

TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER⁺

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE
DIOCESE OF CHESTER AND CUF



Prayer Partners' Newsletter February 2017

Welcome to our prayer partners' newsletter. It doesn't seem so long ago that we were sending out our Christmas edition but as I'm typing, I can see sunshine and the first of the daffodils appearing which makes me think that Spring is around the corner. We have lots of things in the planning for which we would appreciate your prayer support. We also want to share with you some of the things we have been busy with recently.

- On 19th January, we partnered with Stockport Credit Union to present an event, "**Financial Wellbeing in Stockport**". It was well attended by churches in the Stockport area and we were delighted to see Bishop Libby sign up as a member of the Credit Union. (pic. Bishop Libby and Julie Abbott from Stockport Credit Union)
We believe that the church has a responsibility to be at the centre of a fairer financial system and this will be a starting point.



- On 10th January, we were invited to speak to **Churches Together in Sale** as they begin to plan their response to homelessness in the area. Kath invited Jeff Jerram from the St. Alban's Project, Dukinfield to accompany her and to talk about his 20-year experience of working in a church project supporting homeless people. They were both warmly received and we would *ask your prayers now for those churches to gain support, enthusiasm and affirmation for their initiatives.*
- **Places of Welcome** is an initiative that we are promoting and hoping to spread across the Diocese. (Ask us about it!) There are already some great examples in the Wirral and now there are 5 churches in the Ellesmere Port area who are about to begin.

Please pray that these churches experience success in their venture and that many more capture this vision.



- **Beyond the Food Parcel'** is an event organised by the Department of Social Responsibility in the Diocese. The first of two events took place in Wilmslow on 3rd February and the second one is planned for 17th March at St. Lukes Huntington, Chester, 10-12.30.

We are pleased to be involved in both events, which bring together Local Authorities, M.P.'s offices, Credit Unions, Food Pantries, Food Banks, churches and others to examine the issues of food poverty in Britain today. Rosie Oglesby from Feeding Britain and Andrew Forsey from the Office of Frank Field M.P. were welcome contributors. (Pictured here with Ruth Mock (ruth.mock@chester.anglican.org), Diocesan Family Life Officer)



Please pray that we can be instrumental in making our country one in which there is no longer hunger and that we can find ways to help the poor with respect and dignity.

- On 25th April we will be holding an event, **"Filling the Gap"** which is for churches who are already running or hope to run a school holiday activities and feeding programme. Sadly, for many children who are in receipt of free school meals the holidays can be a time of hunger as their main meal of the day is not available. We are hoping to inspire others to consider how they might offer fun and food in their community.

Please pray that more churches may consider this idea as something which they could do and that our gathering of people may be successful in April. (Please contact us if you would like to come along).

- *Please can you also pray for*
 1. *The Head Teachers of Primary Schools in the Diocese who are working in some of the most challenged communities. We had the privilege of speaking to them last month and were struck by their passion and commitment to the families they serve.*
 2. *All the church leaders in Wirral as they come together on 25th April to work out how they can collaborate more effectively to serve their communities.*

Once again, please accept our grateful thanks for your prayers and support. Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends, neighbours, colleagues and churches.

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