

## PLEASE HELP YOUR PARISH PRIEST OUT

### Parish representatives required

Your parish priest and office assistant (if you have one) do not have the time to deal with every request that lands on the desk from the Catholic Children's Society and numerous other charities. It is imperative though, that you the parishioners get to hear what the Society is organising because as the diocesan children's society, the majority of the support we receive is from the Catholics of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. We are therefore appealing for Society reps, to be our voice in their parish and ensure that as many people as possible get to know not only what events and appeals we are running, but also what we do. **Please help lighten the load for your parish priest; please help us to help those in need; please contact the office for further details on 01364 645420**

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE CWL SECTIONS THAT HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR HELP

A variety of events have taken place since the New Year including a raffle at Poole & Branksome and Lenten lunches at Ottery St Mary and Plympton. A number of donations were also received following the WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER on Wednesday 4 March. Peter Collett, one of the Society Trustee Directors, was kindly invited by Bodmin CWL to speak at their service in the Church of St Mary and St Petroc.



*I very much enjoyed my afternoon at St Mary's Bodmin for Women's World Day of Prayer where well over hundred ladies and a few men turned up. It was close to home for me as this year it was themed on the island of Cuba which my wife Sally and I visited 10 years ago for a sunshine holiday. The island was beautiful and the local people wonderful despite everyone being so very poor. As I explained to the congregation, at the smart hotel we stayed at the waiting staff at table were mainly qualified dentists, doctors and engineers as they could earn more money in tips in the restaurant than in their professions. Despite their poverty they all smiled, sang and danced and we in, the privileged western society, could learn much from their attitude to life and their strong Catholic faith.*



*So having been able to share my experience of the island of Cuba I was able to focus on the poverty we still face here in Cornwall, being the poorest part of the UK despite it being a holiday hotspot for the rich, similar to Cuba. I proudly put over examples of grant aid we had given to struggling families across the Diocese and the educational benefits of the Patchwork Parenting programme. I did thank them for giving me time in the middle of the service and the cream tea I enjoyed with them in the parish hall.*

**THANK YOU TO EVERY PARISH GROUP WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOCIETY THIS YEAR. SMALL OR LARGE, YOUR DONATIONS ARE IMPORTANT AND ENABLE US TO DO WHAT WE DO.**

### Q. How many teams took part in the 2016 Great Big Diocesan Quiz?

**A. Eleven**

Friday 15 April was quiz night across the diocese as eleven individual quizzes took part in the **Great Big Diocesan Quiz**. From Poole to Bodmin, Teignmouth to Ilfracombe, teams put their heads together to answer the same questions on TV and Film, Science and Nature, Sport and General Knowledge. During the evening quizzes were updated on the scores across the region and the champions were declared at the end. In fact two teams tied for top spot, The 'Fishers of Men' from Ilfracombe and 'Tequila Mockingbird' from West Moors. Both teams will be receiving a prize in recognition of their effort.

Nick Johnson, a deacon in Poole, commented that 'the Diocesan's wide connection was an excellent part of it for me and made me feel more part of Plymouth Diocese than anything else.' The concept brought people together across the region not only for a great night out but also to help the less fortunate of our area, raising over £1800 on the night!

Thank you to everyone who took part and particularly to the organisers of each quiz night and the quizmasters. The plan is to do it all again in October with some real 'live' reporting and score sharing in place.

**If you fancy organising a quiz night in your parish for the next Great Big Diocesan Quiz on Friday 7 October or can help in any way with the organisation of the event as a whole, please get in touch via the website or the office.**

## HELPING HANDS

### Prize money on the up!

Thank you to the everyone who has signed up for *Helping Hands* our 50:50 club. We now have 57 numbers in the draw each month but it would be ideal if we could get 200. Sign up today; call the office for a form or visit our website.



## RECYCLING

### Clutter makes money!

In 2016 we have already recorded an income of nearly £700 just from your old stamps, currency, jewellery and watches etc. Please keep them coming in!

## WILL/LEGACY

*Have you considered leaving something in your will for future generations to benefit from?*

Legacies provide a firm foundation for the work of the Society and enable long term planning and developments to come to fruition. For more details please see our website or call the office on 01364 645420



# Children First

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



**Issue 15 SPRING 2016**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR • A season to be grateful

Spring is such a wonderful time to show our appreciation. To our Lord who gave everything at that first Easter and left us with such a generous a gift in the healing Mass; to our own family and friends who support us each day, our lives would be very much poorer without them, and to the supporters of the Catholic Children's Society Plymouth (CCSP) who have given so generously with prayers and donations for the vulnerable children and families of our diocese who need a new start in life.



It is heart-warming to see the cheques arriving at the office on a regular basis but even more wonderful to be invited to receive a donation in person as was the case when I recently visited St. Nicholas' School, Exeter. The school had raised money by planting a daffodil garden and it was a privilege to meet the staff and children and share in their amazing efforts.

I have also been a guest of the Exeter Catenians recently. My husband and I were invited to Mass and a meal at Topsham where I was asked by President David Siely to speak about the Society (some would say try and stop her!). David has very generously nominated the CCSP as his charity for the year of office, raising a wonderful £997!

On behalf of the Society and those who benefit from these and all the donations we receive, I would like to say a very big **THANK YOU!**



## LENTEN LUNCHES

**Thank you to everyone who has made contributions during Lent.**

A particular mention must go to Fr Kieran, CCSP volunteers Andrea Rodgers and Carol Martin and the parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption, Torquay who raised a magnificent £500 through weekly Lenten lunches. A wonderful idea enjoyed by all who attended to eat homemade soup and bread, what an inspiration to us all. Thank you!

**To receive this newsletter directly to your door or by email please send your details to:**

**CCSP**  
**St Boniface House,**  
**Ashburton**  
**TQ13 7JL**  
**Email: [ccs@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:ccs@prcdtr.org.uk)**  
**Call: 01364 645420**



# TURKEY TRIUMPH

## Cookers delivered in time for Christmas

The run up to Christmas is always busy in the office as parents struggle to meet the financial demands and expectations of the festive period. Last December was no exception. In the week before Christmas, Heather our administrative assistant, received two applications for cookers from parents facing a cold lunch on Christmas Day. Thanks to donations made to the Society throughout the year, 'Santa's elf' was able to rapidly turn the applications round and arrange for the delivery and fitting of the two new appliances by Christmas Eve. Both parents were so grateful; one describing Heather as an 'angel'; the other bursting into tears with the relief of being able to provide her children with a proper dinner, not only on Christmas Day, but for the weeks and months to come.



### THE FOLLOWING ARE MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION FROM GRATEFUL FAMILIES

*This is absolutely fantastic! Thank you so much for your help. Please thank the board again for their generosity in helping our needy families*

*I spoke to mum and she was 'over the moon'*

*Please thank your team for their support ☺*



## CELEBRATION OF ANOTHER YEAR ANNUAL MASS PLANNED FOR JUNE IN BARNSTAPLE

Without your prayers and donations the work of the Society would not be possible. Thank you to everyone who helps in any way: schools, parishes, individual donors. Whether you have run a marathon or donated your used stamps, everything counts towards helping those who need our help and support.

**In celebration of our work and everyone's generosity the ANNUAL CELEBRATORY MASS OF THE SOCIETY 2016 will be at Our Lady's School, Barnstaple on Thursday 16 June at 6pm.**

Refreshments will be available after Mass. If you would like to attend this Mass please can you let the office know so that we can keep a check on numbers for the school.



# PATCHWORK PARENTING



*My daughter has noticed a change – basically she thinks I'm less stressed! (Parent in Ashburton)*

Parenting is a mixture of highs and lows ... and everything in between. Being a parent can be both rewarding and challenging. It can bring some of life's biggest joys, but also its greatest challenges and at times parents need others to come alongside them in their journey. For most parents, a bit of encouragement and a reminder that we're not alone can make a real difference.

The Patchwork Parenting programme has been running in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall for fifteen years. The courses it offers are commonly run in schools, and are made up of six to eight sessions led by trained and experienced facilitators and include group discussions and practical activities to equip, encourage and support parents, build on their strengths and give time and space to think about any changes they wish to make in bringing up their children. A helpful, easy to read handbook is included with each course. **The benefits of sharing ideas and experiences with other parents can last a lifetime.**

## DATES OF FORTHCOMING TASTER SESSIONS

### PUSHCHAIR TO PRIMARY

- Camborne Nursery School on Wednesday 27th April at 1.45pm.

### TIME FOR PARENTS

- Halberton Primary School, Tuesday 26th April at 9am
- Beechwood Primary School, Plymouth on Wednesday 27th April at 9.15am
- Torbridge Primary School, Plymouth on Wednesday 27th April at 9am
- Lytchett Matravers Primary School, on Wednesday 27th April at 6pm
- Launceston An Daras Academy Trust on Friday 29th April at 10.15am
- Our Lady's Primary School on Tuesday 3rd May at 1.30pm
- St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, Brixham on Monday 9th May at 1.30pm

### HORMONES & HARMONY

- Saltash (Brunel) on Tuesday 3 May at 9.15am
- Widewell Primary School, Plymouth on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at 1.30pm

**"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men"**

*Frederick Douglas*

*A really useful course. It made me think about different ways to encourage my child to become more independent and responsible for her behaviour (A Poole mum).*

*Relationships are better both with my children and between them. Mornings are calmer and there is less arguing (Brixham mum)*

# THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF MARATHON RUNNING

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY APRIL WITH THREE RUNNERS IN THE PARIS, ROME AND LONDON MARATHONS AS WELL EIGHT RUNNERS IN THE PLYMOUTH HALF MARATHON. IT'S ALWAYS SO INSPIRING TO SEE THE EFFORT PEOPLE WILL GO TO SUPPORT US HERE DAVID WELLS GIVE HIS ACCOUNT OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE PLYMOUTH HALF MARATHON



*God gives me that reward. What I did sense was that when I run a long way (and 13 miles is long), the body seems to open the soul. The mind concentrates on breathing and something which normally gets in the way is denied headspace. A different prayer takes over. Not particularly eloquent or rehearsed. Just... "Thank you." I kept saying it in time with my breathing. And I meant it. Later it became "Help me" and I meant that too. These are not simple words. When breath itself is sought after, so is the prayer. It wasn't the race I was praying about. It was everything and it came from the core of me.*

*I enjoyed the Plymouth half-marathon. Not least because my final prayer returned to gratitude. Beyond the finishing line I pulled up. In front of me was a man who had run the race to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. His T-shirt read "I ran this for my dad, who doesn't know who I am." Stupid me with a tear in my eye, thanking God for a generosity that comes from adversity*



David is pictured here with Sancha Clark and Mary Pool. Also running on the day were Rev Simon Fletcher, Jonathan Githens-Mazer, Elizabeth Laycock, Marc Ujvari and Claire Warren.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR RUNNERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN A RACE (ANY RACE) ON BEHALF OF THE CCSP PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH CLAIRE ON [claire.warren@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:claire.warren@prcdtr.org.uk)**

In the Paris Marathon, Marco Palomino found the going tough, "The last 500 metres were awful... I didn't want to lose to any of the guys behind me... I wanted to pass all the people ahead of me... I really tried my best in the last 500 metres," and in Rome poor Josie Harris had to run with an injury. Despite their difficulties though they both triumphed and Josie even went as far as to say, 'I thoroughly enjoyed it... and to those thinking of doing a marathon.....I'd highly recommend Rome! It was beautiful!



Josie raised over £1200 in sponsorship as did Rebecca Gardiner who ran the London Marathon; such remarkable fundraising considering the hours of training they had to do. Rebecca found the whole experience amazing saying, 'It's been a really memorable journey. It's really made me see just how kind, generous and encouraging people can be' ☺ And finally David Mullany joined Rebecca in the London Marathon. He had gained his place through his running club and generously decided to raise funds for the Society as well as Prostate Cancer and Medecins sans Frontieres.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FABULOUS RUNNERS WHO RAN IN PARIS, ROME, LONDON AND PLYMOUTH AND TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THEM ALONG THE WAY.**

The Society is so grateful for the time, energy and commitment that everyone puts into training and fundraising. Together the runners have raised a combined total of over £5,500 to support the vulnerable and needy children and families of our diocese. A truly remarkable effort, thank you.