



BEACON BRIEFING *Winter 2008*

For use on notice boards, in
newsletters etc.

BEACON - Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern

Registered charity No 1119463

BEACON Successful Advent Appeal

Thank you to all those individuals and churches who so kindly donated toys and toiletries.

The toys went to families in need through BCHT which is one of the main housing providers. Parents and workers were delighted to be able to give each child a gift.

The toiletries went to individuals through BIASAN and Abigail and the bulk was sent to PAFRAS who wrote to thank us *'this year we have given out 653 toiletry bags, but would have loved to give out more....the toiletries you sent will help us in giving out adequate toiletry supplies over Christmas to those who other wise would be left without*

BEACON can accept more toiletries throughout the year. Just leave them with a note at Touchstone. **Thanks again.**

CHAT Volunteers continue to offer hospitality at the Phoenix Courts up at Thornbury. CHAT would like to extend its services to another morning. Could you be a **Volunteer** on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning. Contact Rita Armitage for more details tel 01943 603886

BEACON Campaigns against Injustice

BEACON Projects aim to help Asylum Seekers who find themselves destitute or unrepresented in the legal system due to Government policies. **Join us now** in campaigning

Say NO to restrictions on healthcare for people without status in the UK

Join Doctors and Hospitals Trusts in their campaign. A government announcement will soon be made followed by three months of public consultation. Make your voice heard.

'MEDACT believe immigration is managed at borders not at hospital doors'

For background information and petition go to Refugee Network www.meadact.org
Contact your doctor, MP and Church Leader

Say NO to using destitution as a Government tool

Living Ghosts - no food, no money, no hope. Recent research estimates between 2000-3000 destitute Asylum Seekers in LEEDS. This campaign is co-ordinated by Church Action on Poverty for details go to their website www.church-poverty.org.uk/campaigns

I was a stranger and you did not welcome me'
(Matthew 25.43)

BEACON'S WINTER DIARY 2008

1ST February - 'Poverty hearings'

Asylum Seekers have a voice.

6th February, Ash Wednesday -

WYEC (West Yorkshire Ecumenical council) issue a Church Leaders Statement on Asylum Seekers

1st March - Church of England

Synod chooses Asylum as its key issue.

11th March - BEACON General meeting

NB Dates for **Refugee week** 16th - 22nd June see

www.refugeeweek.org for ideas.

Start planning your event now.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

For latest news and up to date information etc

www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk

Legal information

www.stillhuman.org.uk

Campaign details for Still Human Still Here

www.ecsr.org.uk

Enabling Christians Supporting Refugees

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.

Prayer – *We pray for those who struggle to administer our Asylum and Immigration System, for those who struggle to understand it and for those who struggle to change unjust rules and regulations, that through patience, generosity and compassion a shared humanity may be recognised and human dignity may be cherished. Amen.*

McKenzie Friends

Now have 15 trained volunteers who are currently supporting Asylum Seekers who are not represented at their appeal hearing. Recent training in helping Asylum Seekers to find enough evidence to make a fresh claim will enable us to try to reconnect failed asylum Seekers with the legal system. We are making new links with Manuel Bravo Project in Leeds who offer a similar service using volunteers solicitors.

HOSTING PROJECT

The Project was given the go-ahead by the BEACON Executive just before Christmas, since when Will Sutcliffe has been busy getting the message out into as many forums as possible. He already has a number of speaking opportunities booked but is keen to find others.

The Project is looking for people in the Bradford District willing to offer a spare room to an asylum seeker who is destitute or who has a critical housing need. Some will only require a few days' accommodation but many have longer-term needs. These will usually be 'rotated' around pools of hosts every few months to avoid any host becoming over-burdened. Initial training and regular on-going support is offered to all hosts.

As well as potential hosts, the Project is seeking churches and individuals willing to offer practical support (eg hospitality, trips out, gifts in-kind). If you are interested in finding out more, please ring Will at the BEACON office (01274 727525/ 721626)