June 2007. Thirty churches are now featured on www.divine-inspiration.org.uk Is yours? This excellent user-friendly site will be further developed in 2008.

Warwickshire Life

Warwickshire Life magazine provides a monthly opportunity to raise the profile of individual Coventry and Warwickshire churches. Other promotional opportunities have been taken in working with CV1, the management company for Coventry City Council,

and the Ecology Department of Warwickshire County Council. Warwickshire Museums are also a partner and 2007 provided work with North Warwickshire Tourism and The George Eliot Fellowship to promote their commemorations of this local author with church links.

Photographic Competition 2008

You have until August 2008 to submit entries. Prizes will be awarded in November. See the website for further details.

Church visitors project

At the end of 2007 this project is half way through its three-year life (it is entirely funded from sources outside the diocese). The New Year sees Helen and Janet developing work with English Heritage, one of the funders, to investigate the need for better Statements of Significance for every parish, as well as developing a database of information to give an overview of just how much capacity is held in terms of buildings and treasures across the Diocese.

Despite relentless self-promotion it is rumoured there are still parishes out there who are unaware of this project's existence! If this is you, Janet and Helen await your call!



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DIVINE INSPIRATION

Inter-faith work: mutual respect



Faiths in the community meeting at Coventry Muslim Resource Centre



The role of Inter-Faith Development Worker for Coventry and Warwickshire was created by the Coventry & Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC), of which the Diocese is a

member. Funding comes from the government through the Capacitybuilders' Improving Reach programme. The project started in April 2007 when Revd Gareth Jones moved into this new full-time role after eight years as Methodist Chaplain to the University of Birmingham.

Why inter-faith?

Gareth believes strongly in the importance of inter-faith engagement, for reasons of friendship and good-neighbourliness, building strong communities, and finding inspiration through a mutual discovery of the richness of our different faith traditions.

Gareth has enjoyed getting to know the four inter-faith forums in Coventry and Warwickshire – two in Coventry, one in Rugby and one in Warwick District. They are all quite different from one another, but all equally valuable and effective. He has also greatly appreciated the opportunity to develop friendships with many of the individual faith communities across the area, and to discover the many informal networks that exist between people of faith.

What does an Inter-Faith Development Worker do?

Well, to give you a flavour, here are just a few of the things from Gareth's diary:

- ❖ Taking part in a local peace walk visiting different places of worship;
- ❖ Visiting a Mosque for Jum'ah (Friday) Prayer;
- ❖ Attending a forum of the Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership;
- ❖ Meeting a college chaplain to hear about the multi-faith dimension of her work;
- ❖ Being present at a stone-laying ceremony for a new Sikh Gurdwara;
- ❖ Attending a conference organised by the Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership;
- ❖ Meeting the faith-link officer of a borough council;
- ❖ Talking to a Methodist group about the importance of inter-faith relations;
- ❖ Meeting people from different faiths in Stratford.

Conferences

One particular highlight has been the opportunity to organise a Coventry/Warwickshire-wide event in September 2007 entitled 'Faiths in the Community'. This was held at the Coventry Muslim Resource Centre and attended by 65 people, including members of eight different faiths and representatives of a number of voluntary and statutory bodies. A similar follow up conference is planned to take place in Rugby on 11 March 2008.

The project is an example of Methodist/Anglican co-working with Gareth working out of the diocesan office.

Church and community together in Nuneaton



Young enthusiasts at Church Car Park Motor Sport Event

In Nuneaton, church and community have been working together to bring real benefits to people of all ages and with a wide variety of needs.

St Mary and St John Outreach Project, Camp Hill

A year of excitement as the church supports local people through the turmoil of estate regeneration – demolition and rebuilding at every turn. Vicar, Father Dennis Sneath, is assisted by Sam Margrave, the Church Urban Fund supported Community Development Officer.

At the heart of this community is the church, its congregation and a hall that plays a vital role in addressing social need, providing a platform for social action and a vehicle for the churches mission and evangelism. In 2007, with Sam's help, new support and funding came in. Thanks must go to partners, congregation, community groups, residents, funders and others for ensuring that the church will move forward again in 2008. Here are some highlights:

Making the Church Hall the Village Hub

By 2010 the cold, leaking, wet and out-dated, but much loved hall will be the hub of a new village centre as it too is renewed. £42,000 has now been promised by WREN, BSN and WCC for the new roof. It is time for the resident squirrels to move out and the buckets to collect the dripping water from the roof to be put away!

Kung Fu's successful first year

Kung Fu meet on Thursdays in the hall and after a year here have decided to stay. This activity will teach all generations about self defence, control and encourage health living. There are separate classes for women, children and adults. It is a popular activity bringing new people in contact with the church.

Car park as Community Venue

The hall car park is a facility for different community uses, including a Motor Sport Midlands event. Aimed at young people and families, attendees learn about rallying and see cars on display. Lots of people turned out from church and community and much fun was had. Also, the Jobs Bus visits and parks here, providing information about education, training and employment. How do you use your parking space?

Community work here to stay

Funding has been secured for the Community Development Worker post in 2008-09. This means Sam Margrave's work can continue.

Renewed

And this isn't all. By 2009 St Mary and St John will have:

- ❖ **REACHED** out to local people, refurbished church and hall and be at the heart of the community;
- ❖ **EMPOWERED** the community to volunteer, run groups and re-build a sense of purpose for all;
- ❖ **NEW LIFE** injected, that provides opportunity, activity and an income to fund future work;
- ❖ **ENGAGED** with partners in their work in developing the area and involving local people;
- ❖ **WELCOMED** those new residents moving into 1,200 new homes that are being built;
- ❖ **ENABLED** residents to help each other and themselves and start to tackle poverty and deprivation;
- ❖ **DEVELOPED** the capacity of the church, its leaders and the congregation.

Church Urban Fund projects: “The C of E’s best bit!”



Coundon Care Scheme, promoting the project

Seventeen localities within Coventry are among the top 10% most deprived in the UK and there are others in Nuneaton. Smaller clusters of deprivation can be found elsewhere in the diocese. Binley and Willenhall, Foleshill and Longford are top of the list as being three of the worst five wards in the country for unemployment and skills. There are also a great many asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers whose standards of living often place them, with other groups, on the very margins of society.

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) exists to help Christians to enable people and their communities to flourish. In Coventry diocese there are many such projects:

Kairos – Women Working Together

Kairos is Coventry-based. A team of volunteers work with women in prostitution, over 90% of whom come to the project with drug use problems. Lives are changed by this project.

Open Hands – Recovery House for Alcoholics

Near Coventry station is a house where recovering alcoholics are supported as they re-build their lives. The project is now planning and off-site support programme.

House of Peace and Hope

In north Coventry, destitute asylum seekers are assured of hospitality and a place to sleep for the night.

Community Worker, Nuneaton

Sam Margrave is partly funded by CUF to serve as a community development worker at St Mary’s and St John’s Church, Camp Hill.

Canley Family Centre

After many years using a former Second World War prison of war office as a cramped community centre, St Stephen’s Canley are now exploring exciting new possibilities to bring their church into greater community use.

Keresley Village Project

There is development and change as relationships are forged in this often forgotten former mining community.

Turn Around Project

A project which does what its name says, recycling valuable household items for community use. The project works with offenders in custody to renovate items for use.

Hand in Hand, Nuneaton

Working with Mums and Toddlers.

John White Community Centre

It was CUF working with Binley Church that gave this mega-centre the start it needed. Now open and serving the community.

Churches Together for Refugees in Coventry (CTRIC)

CTRIC spearheads the drive to create understanding, hospitality and care for asylum seekers and refugees.

Sycamore Counselling Trust

Based in Nuneaton, this pastoral care scheme serves a wide area of need, helping elderly and bereaved as well as teenagers.

Coundon Care Centre

Provides an invaluable social support service for elderly people in Coventry.



Graham Caldicott promoting 'Open Hands' recovering alcoholics project



Yes, we are Kairos!



Pathway drug rehabilitation project, Leamington Spa



Turnaround Project

St Peter's, Hillfields

This new centre, up and running since 2001 provides an invaluable community resource and church centre in one of the neediest wards in the diocese.

Sydenham Centre

St Mary's Leamington provided the push to get this new centre up and open. This centre has since given a big upward lift to the area.

Pathway

Again a St Mary's initiative – providing real support for people kicking the drugs habit and making a new start. This project really does see lives changed!

Future project possibilities

Bringing two Coventry church buildings on opposite sides of the city into community use. Possible project addressing the needs of young people in Coventry. What are the needs that most concern you in Coventry and Warwickshire? Is your church able to transform that community?



Church Urban Fund

Church Urban Fund re-launch: 2007-2010



CUF relaunch, October 2007, in the Old Cathedral ruins

The extraordinary fund raising of the late 1980s, in response to Faith in the City and the forming of the Church Urban Fund (CUF), meant that over £55 million was raised. This pot is now almost empty as the money has been used up on many thousands of projects. In Coventry Diocese we have received £900,000 in project grants over the past two decades.

A task group gets going

Late in 2006 the Bishop of Coventry formed a small task group to spearhead the re-launch of the Church Urban Fund in the Diocese. Under the chairmanship of Revd Richard Hare (Bedworth), the group began meeting regularly from the autumn onwards, and planning began in earnest.

In addition to Richard, the task group comprises:

- ❖ Jonathan Cryer, national CUF fundraiser;
- ❖ Nicky Gough, a family lawyer from South Warwickshire, with wide experience of family breakdown and poverty work;
- ❖ Richard Hare, former Area Dean of Coventry East (the deanery with the highest level of deprivation in the city), now Team Rector Bedworth;
- ❖ John Hall, CUF Link Officer for the diocese;
- ❖ Katrina Scott, Vicar of Willenhall, a parish with very high levels of deprivation and unemployment;
- ❖ Jackie Wightman, Children's Society diocesan president;
- ❖ And various others coming and going.

The target

The group set the ambitious target of raising £700,000 over the coming years, being roughly £1 for every person that lives in Coventry and Warwickshire. This capital sum would provide a sustainable level of income equivalent to the annual grants that CUF currently makes to the poorest parts of our diocese.

Spectacular Cathedral re-launch

In October 2007 the old cathedral ruins were taken over by existing and past sponsored CUF projects enthusiastically and noisily accompanied by Nexus music. A service of dedication followed in the new Cathedral to launch the appeal.

Coming your way

Over the coming two years the CUF campaign will be brought to every parish church in the diocese as the task group continues its work. Prayers are offered and strategies planned for raising funds from individuals, parishes and the corporate sector. Have you planned anything yet? Watch out for Deanery CUF Coffee mornings near you in 2008, Rugby and Leamington churches have already set dates for their CUF coffee mornings!

Building safer and stronger communities



Reconciliation – A statue in the Old Cathedral ruins, symbolising Coventry's message to the world

The public policy agenda totally changed after the shocking 9/11 attacks and the riots that same summer in the UK. A new urgency came to the task of building safe and harmonious communities. Faith communities were profiled in a way not seen in living memory: on the one hand, fear of religious extremists; on the other, fear of community life fragmenting as the multicultural ideal disintegrated. The Cattle Report, at the end of 2001, described "...the depth of polarisation in our towns and cities ... communities operate on the basis of a series of parallel lives which do not seem to touch, let alone overlap and promote meaningful interchanges." Whilst we cannot afford to be complacent, good work has been done to help strengthen communities.

Building peace and harmony

In Coventry Diocese much has been done to ensure that here there are no 'no go areas' and that people of all backgrounds and faiths live together with understanding and respect. The Coventry Harmony Conference, organised by the Diocese in November 2001, brought together key people to reflect on the future of this city. Then the Swapping Cultures Project ran in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary groups, notably Coventry-based Minorities of Europe. It resulted in thousands of children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire having the opportunity for dialogue, getting to know others from different backgrounds. The initiative is now being run in towns and cities across the UK and even in Europe.

Caring for new arrivals

The number and diversity of new arrivals to Coventry and Warwickshire from many parts of the globe has been a feature of recent years – asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. Local churches and

others have supported the work to assess and meet the needs of new arrivals. Many have simply needed to be made welcome and to be shown courtesy and hospitality. But those is greatest need, destitute asylum seekers for example, need much more support: food, shelter and meeting of their basic needs. Particular churches, like St Peter's Hillfields and St Paul's Foleshill, and some notable individuals have played a key part in caring for these people.

Shaping public policy

Central and local government have increasingly consulted with communities on cohesion and integration, inviting faith communities to take part. In Coventry, the lead councillor calls an annual cohesion meeting at which both Cathedral and Social Responsibility make a contribution. Coventry University houses the Institute for Community Cohesion, a body of national importance, to which our Social Responsibility Director makes his contribution. Barely a month goes by without the Government inviting responses to its papers and proposals. For example, the Communities and Local Government Interfaith Strategy consultation in 2008.

Faithful Cities

The Church has its own projects, such as the Archbishop's 'Faithful Cities' initiative. Under Bishop John Stoyan's leadership a small task group is looking at how important issues in the 'Faithful Cities' report can be taken forward locally. Watch this space!

Working with local authorities

Is your parish engaged with your LAA and LSP? These acronyms refer to the way in which local government sets the policy agenda for the next few years where you live.



Revd Dr John Hall: a regional role

Equalities has been established as a key policy concern and the new Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), headed up by Sir Trevor Philips, now has a regional office in Birmingham, following the merger of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Commission for Racial Equality and Disability Rights Group. Through working with national and regional equalities officers, it is clear that the EHRC will shape the way jobs and services are provided so that people are treated fairly. The new Equalities Act identifies six strands, one of which is religion and belief. Want to know more? Ask John Hall.

A fully equal and inclusive church

Historically, black and minority ethnic Anglicans have not always been as warmly and equally included in the life of the church as the gospel requires. This is not something which should continue to characterise church life – it's a task and challenge for all. Nationally the church has, since the 1980s, taken a number of steps, most notably in forming the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC). CMEAC's most recent report, *Present and Participating: A Place at the Table*, was presented to General Synod in July 2007. Members of this diocese joined in the national celebrations of 2007, organised by CMEAC, marking the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery.

Spurred on by earlier work, the Diocese is looking forward to inviting a team from CMEAC to Coventry to help us develop robust strategies and practice to ensure that racial hostility, discrimination and xenophobia have no place in the life of the parishes or diocese. Julian Francis (Team Rector, Caludon), John Hall (Diocese) and Joanne Perry-Straker (St Peter's, Hillfields) are providing a local lead.

Coventry and Warwickshire are part of a region of over 5 million people and regions and regional institutions have come to play an increasingly significant role in recent years providing policies and strategies to shape development of the region. Although Regional Assemblies are due to be abolished before 2010, the most important partnerships and public institutions will continue, notably the Regional Development Agency (AWM). Coventry Diocese, largely through its Director for Social Responsibility, makes a contribution at regional level in various ways. John Hall currently serves as:

- ❖ Member of the Regional Assembly;
- ❖ Director of the Regional Assembly Board;
- ❖ Member of Regional Scrutiny Review Group;
- ❖ Member of the Other Stake Holders Group;
- ❖ Member of West Midlands Regional Churches Forum;
- ❖ Chair of West Midlands Faiths Forum;
- ❖ Vice-Chair of West Midlands Equality and Diversity Partnership.

...and not forgetting...

Need some money? Whether it is money for the Church roof or tower appeal, a community initiative, a mission, a salary for a church worker, many people have been successfully tapping into the fund-raising web-based resource at the diocesan office in Coventry. This subscription based search engine is called Trustfunder and is easy to use.

It works like this. Telephone Ruth Wagstaffe at Diocesan Office (024 7652 1326) to find out when you might have an appointment to come in and use a computer workstation. She will be on hand to guide in case of difficulty. You are guaranteed to go away with a short list of funding sources to apply to with all the details as to how to go about it.

Fairtrade starts here



The use of Fairtrade in our diocese began to grow pretty rapidly back in 2005, following a Fairtrade campaign

that resulted in 73% of parishes signing up to use Fairtrade tea and coffee in their churches and Coventry Diocese obtaining Fairtrade status. Coventry Cathedral also became the first Fairtrade cathedral.

We now have Fairtrade representatives in place in almost all of our deaneries who are willing to advise churches on how to set up Fairtrade stalls, how to promote Fairtrade in their own communities and to advise on resources that are available. These representatives have a vast amount of knowledge and experience to share and would love to hear from anyone wanting advice. Want to know more? Call Ruth Wagstaffe on 024 7652 1326.

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation which works to support and encourage marriage and stable family life. There are 3.6 million members in 77 countries. Here in Coventry Diocese, which encompasses Coventry and Warwickshire, there is a network of members, working individually or in parish-based groups, who pray, volunteer, fundraise and campaign on a variety of family-based issues. For details of the parenting groups, overseas work, work with refugees in Coventry and all current programmes see their web site or speak to their diocesan president Felicity Hawke. The MU web is at www.mothersunion-cov.org.uk/welcome.htm

A changing demographic

Some people say that the older person is the Church of England's natural constituency. The care of the



Bishop Colin Bennetts and Sandra Coombes

older person in the diocese and beyond and the challenges presented by ageing are championed by people like Sandra Coombes who leads Dementia Alzheimers Warwickshire Network (DAWN).

Coventry Refugee Centre

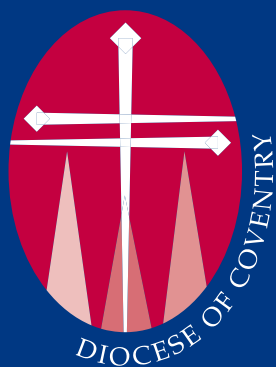
A close relationship exists between the Coventry Refugee Centre, diocese and parishes. On 22 June 2007 Bishop John Stroyan opened the Centre's Open Day. The day was a great success with over 250 people attending from a variety of different organisations. It was a good opportunity for networking and information sharing as well as raising awareness of different cultures. The Centre at 15-16 Bishop Street, Coventry is a lifeline for support services for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Rough Sleepers Task Group

It is not difficult when walking around Coventry city centre late in the evening to find people sleeping in church porches, in the parks and in the sub ways. This is the visible tip of a homeless situation, which appears on anecdotal evidence to be getting worse. It is not unusual for Coventry Cyrenians to issue sleeping bags to 5 or 6 men in an evening for whom there is nowhere to stay. A joint diocesan cathedral task group has begun meeting in 2008 to draw concerned people and practitioners together with a view to organising a count and then arranging a public hearing in the Spring as part of HOPE 08. Want to know more, contact Rebecca Neely on 024 7646 3241 or e-mail info@hope08coventry.com

...and not forgetting...

That across the diocese, in deaneries and parishes, there is much more going on which would, had space and time permitted, have been recorded here. Hope 08, for example, is proving an exciting initiative.



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