



November 2006

From Suffolk Church Leaders

ADVENT APPEAL

Earlier this year, the Church Leaders were concerned to hear about the plight of certain asylum seekers, who, through no fault of their own, are forced to live in destitution, having no means of even having the basics to support life, such as food and shelter. Recently, in direct response to this potential for destitution, a 'citizen's enquiry' into the workings of the UK asylum system was launched at the House of Commons by an association of faith and community groups. This enquiry is expected to report in April 2008. Locally here in Suffolk a presentation was given to us earlier this year by Mr Paul Gosling, from the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum, about the need here, on our doorstep, for humanitarian aid.

Since that presentation, the Church Leaders have discussed the possibility of launching an appeal to all our churches, during Advent this year, for money to form a Destitution Fund. Given the real need evidenced by both the Refugee Council and the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum, we have decided now to launch this Appeal for Advent 2006. (See attached case history and power point presentation slides)

At Christmas we will be celebrating the gift of our Saviour to the world. We will remember that Jesus and his family were refugees and grateful for the help of an innkeeper and the use of a stable. As we receive so much, we invite you to give thanks by giving to this Fund. We, as Church Leaders are pleased to commend this Advent Appeal and encourage you to give generously, maybe through organising a collection at one of the Christmas or Carol Services, or by a gift from your funds. The monies we the churches raise this Advent will be sent to the Refugee Council here in Ipswich and be used to support Suffolk- based recipients.

If you should require a presentation on the need being addressed through the Fund, please contact the Refugee Council, 4-8 Museum Street, Ipswich, IP1 1HT Telephone- 01473 221560, and ask to speak to Ms Fathieh Yazdi. (pronounced Faa- tee- yeah) Her presentation will last 20 minutes and include the showing of a locally filmed DVD. It would help Fathieh if churches could group together so that the information could be given to the maximum number at any one time.

We are confident that the need for a Destitution Fund is real, and hope that over this Advent Season, our churches will respond generously.

May God bless you this Advent,

+ Michael Evans Paul Hill Alan Jones G. Thorne
Elizabeth Caswell
+ Richard

REMITTANCE FORM- THE DESTITUTION FUND

We, the congregation of.....Church

enclose a cheque for the value of £..... made payable to:-

‘The Refugee Council (Eastern Region)’

for the relief of destitution amongst Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Suffolk.

Contact name

Address.....

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Post code.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Please send this form, together with your cheque to:

FAO Marie Weatherall,
The Refugee Council,
4-8 Museum Street,
IPSWICH
IP1 1HT.

Your donation will be acknowledged, by letter, to the named contact given above.

Thank You.