

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Society has had a very challenging time since I last wrote to you, a year or so ago.

I mentioned in my last report that the Society was hoping to hold a major fund raising event this year. We haven't been able to do this, as following on from our discussions with the schools, it became clear that, whilst the schools supported our aims, they felt that it was better left to them to organise local events to raise money for the Society. So far, we have managed to raise over £3000 in this way for which we are very grateful. We are now concentrating our efforts to recruit a fundraiser to help us raise more money on a self funding basis to enable the Society to continue to provide the funds to send handicapped children to Lourdes and to help other needy children in the Diocese to go on events such as school outings as well as to recruit someone to help Lester Yeo expand the Patchwork programme.

The Patchwork programme continues to be very popular and worthwhile. Lester Yeo, the co-ordinator, has managed to cover many schools in the Diocese and there is great demand for the programme to be enlarged to cover more schools. Lester is ably assisted by Brigid Turner, a Director of the Society, who gives a lot of support and guidance to Lester.

The 'Safeguarding' programme continues to be funded and run by the Society. There has been a noticeable increase in demand for this and we have increased the number of courses to meet this demand. We plan to fund as many of these courses as our finances permit as they are a priority. All the people attending have expressed how relevant and helpful they have been.

The Good Shepherd programme continues to be popular in our Primary Schools and has involved the participation of Dr. Brigid Greenup and Brigid Turner in putting on these courses during Lent, for which I thank them. I would also like to thank Jillian Wilce, Eireann Marshall-Janssens and Ann Hall, who have recently joined the board of the Society as Directors.

Our annual Mass for the Society was held in Bodmin in 2008 and it was good to see the active participation of so many of the children from St Mary's Catholic School. – it was a very joyful occasion. By the time you read this we will have had a mass in Barnstaple, a joint celebration of the work of the Catholic Children's Society and the 40th Anniversary of Our Lady's Catholic Primary School. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have supported the Society in whatever way they can. Without that help

the Society couldn't function and give the support it does to all those children in need. Thank you for your on-going support.

May God bless you all.

Right Reverend Christopher Budd - Bishop of Plymouth

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2008 has proved to be a challenging year for the Catholic Children's Society. The last time we reported to you, we mentioned how we wanted to raise funds for a part time worker to work with Lester Yeo, to be able to expand the Society's parenting programme called Patchwork.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to achieve this as we weren't able to raise the funds necessary. We had planned to run a 'red nose' type event through the schools, but it quickly became clear that this wasn't something many schools were able to participate in. We are now looking into ways of raising more funds and we hope to recruit a 'fundraiser' this year to help us to achieve our goal.

The Patchwork programme continues to be very popular and successful and Lester Yeo and Brigid Turner, one of our directors, continue to provide an excellent service. We have been blessed with the arrival of three new Directors, Jillian Wilce, Eireann Janssens and Ann Hall. We are sure they will bring new ideas for the Society to explore. They replace Cyril Williams and Sister Pauline Plummer who had to retire from the board having completed nine years service. We cannot thank them enough for all the help and expertise they have given to the Society.

This last year has also seen an increase in the requests for help we have received. We have contributed funds to five HCPT groups to help handicapped children get to Lourdes. We have also helped to provide financial help for a child from a poor family, who otherwise couldn't have joined their school on an outing and we have helped four Mums' with very young children, to keep their heads above water. This, I believe, is what the Children's Society is all about and, in these tough times in which we live at present, we will no doubt get a lot more pleas for help. This means therefore that we must raise more money. Our main source of help has always been from you in the Parishes of the Diocese of Plymouth, and we can't thank you enough. We know you will be as generous as you can, and if you are able, please 'gift aid' it. But we would also like to ask you to consider making a legacy to the Society – did you know that this can reduce your exposure to inheritance tax?

We continue to fund the 'Safeguarding Children' programme for all parishioners whose duties in the Church involve children. We have seen a big increase in take up for this from the parishes and we will continue to host and fund what is a very valuable and necessary resource.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank you all for the support you give us in many different ways. I would also like to thank all the Directors of the Society, who give of their time so willingly.

Peter McWilliam - Chairman

FAMILY SUPPORT – THE PATCHWORK PROJECT

Angela (not her real name) is the mother of two small children, who recently took part in one of the Patchwork parenting courses. She told everyone how she had been getting more and more frustrated with James, aged four, who was very untidy. Her usual response had always been to moan and nag, to very little effect, but this time, because of what we had been discussing in the parenting group, she decided to do things differently. She told him how she felt when she saw his bedroom so untidy, and offered to help him tidy it up. When they had finished, she thanked him and said how pleased she was to see his room looking so nice, and how proud she was of all the effort he had put into the task.

A few days later, James went upstairs to fetch something. Eventually, Angela began to wonder why he was taking so long, so she went up to see what he was doing. She opened the door of his bedroom, and found him putting his toys away. "I'm tidying my room again, Mummy," he said, "because I knew how pleased you'd be."

Patchwork continues to offer courses for parents throughout the diocese, usually hosted by one of the Catholic schools, and Angela is typical of the parents who take part. They are not bad parents, but good parents wanting to be even better, by taking the opportunity to stand back and reflect on how they care for their children, to talk through their concerns with other parents, and to learn some new strategies.

Most of the schools in the diocese have now hosted a course, and during 2008, sixty seven parents took part in the programmes which were held at eight venues in the diocese. We would like to thank the head teachers and staff of the schools for their enthusiasm for this area of the Society's work.

Please contact us for further details, especially if you might like to host a course for parents in your parish.

Lester Yeo – Project Manager

GOOD SHEPHERD PROJECT

The timetable for the next three years is now being compiled. Our team will visit four schools each Lent for anything from an assembly to a full day with whole school community involvement. If you would like your school to be involved then please contact the office to book a slot.

GIFT AID SCHEME

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is the scheme used by charities to reclaim tax on donations they receive. It means that if you are a UK taxpayer the Society can reclaim tax on all your donations, thereby increasing our income by almost a quarter on top of what you give.

What does it cost me?

It costs you absolutely nothing because the Society will be claiming back tax you have already paid to HM Revenue and Customs.

It applies to income tax or capital gains tax at whatever rate you pay, as long as you have paid enough tax for a reclaim to be made. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can receive additional relief.

How does it work?

You make a written Gift Aid declaration in favour of the Catholic Children's Society. There has to be a record of what you give: the best way to do this is by making a Bankers Order in our favour, because your Bank does the work on your behalf and we keep our costs to a minimum.

What happens if I stop paying enough tax?

You simply ask our Company Secretary to terminate your Gift Aid declaration so that the Society does not claim any tax you have not paid. If you start paying enough tax again in future you can ask us to reinstate your Gift Aid declaration.

What do I do next?

Please fill in the form on the next page and send it to our Company Secretary at Rosary House, 27 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ or contact us on 01392 426494 if you have any more questions.

Thank you for your prayers and the support you give to the Catholic Children's Society, without which we could not achieve our aims and objectives nor provide the services that we do.

Keith Lindsell
Director

GIFT AID DECLARATION CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH)

Registered Charity Number 282803
Registered in England as a Company Limited by Guarantee Number 1546053

I, _____, (Your Full Name)
of _____ (Your Full Home Address)
_____ Postcode _____

want the charity to treat all donations that I have made in the past 6 years, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations.

Date of Declaration _____

Signature of Donor _____

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year.

BANKER'S ORDER

Bank _____ Sort Code _ _ _ _ _

Address _____

A/c No _____ Name on a/c _____

Please make the payments detailed below and debit my account with the sum of

£ _____ (Words: _____ pounds)

on (date) _____

and thereafter Monthly* Quarterly* Annually*
until further notice. (*Delete as appropriate)

This order replaces any existing instruction in favour of the payee.

Signature _____ Date _____

PAYEE'S BANK DETAILS:

National Westminster Bank plc (Exeter Branch)
59 HIGH STREET, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 3DP
SORT CODE 56 00 49
A/c No. 00585548
A/c Title: CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH)

Thank you

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)



Annual Review 2009
Annual Appeal 30th August
Large print version available
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Audio version available on website

www.ccsplymouth.org.uk