



ANN WIDDECOMBE SIGNS FOR THE SOCIETY

Craft fairs and cream teas were the order of the day when the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG came to Falmouth, Torquay, and Poole over the summer to sign her books in aid of the Society.

The three events were Miss Widdecombe's first engagements since becoming a patron in November 2014 and her books proved to be very popular, particularly in Poole where they sold out!

Across the three events about £1000 was raised for the needy families of our Diocese. Thank you to everyone who come to support the Society and to all the volunteers who gave their time so willingly at the events.

Support from parishes and local groups

Thank you to everyone who has given their time or money recently to support the Catholic Children's Society including Sidmouth parish who held a quiz night and raised nearly £180 and the Knights of St Columba, Poole and Branksome who have donated £120. Grand Knight Cathal Smith can be seen here presenting the cheque to our fundraiser Claire Warren.



MARATHON NEWS A MARATHON RUNNER IN EVERY CITY

It is exciting times...for the first time ever the CCSP has a place in the London Marathon! A raffle took place on 10 November to decide who would take it and the lucky winner was Rebecca Gardiner from Fordingbridge. Rebecca was over the moon on hearing the news said she was 'honoured to be running for a good cause' and she would 'sincerely promise to do CCSP proud.' And true to her word Rebecca, a 'nifty fundraiser' (her words not mine), is already organising a raffle to raise her sponsorship.

Another gallant runner is Josie Harris from St Joseph's Parish in Poole. She also entered the raffle for the London Marathon but on losing out decided to take up the challenge in Rome instead. She says her persuasion techniques for gaining sponsorship are second to none, so watch out in Poole!

Our final runner is Marco Palominio who is running the Paris Marathon. Marco who is from Mexico ran his first CCSP marathon in 2014 in Rome when he was a parishioner of Our Lady of the Portal and St Piran in Truro. Having completed the Dublin Marathon in October, he is determined to achieve a personal best in Paris – go Marco go!

Thank you to all our runners for their commitment. If you would like to join Josie in Rome it is not too late to register but if a marathon seems a little too far why not give the Plymouth Half Marathon a go? Call Claire on 07734 503363 or see our website for further details.



Children First

The Newsletter of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)



Issue 14 ADVENT 2015

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Join the children of our diocese as they celebrate the tradition of the crib

The glorious season of Advent is now upon us; a time to reflect in the joyous birth of Jesus. For too many though, it becomes a financial burden as we get caught up in the commercial aspects of Christmas. So what better than to join our children in their quest to explore the traditional meaning of the crib?

During Advent the Catholic Children's Society is launching 'Cribs for Kids' and inviting school children to make their own nativity scenes and consider the needy families across the Diocese. Just as children re-enact the stories or their superheroes and favourite characters through role play or models such as Lego or Play Mobil, St. Francis created the first nativity scene in the village Greccio in 1223. His aim was to make the Christmas story come alive for the shepherds and farmers of the locality in an effort to share his happiness and devotion to the infant Jesus and promote the true meaning of Christmas. His idea caught on, and now nativity scenes can be seen all over the world in homes, churches and public places.

'Cribs for Kids' hopes that by making their own cribs, students will:

- be put in touch with the simplicity of God's love and the magnitude of his caring for the poor, needy and suffering
- consider those who are less fortunate and understand that Christmas can be a difficult time for families living in poverty
- realise that helping and caring for others is the greatest gift that they can give.



So wherever we encounter a nativity scene this Christmas - in the shops, in the streets, at home or in church - let's take a moment to think about how we can make the Christmas story come alive for those around us and for the poor of our diocese. Please pray for the families who can barely afford heating and food let alone presents, toys and treats and please keep alive the tradition of making a donation to the Catholic Children's Society at the crib in your parish church.

Thank you for your support throughout 2015. Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.
Tricia Nilsson (Chair to the Board of Trustee Directors)



SAVE YOUR STAMPS!

It's amazing what they are worth!

Millions of Christmas cards are sent every year. Please save your used postage stamps and we will put them to good use.
See page 2 for further details



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) St Boniface House, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, TQ13 7JL



Tel. 01364 645420 | admin@ccsplymouth.org.uk | www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

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ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Annual Appeal in August. The total currently stands at just over £19K. Your generosity means that we can continue to help parents and carers as they struggle to provide a home and the basic needs for their children.

In 2015 the Society has made 89 grants including:

- ▶ school clothing for a number of refugee families
- ▶ beds and bedding for three children who were having to share a single bed or sleeping on the floor whilst waiting to be re-housed
- ▶ furniture for a mum and daughter seeking refuge from domestic violence; all their previous belongings had been destroyed in the struggle
- ▶ providing a hot meal a day to the children of a homeless family who were having to live in a different bed and breakfast each week

The Society strives to help these genuine cries for help as well as supporting parents and carers through our parenting programme, but despite everyone's generosity and efforts to fundraise it unfortunately continues to run at a deficit each year. Any further help you could give throughout the year would therefore be very much appreciated.

GET INVOLVED

How can you help to help others?

Recycle

Donate used stamps, postcards, old coins and foreign currency, medals, jewellery and old maps via the orange box at the back of your church (if your parish has one) or send to **PO Box 245, Plymouth, PL5 2WX**. If posting please ensure that you have paid the correct postage and please NO bottle tops, reading glasses, greeting cards, batteries or mobile phones in the box.

Recycle 4 Charity

Mobile phones and ink cartridges can be donated by registering on www.recycle4charity.co.uk and donating your items to the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Donate your time

Organise a coffee morning, a cake sale or a raffle; have a car boot sale, quiz night or cream tea. Any ideas you have to raise funds for vulnerable people will very much appreciated. Call **01364 645420** should require any assistance; we are here to help!



Join the Society's 50:50 club **HELPING HANDS**

Our monthly draw where half the funds received are given away in prizes! To be a member of the 50:50 club please complete the enclosed leaflet or visit our website www.ccsplymouth.org.uk



PATCHWORK PARENTING



Schools and Children's Centres from across the three counties of Devon, Dorset and Cornwall were invited to a presentation on the work of the Children's Society with parents over the summer. As a result, our work is spreading more widely through non-Catholic schools, although this term, we have continued working at Our Lady's Barnstaple, St Paul's, Plymouth, and St Mary's Bodmin. Our parenting programmes are suitable for all parents regardless of their faith commitment, and this new approach means we can give support to as many parents as possible. Our 'Pushchair and Primary' and 'Time for Parents' courses are offered on a self-referral basis, meaning that any parent who wishes to take part can sign up; please contact the host school or the Patchwork office on 01364 645421. Or look at our website for further details.

Programmes confirmed for Spring 2016 include:

Pushchair and Primary (for parents and carers with small children):

Twin Sails Infant School, Poole
(Monday mornings, starting on 25 January)
Gatehouse ACE Academy, Dawlish
(Wednesday afternoons, starting on 13 January)

Time for Parents (for parents and carers with children at Junior school):

Riverside Primary, Plymouth
(Thursday mornings, starting on 28 January)
Pennycross Primary, Plymouth
(Thursday mornings, starting on 14 January)
Ashburton Primary
(Thursday afternoons, starting on 21 January)
Widewell Primary, Plymouth
(Thursday afternoons, starting on 21 January)
Furzeham School, Brixham
(Friday mornings, starting on 15 January)
Wolborough School, Newton Abbot
(Wednesday mornings, starting on 20 January)

"I have learned to recognise my feelings and deal with them with respect to my children"

"Every chapter changed my view and attitude to how I am as a parent."

"I have become more positive and enjoy parenting more, appreciating time with the children more."

"I am more relaxed about my feelings and know I am not alone"

"This course really helped me to express my anger in a way that my children could hear. I haven't shouted for ages!!"

Hormones and Harmony

Petroc, Tiverton (Thursday evenings). This programme is intended to help parents concerned about the teenage years; the course is being administered by Petroc and enquiries should be made through the college. For a paper application form please contact the Registry Team on 01271 852443 or online at www.petroc.ac.uk/courses-search. There are course fees payable to Petroc of £30.

Incredible Years (School Age)

Tolnes. This programme is intended for parents who are facing more severe difficulties in their relationship with their children, and participants must be nominated by their child's school or another suitable agency. For full details, contact the Daisy Centre (01803 864737).