

Outreach Groups

The one common link which all our groups have is that in different ways we are trying to help others by striving to make our society fairer, especially in the way in which we treat more disadvantaged people, whether here at home or abroad. All our groups would welcome new members; they are as follows : -

Catholic Women's League

We would actively welcome new members. We meet monthly, sometimes with speakers. Our activities are a mix of social and fund raising. Cake sales are a regular feature with proceeds going to charities including the North Thames Hospice. In the summer just gone we have had a cream tea in one of our member's garden and a most enjoyable outing to Waddesdon Manor.

Justice and Peace

We meet monthly at Holy Cross Convent, often with a guest speaker. Our focus is on campaigning on behalf of those suffering injustice. Apart from those able to attend our meetings we have a mailing list of parishioners willing to support petitions on behalf of victims of injustice - often supporting such E-petitions can make a real difference. In the last year we have persuaded the Parish Council (it wasn't difficult!) to resolve to make the parish a Fairtrade Parish in common with most other parishes in the diocese. We put on a display promoting fair trade goods during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Life/Pro Life Group

We meet once or twice a month with an average attendance of about eight and we would love to welcome new members. Our emphasis is on teaching and giving practical help. We visit schools to help children understand how babies develop in the womb and are recognisable as formed babies long before they are born. There are two houses in Slough where young women who have decided to have their babies are supported. Volunteers from the group visit the houses and give practical help to the women and their babies. Counselling is also offered to women suffering the after-effects of having had an abortion. We give financial support to the Life Group in Cameroon.

London and Slough Run

Was established in 1984 to support the homeless and people in need. Each week the charity distributes items such as food, drink, clothing, bedding and toiletries to some 300 people who come along to the various distribution points situated on the streets of London and Slough. We rely on parishioners preparing sandwiches and donating crisps, biscuits, fruit, cakes, hard boiled eggs, cartons of drinks and sweets delivered to the Parish Centre by 3.30pm each Monday. The website is www.thelondonandsloughrun.com

SHOC Slough Homeless Our Concern

SHOC aims to provide, within a safe and friendly environment, a comprehensive package of services to tackle homelessness and social exclusion. We aim to provide clients with the knowledge and tools that will help them to re-integrate back into society and become useful members of the community. Our service is open to all; it is non-judgemental, confidential, friendly and anti-discriminatory. In the last year we got 65 homeless people into accommodation and helped 29 people to get jobs. Parishioners give their time to help with running the charity and its fundraising events. We would welcome more volunteers for this rewarding work. The website is www.sloughhomeless.org

Cameroon Education Fund

Parishioners continue to respond generously to our appeal for the Cameroon Education Fund for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children of the Diocese of Kumbo, Cameroon. Since our last appeal in May 2012 a total of £3,050 has been sent to Kumbo. In addition £2523 was sent at the end of 2011, funds mainly being received from regular standing orders. Ephraim and Theresia wrote "Once more we thank you all, and do pass on our sincere gratitude to all those who are sacrificing every year to donate to this fund. God will reward them abundantly."

Traidcraft

Monthly sales of Traidcraft goods are advertised in the Parish Newsletter. Traidcraft is promoting exclusively Fair Trade goods where the sales benefit producers in Third World countries who are usually struggling to survive at little more than subsistence levels. Any profits go to improving the infrastructure in the developing country - for example installing a clean water supply. Sales have improved in the past twelve months and deserve the continuing support of parishioners.

Stephen Forster
September 2012