

NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

CRIBS • CRIBFESTS • EPIPHANY
SEASONAL ACTIVITIES



St Francis in 1223 felt that his fellow citizens in their elaborate festive celebrations were forgetting the true meaning of Christmas. He therefore brought the story to life by creating the nativity scene in a cave in the mountains outside Greccio in Italy, using local people, a real baby, ox and donkey. The event stuck in people's minds and the tradition of the crib is now recognised around the world. The CCSP is using the crib as a point of focus in a number of events this season. Please support one or more of them if you can!

CRIB COLLECTIONS most parishes in the Diocese have a collection box beside their nativity in aid of the CCSP.

ADVENT APPEAL IN SCHOOLS: a number of diocesan schools have signed up to collect coins for children this Advent using crib shaped collection boxes

EPIPHANY CRIBFEST Parishioners are invited to bring in their cribs to church for all to see. It makes for a wonderful display with cribs from around the world and is a lovely way to celebrate this feast which is so often forgotten as people pack up their decorations and return to work.

EPIPHANY MEAL (see opposite)
Please contact the office or see our website for further details of these or any other events the Society is hosting.

ALL CHANGE
And Then There Were Twelve

We are delighted to welcome Rev Deacon Simon Fletcher, Tamsyn Bellman, Vaughan Magor and Mary Shepherd but sadly have had to say goodbye to Trish Nilsson who has returned to Wales with her husband Gerald. In her five years at the Society (three as chairperson), Trish was passionate about the work of the CCSP and worked so hard



to get the message across that we are here as the Diocesan children's society to help those in our midst that are struggling to cope. Her bubbly personality, enthusiasm for change and awesome welsh cakes will be sorely missed!

Her place as Chairperson has been taken by Shelagh Fearnley. Sheelagh has been with the Society for six years. Another lady with seamless energy, Shelagh is already working tirelessly to improve the lives of families and ensuring where possible, that they have the support networks necessary to build a better future.

Celebrate Epiphany

Host a King's Day Feast

Invite family and friends around for dinner

Enjoy a meal together

Ask your guests kindly,

for a donation to the CCSP

Enjoy

WAYS TO HELP

WE CANNOT DO WHAT WE DO, WITHOUT YOU!

If you would like to make a donation to the CCSP and help children and families across the Diocese, please complete the following form and send it to the address at the bottom of the page. To set up a regular payment by standing order please call the office 01364 645420.

I'd like to give a donation of: £10 ☐ £20 ☐ £30 ☐ Other £ ☐

please tick as appropriate or complete

Title	First Name	Surname
Address		
		Postcode
Telephone	Email	
GIFT AID - turn every £1 you donate into £1.25 at no extra cost to you		
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to Gift Aid this donation to the CCSP and any other donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am not a taxpayer		
I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax &/or Capital Gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.		
Signature	Date	

Join our 50:50 club

HELPING HANDS

Find out more on our website...

DONATE ONLINE

Get Involved 2018

Epiphany CribFests across the diocese; host a Kings Day Dinner

Great Big Diocesan Quiz
Friday 13 April

Dinner with the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe
Ascension Thursday 10 May

Challenge Events
Rome Marathon
Royal Parks Half Marathon
Plymouth Half Marathon
Exeter Marathon

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 or call 01364 645420

Children First

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

DIocese of PLYMOUTH

Christmas 2017 Issue 17

WISHING ALL OUR SUPPORTERS A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, EFFORTS AND DONATIONS IN 2017

IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MAKE LOVE YOUR AIM

This is my first letter as chair of CCSP. I am proud to be a part of our Diocese's only children's charity. Bishop Mark is our president. On behalf of all the Trustees I would like to thank him for his continued support.

The CCSP cannot exist without support - the support of donations, fundraisers, time and prayers.

In our communities in 2017, children and families go without food, clothes, and a safe place to live. Hard to believe but it is true. Our Society helps multi-faith families, families of no faith, and Catholic families because we are all God's family.

Through the love, generosity and efforts of many, the CCSP can help a little; through our Grant Giving Scheme we can make a grant for a cooker, buy school uniform, help secure a safe place to live and our Patchwork Parenting Programme provides support to parents and carers. Make Love Your Aim is the message. We can do this together, with the Lord's help.

Thank you for all you do in love, in the Lord's name. May I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas. Thank you

Shelagh Fearnley
Chair of the Board of Directors



Shelagh can be seen here at the back to the right of Bishop Mark following the Society's Annual Mass at St Peter's Church Plymouth on Thursday 2nd November. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this celebration Mass and to the staff of St Boniface College for organising the service and delicious refreshments.

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Dear Lord,
Let us not forget those around us for whom Christmas is a difficult time.

Let us pray that the love we share in our generosity, time and prayers will make a difference and give families the freedom to live life to the full.

Amen

ADVENT APPEAL

During Advent the children in our schools will be collecting coins (from home and away) to fill their 'crib' donation boxes.

The appeal, Make Love Your Aim, will not only raise money for the Society but, through assembly and lesson plans, will increase our young people's awareness that not everyone child has a Christmas full of treats and delights and suggest that by sharing their love -through their generosity, efforts and prayers -they can do something to help those in need.

GRANT GIVING PROGRAMME



ANNUAL APPEAL 2017: MAKE LOVE YOUR AIM (1Cor. 14:1)

The total raised, to date, from the appeal is nearly £17,000 (2016: 24K). Although this total is well down on last year's collection, thanks to your generosity, support and prayers we continue to build God's kingdom - a community of love. Thank you.

The Society Trustees deliberate long and hard over each application they receive to ensure that every request granted is genuine. The following comments from two recent benefactors illustrates the variety of the applications we receive; how challenging the applicants' situations can be and the difference a grant can make to someone's life.

The first was a grant that went to a professional mum who found herself in a desperate situation following a relationship crisis and the second grant paid for furniture storage whilst a family awaited a decision on their asylum status. Without this storage the family would have lost all the possessions (for a second time) that they had slowly collected second hand since their arrival in the country.



I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you all for your help and support during a very difficult time for me and my girls.....The grant has enabled us to have our own home and space, and start to heal from the tough time we've had...I feel quite embarrassed and I am not in the habit of asking for help but found myself in a situation where I really didn't know which way to turn. You have helped us so much and for that I am eternally grateful.



Thank you so much, this has made such a difference for me and my family. I have saved to buy furniture for my family, I would have had to leave everything and start again if I was not able to store it.

GRANTS 2017

- 19 washing machines
- 16 cookers
- 10 fridge freezers
- 32 beds and mattresses
- 15 grants for essential furniture
- 17 clothing grants (school uniforms, shoes and coats)
- 5 grants for new baby equipment
- 3 grants for pilgrims going to Lourdes

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS US DO WHAT WE DO

Many donations and efforts arrive anonymously. Each and every one of them is appreciated. They all make a difference.

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PATCHWORK PARENTING PROGRAMME

Review 2017

This year we have provided eleven parenting courses in the Diocese, 72% within individual schools, 28% in neutral venues, including church halls. We have been pleased to visit new schools while we are returning more regularly to other schools which have built our parenting programmes into the annual plan. 36% of our courses have taken place in Catholic schools, 10% in Church of England schools and 54% within the wider community.

The courses have included three early years, six primary and two teenage courses and have taken place in Newton Abbot, Plymouth, Plympton, Saltash, Barnstaple, Launceston, Bodmin and Camborne.

It has been a privilege to work with 66 parents, including six parents with English as an additional language, sharing their concerns, ideas and successes relating to their individual children- 35 pre-school children, 79 primary children and 45 secondary children in all. Throughout the seven or eight weekly sessions we discuss a range of issues from self-esteem and emotions to behaviour strategies and safety concerns.

Feedback

When asked if they would recommend the Patchwork Parenting sessions to other parents and carers 100% of parents said they would recommend them, saying:

- 'It helps with speaking out'
- 'Positive ways taught in the sessions on dealing with behaviour'
- 'Great to meet others and not feel alone'
- 'Very positive and non-judgemental'
- 'Yes, absolutely fabulous advice and sharing ideas'

Details of the courses and where they are running can be found on our website. If you would like to host a Patchwork Parenting course please call Caroline on 01364 645420 or email patchwork@predtr.org.uk

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COURSES PLANNED FOR 2018

Courses for spring and summer 2018 are nearly fully booked, and we are now taking bookings for the academic year 2017-2018.

Spring 2018

Parenting through the Primary Years:

St Joseph's RC School, Newton Abbot: Wed pm
The Hub, Plympton: Thurs am

Eggbuckland Primary, Plymouth: Thurs pm

Parenting through the Teenage Years:

The Hub, Plympton: Tues eve

Summer 2018

Poole, Camborne and Plymouth, details TBC

The PATCHWORK PARENTING PROGRAMME

The Society offers practical and emotional support to parents and carers through the following parenting programmes:

Parenting through the Early Years

Seven weekly sessions offering effective parenting support to parents of toddlers, pre-schoolers or children in the first few years of primary school. It is simply written, jargon-free, with a common sense approach.

Parenting through the Primary Years

A thought provoking programme of eight sessions, for parents of children of all ages, although ideally it is aimed at parents with children at primary school.

Parenting through the Teenage Years

Seven sessions dealing with the more difficult situations often met in the teenage years. The course is suitable for those whose children are approaching the teenage years as well as those with teenage children already.

The programmes provide parents and carers with the opportunity to support each other and, with the help of a trained facilitator, build on their own strengths to understand their children better and confirm their parenting skills.



GET INVOLVED

RUNNERS' HALL OF FAME

Thank you to all our dedicated runners who have run mile on mile around the country for the CCSP - Michael Quainoo and Linda Cronin (Rome Marathon), Rebecca Bradley (Dorchester Marathon), Michael Selby (Bristol Half) Katy and Claire Warren, Mary Pool. Marcia Doherty, Debbie Alford, David and Matt Wells, Dariusz and Jonathan Githens-Mazer (Royal Parks Half Marathon, London). Together they have raised over £5, 500 - thank you so much, you are all heroes!

DARIUSZ FAJGA

London Royal Parks Half Marathon Runner

Next time someone berates the young to you, hold this nineteen year old man up, as an example of just what can be and is being achieved by one very special millennial.

Dariusz arrived at Queensway Catholic Primary School, Torquay, from Poland, aged 8, just being able to speak a few words of English. He has gone on to exceed expectations educationally and personally. He has contributed greatly to the schools he attended and continues to contribute to his parish as an Altar Server and a First Communion Catechist. His life speaks of service through his charitable works and in his career with children with special needs. He comes from a family where his aspirations are recognised and where mature decision making is encouraged. Most of all he comes from a family of love.

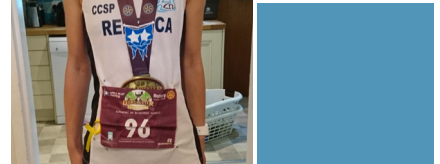
In October Dariusz completed his first half marathon, Royal Parks Half in London, raising over £300 for the Society. He is also an annual helper with HCPT Group 179; raising his fare through sponsored car washes, bake sales and putting on Polish meals for parishioners at Church of the Assumption.

As CCSP volunteers and former teachers of Dariusz, we could not be prouder of this young man. Thanks to all those in the Parish who support our fundraising for the Catholic Children's Society. God bless you all.

Trustee Andrea Rodgers and Carol Martin, both Society Volunteers for Church of the Assumption, Torquay



Dariusz (right) with fellow CCSP runners in London



RECORD YEAR! RECYCLING HITS RECORD £3000

It has been a very interesting and successful year for the **Orange Box Recycling Scheme** with generous donations of silver cutlery (owned by an Indian Maharaja) and jewellery as well as the usual stamps, coins and keys. Please keep clearing out those cupboards and drawers!



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