



ELY DIOCESAN BOARD FOR CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Summer Newsletter 2008



HOW IS THE CHURCH PLANNING FOR A LOCAL MAJOR EMERGENCY ?

The disastrous mismanagement of emergency response to the cyclone in Burma, contrasted to the efficient intervention after the earthquake in China, illustrates not only how frequently communities can be engulfed by disaster, but also how critical is the need for concerted planning and training to cope with sudden catastrophe.



aftermath of earthquake in China

The Revd. Michael Goater is the Bishop's Adviser on Emergency Planning. For the last two years he has been working ecumenically and regionally to plan for the Church's response to a local 'Critical Incident'. Talking to members at the May board meeting, he reminded us that following last summer's floods in Yorkshire and Gloucestershire many families are still struggling to live in temporary accommodation such as sheds, garages and caravans. The publicity spotlight has moved on but for many people the disruption and emotional distress continue.



As the Archbishops have underlined this week, the Church has a major role to play, in conjunction with the statutory and voluntary agencies. Geographically it has buildings, many substantial and already in use for diverse community activities, in every town and village. It has great resources of manpower and local knowledge to harness. But these resources must be co-ordinated and controlled. As part of the local plans Emergency Response Teams are being set up which will include clergy alongside the professionals from the emergency services - fire, police and ambulance. Proper training and accreditation are essential. To this end recruitment for a special course for ministers at Addenbrooke's Hospital

begins this autumn.

This will be supplemented by a Cambridgeshire Critical Incident Response training programme to train people within the community to assist those trying to get back to normal life in the aftermath of an emergency situation.



Read Michael's own words on his ministry on page 2.

'CRISIS ? WHAT CRISIS...?' (Attributed to Prime Minister James Callaghan, 1979)

Readers of 'Church Times' will be familiar with the work of Ron, who provides an affectionate sideswipe at life in the Church of England in the form of a weekly cartoon. One of Ron's recent offerings depicted a queue of holiday-makers in an airport terminal. At the end of the line is an individual in sunglasses, Bermuda shorts and a Hawaiian shirt, with bulging suitcase and duty-free carrier bag. He is glancing furtively over his left shoulder. The caption reads, 'A crisis in the parish, and the Vicar's response was swift and effective ...'



Time was, when keeping one's head down – even better, distancing oneself from it at a rate of knots – would have been the response to a crisis not only of cartoon clergy but of whole dioceses in the Church of England. Confronted by an emergency, *individual* Christians have always been ready to pitch in, of course; but, when it came to a *corporate* response, the Church – capital 'c' –tended to copy the ostrich.

Now, the tactic of ignoring things on the grounds they will eventually go away occasionally serves its purpose. Not all situations, even serious ones, are crises. Sometimes a measured response is appropriate. However, we live in a world in which certain threats loom larger than they used to (they hardly need spelling out), and the complexity and sophistication of our lives today pose dangers our forebears never envisaged. Heads in the sand will no longer do for a Church which takes seriously its responsibility in Christ for a world God loves with abiding tenderness, whose huge hurt God treats with infinite compassion; which is why our diocese of Ely, in concert with its neighbours, its ecumenical partners and, increasingly, other faith groups in the East of England, is taking steps to ensure that when a critical incident occurs, we will be fit and able to respond.

A 'critical incident', in the jargon, is an event which, by its nature or scale, overwhelms a community's normal coping strategies. Sooner rather than later we are going to be caught up in a critical incident. Perhaps this year. Perhaps this afternoon. Emergency planning is about our readiness to respond effectively and efficiently when it happens, in the light of the scriptural, theological and humanitarian imperatives laid upon us as Christians, and in concert with the wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies which will also be involved. We, the Churches and members of other faith groups, will need to be responsible and accountable partners in that enterprise.

With a major crisis on our hands, and when people's lives may be at stake (including our own), there can be no allowance for well-meant blundering.

'Readiness' means being trained to play our part and make our special contribution, and being sufficiently organised that we can be called upon to assist the emergency services and other voluntary bodies. Over the past year we have been studying how other dioceses and faith groups are meeting this challenge, thinking about what would be most appropriate for Ely, and talking with trainers. We are now in a position, we believe, to develop an ecumenical team of volunteers willing and able to respond in the event of a major incident. We anticipate that recruitment for this immensely important group will take place in the autumn, with training and accreditation of volunteers beginning early next year.

Taking the world seriously directs us to Mission Action Planning and to three of the five Marks of Mission so often invoked these days: the call to respond to human need by loving service; to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth; to proclaim the good news of the kingdom. If it was important for the high King of heaven to be present in this way in Christ Jesus to his suffering creation, it surely cannot be less so for us, his continuing body.

This particular ministry is not for everyone. It is a calling. It takes a special kind of person. If you think the Lord might be asking you to be involved for love of Him and your neighbour, watch out for further bulletins, and if I can help with an enquiry, contact me at the address or phone numbers below. I'll be delighted to hear from you.

The Revd Michael Goater, Bishop's Adviser for
Emergency Planning
01223 843654 or 07936 432 289,
michael@mickthevic.org.uk

PROMOTING DIVERSITY: CMEAC - the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, a committee of the Archbishop's Council.

The Revd Jutta Brueck, Chaplain, Fitzwilliam College, soon to be Priest in charge, St James', Wulfstan Way, Cambridge, is the **Diocesan Link Person for CMEAC**

"Promoting diversity is the concern of ALL the Church because we are all created in the image of God. You can encourage members of your parish, deanery, and diocese to participate and be involved in all levels of our Church's dynamic life."
CMEAC

What does CMEAC do?

- Its **aim** is to encourage and support cultural diversity within the Church of England.
- Its **role** is to identify, monitor and take forward concerns of minority ethnic Anglicans and to make recommendations for change.
- In order to liaise with people in parishes and dioceses, CMEAC has created a **Diocesan Link Persons Network** - Bishop Anthony has asked me to be the Diocesan Link Person for our diocese.

As **Diocesan Link Person** I share the aim of CMEAC and want to help to raise the profile of minority ethnic issues in the diocese. In particular, I am concerned to help parishes support and encourage minority ethnic people to feel welcome in our churches and able to participate at all levels of the Church. This includes helping promote understanding of racism, racial and ethnic issues and cultural diversity. CMEAC is able to provide resources and training to support dioceses. It also means fostering minority ethnic vocations.

Over the next few months I would like to do a mapping exercise to discover where in our diocese minority ethnic people live and worship in our churches. I will be sending a short questionnaire to the Clergy and PCC Secretaries and would be grateful if you would fill this in and return it to me. I will also be liaising with diocesan officers and other organizations that strive for racial justice. **I would like to hear from anyone who is interested in promoting minority ethnic Anglican concerns and has suggestions of issues/areas we should pay attention to in order to promote the aims of CMEAC in our diocese.**



Contact details: The Revd Jutta Brueck, Westcott House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BP, email: jb200@cam.ac.uk, tel. 01223-741020



NOTICEBOARD

URGENTLY REQUIRED

for Oakington Immigration Reception Centre



where there are now approximately 350 male detainees

Good Quality Men's Clothes: Outdoor jackets, "hoodies", shirts, tee-shirts, trousers especially jeans, shoes especially trainers. If you can help please contact Della Fletcher, tel: 01223 841783, email



kdf@waitrose.com

FAIRTRADE STATUS FOR 2009

Diocesan Synod on 7 June unanimously approved the motion that we work towards achieving Fairtrade Diocese status by 2009, the year of our 900 anniversary celebrations. Pauline and Ben Jupp will be co-ordinating this enterprise, and further details will be sent out to parishes soon. Any enquiries can be directed to thejupps1@aol.com



LEPROSY MISSION FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN EAST ANGLIA

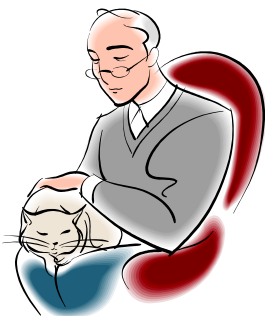


The Diocese has been supporting the Leprosy Mission through this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, with particular reference to the work of the Mission in Vellore, India and has raised the magnificent sum of £17,000. The East Anglia Region is also organising a series of local summer days out and events to raise money to rebuild five dilapidated leprosy colonies in Nigeria. These events include a sponsored walk from King's Lynn to Cambridge along the Fen River Way in July (2 days), Retreat Days in Ipswich or Bradwell on Sea, Essex and short 'Walks of Hope' in the grounds of stately homes such as Wimpole Hall and Stowe Landscape Gardens in Buckingham. A leaflet with full details is available

from the Revd. Mike Griffin, 6 The Wrens, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2YW, tel: 01842 750631 or email MikeG@TLMEW.org.uk

A MISSION-SHAPED CHURCH FOR OLDER PEOPLE ?

Practical Suggestions for Local Churches



This is a new book of resources for church leaders, produced by the Church Army and the Leveson Centre for the Study of Ageing, Spirituality and Social Policy. It is endorsed by the Archbishop of York who writes: *'The way the book is set out will be warmly welcomed by busy and hard-pressed church leaders. In the first part, three modules (13 sessions including an introduction) are explained and planned – the leader has to familiarise themselves with the content and provide supportive material for each session. The second part contains a whole range of helpful material which should be placed in the hands of anyone*

who ministers among older people: the range is quite extraordinary'. Costs £10. Order online from the Leveson Centre website www.levesoncentre.org.uk

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