

Care Matters

The Newsletter of the Social Care Commission of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh

Summer - Time to find Jesus?



Projecting myself back into Jesus' time, I try to picture the scene. The poor, the sick, the tax collectors, sinners, and prostitutes crowd round Jesus, stirred by his message of healing and forgiveness. The rich and powerful stand on the sidelines, testing him, spying, trying to entrap him. I know these facts about Jesus' time, and yet, from the comfort of a middle-class church in a wealthy country, I easily lose sight of the radical core of Jesus' message.

Philip Yancey

Bereavement Study Day

**on Saturday 3 October 2009
in Gillis Centre**

"Richmond's Hope"

Richmond's Hope began in 2003 in the Niddrie area of Edinburgh and is based in Richmond Craigmillar Church. They work in a purpose built playroom where children and young people are helped to rebuild their lives after the death of someone they loved.

**10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Registration from 9.30 a.m.**

**All Welcome Cost £5
Prior Booking is Essential**

Drawing up Ministry Descriptions

Saturday 5 September 2009

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Last year Barbara Wallace came to Edinburgh to help us as an Archdiocese find better ways of recruiting, training and supporting volunteers for our parishes. 50 people attended a 2 day course in September, and Barbara is returning to help develop Ministry Descriptions for the many areas where volunteers are active.

If you did not manage to come to the course last year, but are keen to get involved we are offering a starter session on

Thursday 27 August

from 7.00 - 10.00 pm in Gillis Centre.

Please contact the office if you would like to attend either or both sessions.

Bereavement Befriending Reflection Evenings

In previous years we held Reflection evenings for Parish Bereavement Groups to give a little space for befrienders to reflect on their work with the bereaved, to socialise with groups from nearby parishes and to learn from each other. We have found that those evenings held before the month of November were most helpful to groups and so this year we will hold all the Reflection Evenings in August, September and early October.

If your parish would like to host an evening, please contact the office using contact details below.

Each evening will run from
7.15 to 9.15 p.m.

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 a short introduction

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (ASP) Act came into force on 29th October, 2008. The ASP Act is designed to support and protect people who are, or are likely to be, harmed and are referred to in the Act as "adults at risk".

The Act defines "adults at risk" as individuals aged 16 and over who:

- Are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property or financial affairs,
- Are at risk from harm, and
- Because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

The Act states that an adult is at risk from harm if:

- Another person's conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or
- The adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm.

Harm includes all harmful conduct, whether intended or unintended, including physical, psychological or sexual harm, financial abuse, self-harm and neglect. This list is not exhaustive as no category of harm is excluded simply because it is not explicitly listed in the Act.

Inquires and investigations can be made by a council if it:

- Knows or believes that a person is an adult at risk; and
- May need to intervene to protect the person's well-being, property or financial affairs.

If after making enquiries under the Act a council decides that some form of intervention is required, it "must have regard to the importance of the provision of appropriate services (including, in particular, independent advocacy services) to the adult concerned". "Independent advocacy" is defined in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

The general principles of the ASP Act are that any interventions should:

- Provide benefit to the adult which could not reasonably be provided without intervening in the adult's affairs; and

- Be the least restrictive option.

There are a number of principles on performing functions. It is important to:

- Take account of the adult's wishes and feelings (past and present)
- Take account of the views of the adult's nearest relative, primary carer, guardian or attorney and any other person with interest in the adult's well-being or property.
- Not to treat the adult less favourably.
- Ensure the adult participates as fully as possible, and provides information to facilitate this.
- Look at the adult's abilities, background and characteristics.

The Act introduces new protection orders – assessment order, removal order, temporary banning order and banning order.

- An assessment order allows an adult to be taken to a suitable place to be interviewed and for a medical examination to be conducted in private. The adult retains the right to refuse to answer any questions or to be medically examined.
- A removal order grants the adult to be removed to a suitable place for a limited time if they are, or are likely to be, seriously harmed.

It should be noted that neither an assessment nor removal allows the adult to be detained - the adult is free to leave should they wish. Neither will the "suitable place" to which they are taken necessarily be a care home. The most suitable place may be a friend or relative's home.

A banning order bans a person from a specified place if it is believed that the person is, or is likely to, seriously harm the adult at risk. The adult at risk must consent to an application for any of the orders unless the adult does not have the capacity to consent or is under "undue pressure" to refuse consent.

If you would prefer future editions of Care Matters to be e-mailed rather than posted to you, please contact the office below with your e-mail details. This would be of financial assistance to the Archdiocese and your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

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