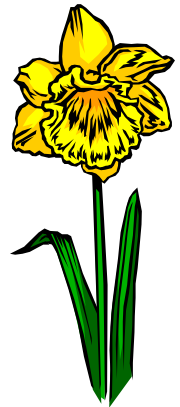


# ELY DIOCESAN BOARD FOR CHURCH IN SOCIETY

## Spring Newsletter 2008



### CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

#### CONSULTATION AND WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY 17 APRIL

The Criminal Justice group is organising an evening workshop to learn more about the concept of Circles of Support and Accountability. These groups, which constitute a partnership between statutory services and volunteers, were set up successfully in Canada to provide weekly confidential support for dangerous prisoners, usually sex offenders, post release.

Since their inception in Ontario in 1994, some pilot schemes have been carried out in Britain, largely through the Quaker Peace & Social Witness movement with the backing of the Home Office Dangerous Offenders (now Public Protection) Unit. The circles are supported by police, probation and prison services but with a substantial input from community and voluntary groups. To date these have run in Hampshire and the Thames Valley. The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has also set up circles since 2000.

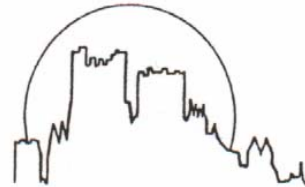
Very recently Circles UK has been set up to develop the support functions, and regional funding will be available. As the Criminal Justice group chairman Martin Kettle writes, 'this is a very intensive form of voluntary work, aimed squarely at preventing the creation of victims, and supporting the offender's active resettlement into a constructive way of life'.

**We are delighted that Chris Wilson, National Development Manager from Circles UK has agreed to run a Workshop as part of a regional Consultation exercise. This will take place in Bishop Woodford Retreat House from 6.15 pm to 9.15 pm on Thursday 17 April, followed by Compline in the Chapel. There will be a charge of £20 to cover supper, refreshments and materials.**

Please note that places must be booked in advance. The booking form is available on the Church in Society page 'Newsletters and Downloads' on the diocesan website: [www.ely.anglican.org](http://www.ely.anglican.org) or email the BCS office: [bsr@ely.anglican.org](mailto:bsr@ely.anglican.org) Further information is also available from [www.circles-uk.org.uk](http://www.circles-uk.org.uk) and [www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk)



## A POINT OF VIEW FROM THE CHAIRMAN



### Is Fairtrade fair?

Last month the Adam Smith Institute dropped a bomb on Fairtrade fortnight. They argued that Fairtrade is a con; that it only really helps relatively well off farmers; that it undermines free trade and creates uneconomic practices; that it prevents diversification and thus leaves people dependant on a single crop.

The Adam Smith institute however, has an axe to grind. They supposedly represent free trade, yet they uphold the capitalist West which has consistently denied free trade to third world producers and protected its own economic interest whenever it is under threat - as recent interventions by governments in western banks have shown.

Their arguments about 'relatively well off farmers' ignore the many Fair-trade initiatives in some of the poorest parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Rather than becoming 'single product dependant' Fairtrade producers report that their newly found economic stability enables them to diversify and invest in new ventures. If we can set a minimum wage for ourselves in the UK, shouldn't there be something similar for those who produce the goods we eat and drink and wear?

Fairtrade is a complex issue. We are now wrestling with difficult questions such as: 'Should I buy these fairtrade beans from Kenya or would it be better to buy a cabbage from East Anglia that doesn't have to travel far and doesn't have a detrimental effect on the climate?' No one is suggesting that the issues are straightforward. However, it is clear that Fairtrade is not only helping people out of poverty, it has set a standard for others to follow. Let us not get side-tracked. The free market has failed to deliver justice for the poor. Fairtrade is not the only solution, but it is certainly part of it. A big thank you to all who organised the wonderful Fairtrade event in Ely. As we move towards becoming a Fairtrade Diocese in 2009, let us give Fairtrade our wholehearted support.



Canon Alan Hargrave

## A COSTA RICAN COFFEE GROWER VISITS ELY !

### SUCCESSFUL FAIRTRADE EVENT ON 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH.....



Every year the Fairtrade Foundation chooses two weeks in the early spring to hold Fairtrade Fortnight. Up and down the country this is celebrated in churches, schools, workplaces and Towns.

This year Ely held its own event organised by The Ely Fairtrade Group - a sub group of the Ely Social Responsibility Forum.



The event started at Waitrose store which supported the event by kindly supplying all the refreshments and many kilos of bananas! A visiting fairtrade coffee farmer from Costa Rica was met there by the Mayor and Mayoress and The Town Crier. A local youth group carried four giant bananas and balloons. As the group made their way through the town, flyers were handed out to shoppers. A stop was made at the Oxfam

shop where Gerardo Arias Camacho (coffee farmer) met the manager. Everyone ended up at the cathedral Centre at 11o'clock. The Mayor opened the event and many people went in to see the exhibition, to have a free cup of tea or coffee and snack or to try the Fairtrade wine at the wine tasting (supplied by Waitrose). Many children had fun in the Art room with an artist giving lessons in silk screen printing with a Fairtrade theme.

The highlight of the day however was the illustrated talk which Gerardo gave. He had an interesting story to tell and was passionate about the benefits of Fairtrade for him and his family and the whole community. Amongst these benefits are increased financial security, the development of a processing and packaging business that is creating jobs, educational scholarships for children and environmental projects. He encouraged everyone to buy more Fairtrade goods because of the hope it gives and the help it brings.

After he had returned to Costa Rica we heard that he had sent a message to the people of Ely. "I feel very happy that the people of Ely are working so hard to bring change. Through your efforts, supporting Fairtrade in shops, cafes and in your beautiful Cathedral, we can build a better world for future generations."

Pauline Jupp

Costa Rican coffee grower Gerardo and the Mayor of Ely meet the manager of the Oxfam shop



# NOTICEBOARD



Church **Urban Fund** SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2008

**Support CUF SUNDAY on 1<sup>st</sup> June by holding a special service and taking part in a range of activities.....**

**Parish clergy and parishes will receive a mailing direct from CUF in the week 30 March to 5 April. This will include:**

- a leader's sheet,
- an activities sheet,
- an order form for extra materials e.g. Gift Aid envelopes, giving boxes, pew leaflet, prayer leaflet.

Suggested activities for fundraising :

- Big Brunch,
- Big Question (quiz), Small change, big change (give something up and give the money saved),
- Seeds of Hope (children's quiz).

**FOR POSTERS, PRAYERS AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES VISIT THE CUF WEBSITE: [www.cuf.org.uk/sunday](http://www.cuf.org.uk/sunday)**

.....

**CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK** [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

The Christian Ecology link is a campaign for a greener church and a greener world. Their website includes daily prayer guide, UK events list, green sermon notes, resources, climate change video and DVD. There is also a regular news email available from [jallinson@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:jallinson@christian-ecology.org.uk)

.....

**Teenagers ! What Every Parent *Has* to Know** [www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk)

Rob Parsons is the Executive Chairman of Care for the Family, a Christian charity. He is touring the country to speak about his recent book 'Teenagers ! What Every Parent *Has* to Know'. In our area the evening will take place at the Broadway Theatre, Peterborough on **Thursday 22 May 2008**, at 7.30 pm, cost £7.50 to include a copy of the book, (RRP £7.99).

The aim is to support parents of teenagers or those working with teenagers in the community. For further information, or for a discussion on how to promote this topic in your church please contact Des Holland on 029 2081 0800 or email

[Des.Holland@cff.org.uk](mailto:Des.Holland@cff.org.uk)

Hilary Lavis, BCS, Bishop Woodford House, Barton Rd, Ely, CB7 4DX, [bsr@ely.anglican.org](mailto:bsr@ely.anglican.org)  
01353 652720