

SEPTEMBER 2015

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you have managed to have some kind of break over the past few months. It is amazing how quickly the time goes and we are already in the second week of September!

I have a few ideas for you to put to your members who may be able to help. Also an additional date for your diaries.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>** 10.30am to 4.00pm in Coventry Cathedral. This day event will be the main diocesan response to 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

However, I am hoping that you will be able to arrange something in your deaneries and churches about this campaign. The day will take the form of a Market Place in the morning, Eucharist at 12.00pm in the Chapel of Unity and after lunch a keynote speaker talking about Domestic Violence and Abuse from her own experience but also about an amazing organisation she has set up to give those affected hope for the future. The emphasis will be to look at DVA in faith communities. The day will end with a candlelit vigil in the Old Cathedral. More details will be sent over the coming weeks and at Members day but I wanted you to have this date.

**CRASAC** – Coventry Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, would like help with painting rooms at their offices in Coventry and are happy to come and speak at your branch meetings

**Coventry University** – would like anyone who is interested in befriending overseas students particularly during the Christmas and Easter breaks. This might take the form of meeting them over coffee somewhere, probably Coventry or whatever you would like to suggest.

**RESTORED LIVES** – this is a diocesan initiative and we have been asked if there is anyone who has experienced divorce and separation who would like to support others in groups in their churches to get in touch

**CHILDREN'S CENTRES** – are always looking for volunteers to help with events and to support individual families.

**KNITTING** - Jumpers for primary age children are needed by Coffee Tots and Carriers of Hope.

**SYRIAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS** – it is likely that help is going to be needed when many people will arrive in Coventry in the not too distant future. Some of you may already be doing something in your churches to support the appalling crisis and I would like to hear from you. Many of you support Carriers of Hope, a centre in Coventry who help and support hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees.

A letter from Lynne Tenby and Bev our new CEO has been sent to DP's and I think it would be helpful for you to read what they have said especially the prayers.

If any of you feel drawn to any of the above please get in touch with either Viv or myself and we will direct you to the right people.

With love and prayers for you all

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