

CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD

SOCIAL ACTION BULLETIN 005

OUR SOCIAL MISSION

Our task as a parish community is *‘to make the Kingdom of God present in our world’* (Pope Francis). We are called to embody Christ-like love for all, and especially to those who are poor or excluded or face injustice. Our concern is both for those in our own community and for our wider society and our global community.



Supported by
The Catholic Parish of Guildford

The Parish is a strong supporter of CAFOD, the official Catholic aid agency. You can find out more about CAFOD's work [HERE](#). There are CAFOD representatives in our Parish community who help to organise the Family Fast Days in each church in Lent and at Harvest time. We also participate in their campaigns and use their resources for prayer and reflection.

So far in 2022

Lent Family Fast Day

Soup lunch at St Mary's

CAFOD Appeal for Ukraine

Parish Quiz Night – Ukraine

Soup Lunch St Pius

Lent Family Fast Day Appeal from 19 March based on Sierra Leone story

Parish Walk Against Hunger to Newlands Corner

St Joseph's Tuesday Club presentation "CAFOD in the Community"

Invitation to become a CAFOD School Volunteer

Fix the Food System – reflection on the current CAFOD Campaign

DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal

Upcoming Appeal

Harvest Family Fast Day 7 October – full details of the CAFOD World Food Crisis Appeal are on the CPG website [HERE](#).

Ongoing Campaign



CAFOD has an ongoing campaign

Details can be found [HERE](#)

"We need a new mindset and a new holistic approach and to design food systems that protect the Earth and keep the dignity of the human person at the centre; that guarantee sufficient food globally and promote decent work locally; and that feed the world today, without compromising the future." Pope Francis

A&B CAFOD office

CAFOD in Arundel & Brighton

Volunteer Centre

St Pius X Church, Laustan Close, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey GU2 2TS

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Email: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

If you are interested in generally volunteering for CAFOD, click [HERE](#) for further information or contact the office.

CAFOD's work

CAFOD's range of actions is constantly changing as, with its partners, it responds to new needs arising around the world, especially when crises demand the urgent provision of humanitarian aid or other relief. To get information on current campaigns and other activities visit the website regularly for news or sign up [HERE](#) to receive newsletters by email.

If you have any questions about CAFOD, please contact Stephen Rowden at srowden@cafod.org.uk or on 07899 804211.

PRISONERS SUNDAY

This year **Prisoners Sunday** is on 9 October at the beginning of Prisons Week. Our Bishop, Richard Moth is the Catholic Liaison Bishop for Prisons.

There will be a second collection for the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) during the weekend of 15 and 16 October.

Following the customary nomination procedure PACT was selected by the CPG Charities Fund to benefit from the CPG 10% Charities Appeal 2021.

To find out more about the work of PACT visit their website [HERE](#).

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This year **World Mission Sunday** is on 23 October and there will be a second collection for **Missio**, the charity chosen by Pope Francis for world mission, during the weekend of 22 and 23 October.

To find out more about World Mission Sunday and the work of **Missio** visit their website [HERE](#) .

SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

The 108th World Day of Migrants and refugees was on 25 September. The Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for this day can be found [HERE](#).

CPG REFUGEE SUPPORT FUND

The next Fundraising Dinner for the CPG Refugee Support Fund (RSF) takes place at St Pius Hall at 7pm on 22 October. To sign up click [HERE](#) or email rsf@cpg.church not later than Monday 17 October.

At the dinner there will be reports on the activities of the Fund and in particular the ecumenical **Community Sponsorship Project** which has recently received Home Office approval to resettle a family. Further detail on the Project is set out below.

The RSF was established in 2019 to respond to the call of Pope Francis to Action. Below you will find information about the Fund's activities and its aspirations for future action.

The Friends of the RSF (see more below) was inaugurated in 2021. Everyone is welcome to join this group to receive information about current activities by email and potential volunteering.

Background

For several years, following the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015, a group of parishioners have held fundraising dinners to provide support for refugees, particularly from Syria. For the first few years, the money was sent to the Diocese to support the fund launched by Bishop Richard in 2015.

In 2019, it was decided instead to focus our support on the Syrian families who had resettled locally in the Borough. Accordingly, the CPG Refugee Support Fund was formally set up for this purpose. The Fund works closely with the Family Support Team at Guildford Borough Council and with the Anglican Diocese of Guildford which has played a major role in ministering to the needs of the refugee families who have resettled in the area.

Recent fundraising and expenditure

From 2018 to 2021, from various functions and activities a total of £5,727 has been raised for use in the Fund's support activities.

Over the same period £4,041 has been spent in supporting the Syrian families in providing basic items needed for family life, particularly in supplying items of children's clothing and footwear. More recently we have provided some support for the Afghan families who have resettled here.

What next for the RSF?

The CPG Refugee Support Fund will

- Support the Community Sponsorship Project (CSP) which was started this year.
- Continue to support the Syrian families remaining on the scheme in Guildford
- Continue to support the Afghan families who arrived in Guildford this year.
- Provide support to Ukrainian families who arrived this year.

Community Sponsorship Project

A scheme to assist the resettlement of refugees was launched by the Home Office in 2016 under which community groups undertake to resettle and support a family for a minimum of two years.

CPG has joined forces with the Anglican Parish of St James, Shere and with Rev Diane Peters – Refugee Support Advisor to the Anglican Diocese of Guildford - to undertake a CSP. A team has been formed to run the project. A wider group of volunteers will be needed to provide on-going support to the family.

A property has been sourced in Guildford which the Council has approved. The Home Office has granted approval for the team to support the resettlement of a family so the Project is now gathering pace. The family could come from any number of different countries. We hope to welcome the family in the autumn and join the ever-growing number of CSP's across the country.

We have the minimum funding required to apply to the Home Office which is £9000. The RSF has provided £3000 of this money and this has been matched by the parish of St James and by private donations sourced by Rev Peters. Further funds may well be needed during the 2-year period.

Syrian families

We will continue to support the three Syrian families during the remainder of the period of their inclusion in the Scheme which ends in 2023.

Afghan families

There are currently two Government schemes

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) was established in April before the crisis of the withdrawal from Afghanistan. It is intended to assist those who worked for the Government alongside our armed forces. So far GBC has found homes for 2 families, who have arrived and we have already provided some support for them.

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) was established in September in the wake of the withdrawal crisis. The intention was to resettle 20,000 of those evacuated, with some 5,000 in the first year. So far GBC has not taken in any families on this scheme.

Ukrainian families

We have so far provided a limited amount of support and will continue to respond as the need arises.

The cost of living crisis

This is affecting everyone and refugee families are amongst the most vulnerable. It is anticipated that requests for support for all of the above will increase during the coming winter months.

Friends of the RSF

An email group has been established to keep interested parishioners informed about refugee support locally, in particular the work of the RSF and the CSP. We like to think of them as the “Friends of the RSF”.

From time to time, volunteers are needed to provide support in various ways. Fundraising events also take place. The bulletins will inform the “Friends” of these.

As is usual, there would be the ability to unsubscribe from the email list of the Friends at any time – and to come back!

If you would like to be a “Friend”, contact the **RSF Team** on 07804 119616 or email rsf@cpg.church.

SUPPORT FOR FAIR TRADE AND FARMERS IN PALESTINE

CPG strives to be a Fair Trade Parish. Volunteers work hard to encourage people to buy fairly traded goods, because Fair Trade helps people in poverty to earn their way to a better life, and reduces the need for aid.

The **Fair Trade Shop** at St Joseph’s is open after Masses on Sunday and provides an opportunity for purchase of Fair Trade and Zaytoun goods – some of which will be ideal for donation to the Parish Pantry facility aimed at helping those in need of basic food items to assist them to cope with the cost-of-living crisis.

Monthly sales of Fair Trade and Zaytoun goods have resumed in the Narthex at St Pius and present a similar opportunity for the Parish Pantry.

During the covid-19 pandemic we operated an online sales facility by email for the sale of **Traidcraft** Fair Trade goods and **Zaytoun** goods produced by Palestinian farmers within our area. If you are not able to make use of the purchasing opportunities have Fair Trade or Zaytoun items delivered please email Grace Bradley at gracebradley94@yahoo.co.uk or Michael Combes at mpfcombes@btinternet.com.

You can find out more about **Traidcraft** goods [HERE](#) and about the Fair Trade Foundation [HERE](#). Information about **Zaytoun** products can be found [HERE](#).