

NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

Supporter Spotlight

Carol Martin has been a CCSP volunteer in the parish of the Assumption of Our Lady, Torquay for more than five years. Like many volunteers, Carol picked up the challenge when there was a request in their parish newsletter from the CCSP for volunteers.

Carol is a very determined lady, a retired teacher who goes all out when she decides to do something. She has been the driving force behind fundraising events in the parish as she has great ideas and a gentle, but persuasive manner.

Carol has a lifelong deep faith and a need to care for others, which is exemplified in many ways, but very clearly through her involvement in the Catholic Children's Society in our Diocese. Her teaching career has made her very aware of the challenges some children and families face, so to be able to make a difference and fundraise for CCSP, is a brilliant focus for her and for those around her.

You too could make a difference as a volunteer in your parish and put CCSP at the heart of your charitable efforts. If you are interested, please email Vicki Dunstone - vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk or call her on 01364 645420

Christmas Card Update

Thank you to everyone who bought or helped to sell packs of our CCSP Christmas cards last year. We've received some wonderful feedback and a number of parishes ran out of stock and asked for more. It was lovely to be able to work together with the children in our Catholic schools to produce such beautiful cards and we hope to run the competition again in 2021.

Limited number of packs still available

If you would like a pack or packs this year, please send a cheque made payable to: **The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), to St Boniface House, Ashburton, TQ13 7JL.**

PLEASE SEND:

- 1 PACK OF CHRISTMAS CARDS £5.00 plus £1.00 P&P
- 2 PACKS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS £10.00 plus £1.00 P&P
- 3 PACKS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS £15.00 plus £1.00 P&P
- 4 PACKS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS £20.00 (free postage)



If your parish would like to help by selling some packs again this year, please email vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk with the number of packs you would like or call on 01364 645420.



Did you know that we can recycle old mobile phones & inkjet cartridges?

If you have any lying around, please send them to **the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) at St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7JL. Thank you!**

WAYS TO HELP

WE CANNOT DO WHAT WE DO, WITHOUT YOU!

NEW CARING CLUB LAUNCHED

If you would like to support the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), but don't have the time to get involved with a fundraising event, please would you consider joining our NEW Caring Club ?

We are looking for 100 loyal supporters to join us to help raise **£10,000** every year. For the cost of a cup of coffee each week, you could help us to raise enough money to help 50 children and their families. Since the Caring Club was launched in the Annual Appeal leaflet, we have already received applications from 3 supporters and we are so thankful for all the support and care our loyal supporters continue to show us. To join our new Caring Club, please complete the form to make a regular donation and send it to **St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7JL**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office on **01364 645420**.



THANK YOU for your support!

INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO ARRANGE A STANDING ORDER

To: **The Manager** _____ (Bank/Building Society)

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

I would like to make an annual payment of **£100** starting on (date): _____ until further notice

I would like to make a half yearly payment of **£50** starting on (date): _____ until further notice

Name Account Holder _____

Account No. _____ Sort Code _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Email _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

Payee Details: Account Name: Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)
Sort Code 56-00-49 Account No. 00585548

Different formats available...

If you would benefit from receiving our newsletter in a different format eg. large print, email or Braille, please email vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk or call the office on **01364 645420**.

DONATE ONLINE



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)



Autumn 2020 Issue 22



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2020 – A year of unprecedented change

So much has happened since our Winter 2019 newsletter. We were just about ready to send our Spring newsletter to print back in March, when the country was put into lockdown. All our fundraising events were cancelled and we began to see an increase in the number of grant applications being received as more children and their families were affected by Covid-19 and needed our financial help.

We had to look for alternative and innovative sources of funding and were successful in securing **£15,000** from The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, **£6,000** of National Lottery funding and a further **£6,000** from the Devon Coronavirus Fund. We also ran our first Crowdfunding campaign, which raised almost **£1,200** and we would like to thank all our loyal supporters for their continued support.

2019 - Another wonderful year

2019 may seem like such a long time ago, but I am delighted to report that the CCSP raised over **£70,000** compared to the 2018 total of **£50,000**. This is completely down to the generous support of our parishioners, schools, grant funders and individual donors although the increased figure does include a substantial legacy in a parishioner's will, which we are truly thankful for. Leaving a legacy in your will is an inspiring way to show that you care by helping to provide support and security to children and their families when they need our help most.

Thank you to all the parishes and individual donors who supported our 'WORKING TOGETHER – PUTTING ALL CHILDREN FIRST' Annual Appeal last Summer. Just under 90% of our parishes were able to support the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) and helped to raise almost **£18,000**! And thank you to all our parishes who so generously donated their crib offerings to the CCSP. In total, we received almost **£5,000**.

All the families that need our help and our supporters are remembered especially in our prayers. Please God we will come through these unprecedented times, safely.



Thank you.

Shelagh

Shelagh Fearnley

Chair of the Board of Directors



LOOKING FOR NEW TRUSTEES

We are looking for enthusiastic, new Trustee Directors to fill vacancies that have arisen as a result of retirement. We would welcome new trustees to the Board of Directors who meet quarterly at St Boniface House in Ashburton.

If you are interested, please contact the office by calling 01364 645420 or by email ccs@prcdtr.org.uk

www.ccsplymouth.org.uk • ccs@prcdtr.org.uk

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FUNDRAISING

In 2019, CCSP raised over £70,000 and was able to provide almost £33,000 in grant funding to children and their families in time of great need. We were also able to support over 50 families through our Patchwork Parenting programme and we look forward to being able to help even more families in 2020 and beyond.

Totnes parish raises over £1,000 at Advent Fayre

Parishioners at St Mary & St George in Totnes generously donated the proceeds from their Advent Fayre held on Saturday, 30 November 2019 to the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth). There were many stalls selling homemade crafts and items donated by the parishioners. Pictured right are members of the 60s Ladies Club, who organised the fayre and were delighted with the turnout, which raised a fantastic **£1,150** for the CCSP! Thank you!



Torquay parish hosts another wonderful Crib Fest

For the 5th year running, the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Torquay held their annual Crib Fest over the weekend of the 4th and 5th January 2020. A record number of 41 cribs were on display, making a beautiful, holy and sparkly sight.

Some of the cribs were homemade, designed and put together by families in the Parish. One of the parishioners, Sally Willmott brought several cribs to display – one was even made from banana leaves and its fragility and attention to detail was a sight to behold. These nativity scenes were a perfect reminder of the Holy Family during Christmastide.

A total of **£381.93** was raised for the CCSP. Thanks to everyone who supported the Crib Fest by bringing in their cribs and to those parishioners who simply came to see them.



West Moors thank you

Members of St Anthony's Ladies Guild in West Moors, Dorset meet monthly. On Thursday, 6 February, our fundraiser Vicki Dunstone was invited to attend their meeting as the members had been busy collecting recyclable items as part of our orange box recycling scheme. Vicki gave a brief presentation on the work of the CCSP before Bernie Smith presented the charity with the contents of their orange sack and a donation towards the work of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth). Thank you to all the members of St Anthony's Ladies Guild for your continued support of the CCSP.

FUNDRAISING

Orange box collection in Dorset raises almost £600!

In February, we visited a number of parishes in Dorset and collected the contents of their orange boxes, some of which were overflowing. The fantastic amount of **£569.39** was raised in one day and we would like to thank everyone in the following parishes for their generous donations – Bridport * Wareham * Wimborne * St Mary's Poole * St Joseph & St Walburga's Poole * West Moors



PATCHWORK PARENTING

During 2019, we provided eleven parenting courses in the Diocese, 73% within Catholic schools and 27% within schools in the wider community. The courses comprised of eight primary, two pre-teenage and one teenage and took place across the Diocese in Poole, Exmouth, Dartmouth, Barnstaple, Plymouth and Bodmin.

A parent's feedback from a recent primary course:

'I have definitely learnt a lot of useful things to help with my children and how to be more mindful. The most helpful things were just how to react to my children's behaviour and useful ideas with home routines. We covered lots of different topics, it was invaluable. I really enjoyed the course and will miss coming in on Wednesdays. I would definitely recommend most parents to come to this course as it was enjoyable, informative and made us realise every family has struggles.'

Pastoral care feedback from another primary school:

'A great course with lots of parents. The key benefit for me was getting to know new parents, while parents were able to develop better relationships with the school and beneficial parenting skills.'

PATCHWORK COURSES IN 2020

Two spring term courses were successfully completed whilst three others were unfortunately cut short due to Covid-19. All courses planned for the summer and autumn terms were also postponed, due to Covid-19.

COURSES FOR 2021

Thirteen courses are planned for the Spring and Summer 2021, including the postponed courses from 2020. Schools can now register an interest to host a course in 2021/22.

A FOND FAREWELL AND A WELCOME

After working for the CCSP for almost 7 years, our Patchwork facilitator Caroline Hambly leaves us at the end of the year and we all wish her the very best in her retirement. Joining the team is Sarah Watts, who for the last 12 years has been working as a secondary school teacher in Plymouth and the surrounding areas.



Caroline



Sarah

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR PATCHWORK PARENTING COURSES OR WOULD LIKE TO HOST SOME PATCHWORK PARENTING SESSIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL IN 2020/21, PLEASE EMAIL OUR PATCHWORK PARENTING FACILITATOR: sarah.watts@prcdtr.org.uk

GRANT GIVING UPDATE

Our Essential Grants programme aims to relieve the urgent material needs of children, young people and their families through the provision of financial assistance to those in the greatest of needs.

- 4.5 million children living in the UK are living in poverty – this equates to about 33% of UK children!
- In some parts of the UK, including the South West, more than 25% of children are living in poverty
- It is also predicted that the number will soar to a record 5.2 million over the next 5 years

-  **24 grants for essential furniture**
-  **13 grants for educational purposes**
-  **28 cookers**
-  **16 washing machines**
-  **67 clothing grants**
-  **10 fridge/freezers**
-  **3 grants for pilgrims going to Lourdes**
-  **41 beds and mattresses**
-  **21 grants for new baby equipment**

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

'Make Love Your Aim' campaign at Leweston

Towards the end of last year, pupils at both Leweston Junior and Senior schools in Sherborne took part in our 'Make Love Your Aim' campaign and filled around 125 mini crib boxes with English and foreign coins! Pictured below with their crib boxes are some students from both schools as well as the foreign notes and coins that were collected. In total, **£515** was raised for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth).

Leweston Senior School also generously donated the collection from their Senior School Carol Service in December, which raised a further **£375.05**. Thank you to Melissa Twist, Chaplaincy Coordinator and all the students and teachers for your wonderful support - we can't thank you all enough.



Pupils from Sacred Heart in Paignton and St Mary's in Bodmin also collected money when each classroom had a crib box for their pupils to bring in foreign and English coins. CCSP welcomes collections and donations, no matter how great or small as every penny counts.