

# SCOOTER

SOCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY



A Monthly Briefing from the Council for Social Responsibility Office

November 2009

## CHRISTMAS COMFORT



For several years the Council for Social Responsibility has held an alternative Christmas Service in the Cathedral for families of those affected by alcohol or drugs.

However, many people have approached CSR asking if they might attend the Service as they too find Christmas a painful or lonely time and cannot share in the joyful celebration that accompanies many Christmas Services.

In response to these requests, this year the Alternative Christmas Service will be a time of quiet reflection for anyone who prefers to celebrate the meaning of Christmas in peace and tranquillity.

The Service will take place on Sunday the 6th December at 5.30pm in the beautiful surroundings of the Thomas Cantilupe Shrine in Hereford Cathedral.

After the Service there will be mince pies and coffee and an opportunity to talk.

• For more information about this special Christmas Service, contact:

Jackie Boys, SRO, ☎ 01432 373311 or email: [j.boys@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:j.boys@hereford.anglican.org)

### Prayer for Prisoners' Sunday

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us give your love,  
Where there is injury, pardon,  
Where there is doubt, faith,  
Where there is despair, hope,  
Where there is sadness, joy,  
Where there is darkness, light.

For in giving we receive,  
In pardoning we are pardoned,  
and in dying we are born into eternal life.  
Amen.



### Promoting a Safe Church

The time has now come to ensure that the Church can be as safe a place for vulnerable adults as for children.

A Policy has recently been issued by the House of Bishops, called *Promoting a Safe Church*. This is now being considered by a working group in the diocese and it is hoped to present a diocesan policy to next March's Diocesan Synod. It will highlight the reasons for concern, best practice and a model policy which churches will be encouraged to adopt locally.

As a Church we need to embody the very highest standards of care. Nothing less will do in a community called to witness to the eternal dignity of every human being.

Watch this space for more information in the New Year!

### Prisoners' Sunday



On 15th November, the church marks Prisoners' Sunday - a day of prayer and action for prisoners, their children and families, prison workers, ex-offenders, and victims of crime.

The theme of this year's Prisoners' Sunday is **Hold Fast to Hope** - a hope that is rooted in the Christian belief that the divine spark is in all people, that no-one is beyond redemption and that change can and does take place.

• For more information and resources visit [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk)

# GREETINGS TO A STRANGER



This year, whilst shopping for your Christmas cards, perhaps consider sending a greeting to a Prisoner of Conscience.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> November until the 31<sup>st</sup> January, Amnesty members and the general public, are invited to send a card to someone listed in AIUK's booklet of people who are in prison yet have committed no crime under International Law, and very often have not been brought to trial. Many of those imprisoned are there because they have dared to expose the corrupt ways of their own regimes, or even spoken up in opposition.

Members of the local group of Amnesty International have a table for card signing in All Saints Church, Hereford, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, and will also be present at the Christmas Fair in Hereford Cathedral on Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>, as well as their usual days in Leominster and Ludlow.

It is hoped that everyone interested in sending a message of hope to a Prisoner of Conscience will be able to attend at one of these dates. The cards and the details of the prisoners who are part of the campaign are supplied by AIUK. All that is requested in return is a small contribution towards the cost of postage.

Many former prisoners have expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the cards they received whilst in jail, saying that the cards often kept them going during the darkest days.

## RoadPeace Reminder

As regular readers of Scooter are aware, each year there is a special service in Hereford Cathedral, to remember those killed and injured in road collisions.

This year's RoadPeace Service of Remembrance takes place on Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30pm. The guest preacher will be the Revd Bill Anderson, Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District, who spoke so movingly at the 2005 service about his own experiences of losing someone close to him in a car crash.

As a special tribute to those people who have died on roads in Herefordshire and Shropshire an exhibition has been created by the Council for Social Responsibility in partnership with the police.

The Empty Shoes Exhibition is in the Cathedral from the 2<sup>nd</sup> November to the 13<sup>th</sup> and each pair of shoes represents one person killed on roads in the two counties. Many of the shoes have been given by the next of kin and there will be 31 pairs of shoes on display.



Providing emergency accommodation to homeless 16-25 year olds in Herefordshire

**Volunteer Host families required  
Training & expenses provided**



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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

Shropshire & Herefordshire Helpline

☎ 0800 783 1359

Free 24-hour National Helpline

☎ 0800 2000 247



**In an emergency phone 999**



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