

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

'Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God' (*Micah 6:8*)

CAN THEOLOGY BE PRACTICAL?

The Tyneside Circle of the Newman Association is restarting after the pandemic closure in the church hall of St. Cuthbert's, North Shields. Our first meeting at the new venue will be on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm for a talk by Father Chris Hughes entitled "Can Theology Be Practical? Encouraging Reflective Discipleship". All welcome.

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: A MASS FOR PENTECOST

Date: Saturday 28th May 2022

Time: 1:00 pm Praise and Worship 1.20pm Mass

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral

After the Mass members of the Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion will offer a Pentecost blessing.

SPUC (SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN)

You are invited to a meeting to hear about the work of SPUC and to find out how you can help build a culture of respect for life in your local area. All are welcome to St Joseph's Church Hall, Gateshead on **WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY at 7.00pm.**

FOOD COOP

This week we have seen 40 families/couples and 37 single people collecting food on Tuesday morning. This number included 23 from the local community. Donations this week included local churches and individual supporters. We received a generous donation of dates and couscous from Traidcraft on the Team Valley. As the Muslim Community celebrated Eid on Monday - a time of great celebration - the dates were particularly popular.

Wholehearted thanks for all the donations and also for spreading the word about the Food Coop. We would not have received the dates if a supporter had not told a friend about the Coop and passed contact details on. The Food Coop has a core of members but roughly 20% of people attending are either new members or people who attend infrequently. Today we welcomed a member of a Ukrainian family who has a newly arrived mum and three children now living with her, recently arrived people seeking asylum now accommodated in the area and a couple of local people who had heard about the Food Coop through friends. This fluid membership ensures no two weeks are ever the same. With many thanks for your continued support, Kath.

UPDATE ON JOE'S PLACE

Joe's Place is supported by all the churches in the John Ingram Partnership and is a wonderful example of what can be done when we act together for the good of others. Each parish contributes towards the cost of hiring the rooms used, and many send donations of canned or dried foods which are used to provide the meals. Cash donations are used to buy fresh food items each week, like cheese, milk, salad, bread etc. We also receive useful items like sleeping bags, ruck sacks, hats, socks etc, which we can distribute to those in need. Most of our volunteers are from parishes within the Partnership. The generosity, in terms of donations and of time and prayers and general support has been amazing. We thank all the parishes and schools and individuals for their support.

While we were closed due to the Pandemic, the kitchen and tearoom were refurbished. Stocks of food and other items were given to the SVP and to the Food Co-op run from Corpus Christi Church who were able to distribute them to those in need. The Vicariate for Caritas was established in January 2020, and Joe's Place has been represented at its meetings. A Caritas Grant was awarded to assist in restocking the Store cupboard and Joe's Place reopened as a takeaway service in October 2021 and has been fully open for some time.

The number of people coming each week has grown. The biggest need is still for somewhere warm and welcoming. The feeling of warmth and companionship is strong among all there. We have many new helpers and there are several others who are waiting for the necessary paperwork to be sorted. This is great news as at times we are very busy. We regularly feed 80 people and receive many compliments from our visitors. Several support agencies have sent people to us for food and friendship. We are now providing a Craft & Activity table and expect this to be in regular use. We continue to build a strong community at Joe's Place – all working together and helping each other. We are thankful that we can meet each other every week. We know that the work of Joe's Place is only possible through the kindness of our supporters, and that it is having a real impact on the lives of so many local people. (Bernadette Hirst)

The details for those wishing to make cash donations are:

DHN Gateshead St Joseph's Joe's Place

Sort Code: 40-34-45

Account Number: 41153080

PALACE GREEN PROTEST

Everyone who cares about vulnerable women seeking asylum is invited to a Protest on Saturday 14th May in Durham advocating for the closure of Hassockfield (now renamed Derwentside IRC). The demonstration on Durham Cathedral Palace Green takes place from 12 noon to 3pm with music and speeches. It will involve all the many groups opposed to Hassockfield/Derwentside and all that it stands for. Evidence from projects sponsored by the Home Office itself makes it clear that humane community alternatives to locking women up could be set up.

OVER 55s AT ST. PETER'S

Over 55s meetings will recommence in June at St. Peter's Church Hall. The first meeting will be on **THURSDAY 9TH JUNE at 1.00pm** and thereafter on the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)

'Do you have a problem with Alcohol?' Call FREE on 0800 9177 650 help@aamail.org

Locally, you can contact the following in confidence: Paul 07554665116 or Ryan 07745 273686

VACANCIES

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

Property Surveyor – Full-time, fixed term contract – 2 years. Flexible working is available. Closing date for applications: 12 May 2022

Hexham, St Mary Parish Secretary – 20 hours a week Closing date for applications: 18 May 2022

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301

PARISH WEBSITES:

corpuschristigateshead.wordpress.com

<https://www.stpetersparish.org.uk>