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**Churches Group for Social Concern**

**- Aims:**

To encourage the people of the churches in the application of their faith to everyday life in the community.

To draw the attention of member churches to current local needs and work in partnership with other agencies in an attempt to meet them.

To assist in thinking about ethical and moral issues, by initiating appropriate study projects and conferences.

When necessary it will arrange fundraising events.

# Compassion

**The Sevenoaks Churches  
 Group for Social Concern Newsletter**

Issue 8, Jun 2006

## Community Action Day

**Bank Holiday Monday 29th May** (by Tony Cornfield)

Putting our faith into practice is for me, one the most satisfying aspects of Kingdom Ministry. Going to church is one thing, but being the church in our community hits all my hot buttons:

- What Would Jesus Do?
- Church with its sleeves rolled up!
- Love your neighbour as yourself.
- Do unto others . . .
- We are . . . created to do good works.

With participants from 9 local churches, helping and serving less fortunate individuals in Westerham, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks and Kemsing, God's name is praised and church unity is demonstrated. Community projects too - a playgroup, community centre, school and woods were given "make-overs". Teams of Christians, young and more mature, worked side by side to demonstrate God's love in practical ways to those outside our communities of faith.

*"Many thanks . . . for sorting out Mrs J's garden, she was delighted."*

*"Thank you . . . for the splendid work you did at ABC"*

*"My heartfelt thanks to . . . I got quite emotional when they all left"*

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**Ministry  
 Costs Money**

**Gifts to the  
 Social Concern  
 group will fund  
 "Befrienders"  
 and other  
 community  
 focused  
 activities.**

**Please  
 approach your  
 treasurer or  
 committee.**

## Future plans and events

**Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District AGM:**

Thursday 9th November starting at 7.30pm for coffee in the main hall at St John's Hill URC.  
 Everybody Welcome.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience . . . . And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3 v 12 & 14

## Independent Christian Education—Update

An interdenominational group of evangelical Christians were wanting to set up an independent Christian primary school in the Sevenoaks area.

Unfortunately the level of interest was so small that it has not proved possible to progress this idea further. If anybody has ideas that might be worth pursuing, please contact them on:

01732 760924.



## Drink, Drugs and Jesus

Tony Williams from the **Kenward Trust**, spoke at the Spring meeting, about the organisation's work locally with regard to drug and alcohol abuse.

New Life from Addiction is their goal.

The trust have premises for 1st, 2nd and final stage residential rehabilitation, that allow recovery to be tested, without risking it.



Ten residential rehab projects operate in the South East, primarily for men, offering structure from chaos. This involves all manner of jobs in the houses, to counselling, to various creative therapies/activities.

"People have to hit rock bottom

and ask for help before they can commit to a recovery programme."

Somebody coming to Kenward will be offered three things:

- 1) Their immediate physical well-being will be attended to.
- 2) Assistance with removing psychological hurdles to recovery.
- 3) Their Spiritual development will be actively encouraged.



Prevention is a key objective too and here work is focused on young people, both in schools and the local community.

The grey zebra bus aims to be



available, in schools and elsewhere, by invitation, for information and discussion, at a time when young people are making important changes and decisions that will shape their future lives.

## Photographs from the Action Day: before, during & after



A team from Bessels Green Baptist Church working in Dunton Green

## Befrienders: Eight months on . . .

21 people have been helped by our team of 15 Befrienders.

Befrienders come from 8 different churches and more people have started training this month.

We have had referrals from 8 different organisations, including West Kent Housing, St John's Mental Health team, Local GPs, Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service, Carers First and Social Services.

The befriended have ranged in age from a 26 year old single mum to a 90 year old gentleman.

These individuals have been helped by receiving regular support, encouragement and a listening ear. Some are now actively involved in community life and their support worker's loads have been lightened.

Margaret, the co-ordinator, has received very positive feedback from people expressing gratitude and amazement that this help is being offered.

Isn't it fantastic to be part of the Church of Jesus Christ, demonstrating His love in practical ways, hearing His name praised, and seeing His Kingdom extended? Everybody involved with Befrienders is a member of a local church and all of them give their time and energy free of charge. The scheme does have on-going costs, notably Insurance, phone calls and expenses.

To date, these costs are being met

as follows:

Gifts from churches	£ 800.00
Grants received	£1000.00
Personal gifts	£ 272.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2072.34</b>

Insurance for 1st year	£ 346.50
Telephone to date	£ 165.00
Launch costs	£ 158.84
CRB Police Checks	£ 117.05
Expenses	£ 122.86
Badges & printing	£ 50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 960.25</b>

By the end of the year, if no further gifts are received, money will be running out. Please will you request a gift from your church's funds to ensure the second year of this incredible ministry.

(Cheques payable to Sevenoaks Churches Group for Social Concern)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4 v 10

