

SOCIAL ACTION GROUP

ADVENT NEWSLETTER 2009

CAFOD The beginning of Advent, and the start of the new Liturgical Year, seems an appropriate time to launch a new focus for our Parish CAFOD fundraising. Over the past three and a half years, our Parish has raised approximately £8,500 for 'focusafrica', mainly through our weekly envelope collection via the CAFOD Black Box. During the coming year the money collected in this way will be used to purchase items from the World Gifts Catalogue, thus creating a 'Virtual Village'. The first item we will be collecting for is a Greenhouse, which will cost £225. With a greenhouse, families can grow bigger and healthier crops of vegetables, the surplus of which they can sell at local markets. This extra income can be used to pay, for example, school fees or medicines. To start us off, all money collected from our Sale of Traidcraft Christmas Cards and through our Christmas Card Board (see overleaf) will go towards this target. To follow our progress, keep your eye on the CAFOD Noticeboard in the Church porch.



CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD: So many people wonder, "How do I send a Christmas card/message to all parishioners? Where do I draw the line?"

Answer: easy! Post a message/small Christmas Card on the CAFOD board displayed at the back of the Church and make a donation to help us to buy a greenhouse for CAFOD.

Two good deeds for the price of one! Well done.

ADVENT GIVING TREE Once again this year we will be collecting gifts for SURVIVING CHRISTMAS through our Tree. Please take a label from the tree and bring the item specified to either Mass on Sunday December 20th; there is no need to wrap your gift. All our gifts will then be given to Surviving Christmas for the hampers which they distribute. Last year about 500 hampers were distributed to elderly and housebound people in the local community.

Also around the tree are envelopes containing details of Prisoners of Conscience to whom we are invited to send greetings this Christmas. This is part of the Actions by Christians Against Torture campaign. Inside the envelope you will find a list with several suggestions of people you may wish to send a card to, so that you can decide; there are also guidelines included, so please abide by these. You may like to keep 'your' prisoner in your prayers throughout the year.

Finally, we would to thank all our Parishioners who have supported the work of the Social Action Group throughout 2009 - whether it be CAFOD, 'Neighbours at Concordia', the minibus transport to 11.00am Mass, our Advent initiatives, the Justice and Peace Campaigns etc. etc. We are only a small group of 5, and we do rely on your support! So if you haven't got involved with us yet - well maybe in 2010!! Have a happy, holy and fruitful Advent.

Linda Dignum, Kevin Dignum, Tony Cox, Christine Knag, Sister Josephine.