



# BEACON BRIEFING *Spring 2008*

For use on notice boards, in  
newsletters etc.

## **BEACON - Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern**

Registered charity No 1119463

### **New BEACON Projects**

#### **BEACON Household Furnishing Scheme**

Aims to help to simply furnish flats and houses of refugees who have recently been given leave to remain and accommodation. They need a church community/group which could collect basic household items/furniture and deliver direct to the new accommodation. NB BEACON cannot store these items. **Befriending Project** there has been no befriending service in Bradford over the last year and there is a real need for this work – especially as recently refugees have been housed with very little in the way of follow on support. BEACON is proposing to start a small befriending service alongside the Hosting Project.

We need **volunteers** for both these Projects. Contact Judy or Will at BEACON office Tel 01274 721626 Email judy.beacon@yahoo.co.uk

***New BEACON Monthly Prayers  
On the first Monday of the month  
starting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

***We shall be meeting at the  
University Catholic Chaplaincy at  
12.00 with a shared lunch  
afterwards.  
Everyone is invited.***

### **Good News**

#### ***High Court Ruling that all Asylum seekers should have access to Healthcare***

***11<sup>th</sup> April 2008***

This is a very important and welcome judgement.

For the last four years we have seen the devastating impact of these regulations: cancer sufferers being denied radiotherapy and an operation, pregnant women refused antenatal care then forced to give birth at home, victims of rape being denied treatment. They have been a nightmare for health professionals, who have found themselves prevented from treating sick people.

"It is a matter of simple humanity to look after people who are unwell. These people are here lawfully and they have made themselves known to the authorities by seeking asylum. Many will have been through terribly traumatic experiences. And almost none have the means to pay for hospital treatment. We hope this ruling will put an end to the practice of preventing vulnerable, ill people from getting the treatment they need."

***Thank you to everyone who campaigned on  
this issue.***

***This is a good example of how each of us can  
make a difference and effect policy change.***

***CHECK OUT THE INDEPENDENT ASYLUM  
COMMISSION REPORT(SEE OVERLEAF) AND  
RESPOND.***

### Hosting Project Update

Training for the first small group of volunteer hosts takes place during May and it is hoped that the project will be able to take it's first referrals by the end of June. Will Sutcliffe continues to enthusiastically promote the service and is keen to hear from anyone interested in offering their spare room to a destitute asylum seeker whether short, medium or long term. There are also opportunities for those who would be able to befriend or offer financial support to those hosted. *If you are interested in finding out more, please ring Will at the BEACON office (01274 727525/ 721626 or email [host.beacon@yahoo.com](mailto:host.beacon@yahoo.com)*

**Prayer** – *Forgive us, o Lord when we listen, but do not hear; when we look and do not see; and when we feel, but do not act and by your mercy and grace draw us into the righteous deeds of your Kingdom of Justice and Peace; through Christ Our Lord. Amen Maria Hare (1798 – 1870)*

### BEACON Website

BEACON has a website at last. Jon Howard from Bradford Cathedral is the webmaster many thanks to him for his advice and continued support.

[www.beaconbradford.org](http://www.beaconbradford.org)

Check the website for lots of useful information and latest news.

A Big Thank you to all our supporters for your generous donations.

BEACON is funded through individual and church donations. Please send your donations to Judy Midgley, 32, Merton Rd, Bradford, BD7 1RE. All cheques payable to BEACON. Gift Aid forms available on request.

### **Support for Independent Asylum Commission report.**

Geoff Reid the Chair of BEACON has urged churches to seize hold of the interim report of the Independent Asylum Commission's Report "and not let go."

Read the report now with comments from the media and church leaders and make your response. Write to your MP and the Home secretary, make other people aware.

[www.independentasylumcommission.org.uk](http://www.independentasylumcommission.org.uk)

### Refugee week 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June

**Refugee Week** is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities.

**BEACON is planning two events one in Keighley on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June and one in Ilkley on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. More details later.**

**Bradford** is planning a week of activities. The next planning meeting is Weds 30<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00 – 2.00pm the Carlisle Business Centre. The week will start with a Big Celebration at the Carlisle Business Centre on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June is the opportunity for each church to celebrate Refugee Week in its own way. Check out this website for ideas [www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)**