

Spring 2010 Issue no. 7 Portsmouth Diocese

KIT NEWSLETTER



WELCOME to this 7th KIT Newsletter. As you can see it has been a busy year as KIT continues to attract interest and support. Plans are now afoot to draw together all Catholic organisations involved in reaching out to non churchgoers, for a major new initiative. So far the Bishops' Conference, Landings, Alpha4Catholics, RCIA, NBCW, CaFE, the Zion Community, CYMFED, Maryville Institute, several dioceses and KIT have all expressed interest. Watch this space!

The Pope's Visit

On September 16th-19th is a unique opportunity to promote KIT in our parishes. The Pope has chosen the theme: 'Heart speaks to heart' for his visit - a theme very close to KIT's aims. Home visits and small group meetings are excellent opportunities for heart to heart conversations and the sharing of faith stories. In June, parishes will be sent a flier called 'How to get involved', which gives us plenty of time to prepare.

Suggestion: Hold street parties to celebrate his visit!

NEWS FROM SOME KIT GROUPS

Welcome to the new KIT group in EASTLEIGH, who are now actively involved in preparing their home visiting programme.

A warm welcome to two returners from ROMSEY, who were invited to a day with the bishop on May 22nd, together with new Catholics. ...

Members of the St Edward's WINDSOR KIT Group hope to run a further series of Meetings in early Summer for those who have expressed interest in looking at their faith again. Also, a young Mother from the local Catholic Primary School has offered to host a Coffee/KIT Information Morning at her home for Mums (and/or Dads) from the School who no longer come to Church. Please keep this venture in your prayers.

KIT DAY OF PRAYER

An inspiring Day of Recollection and Prayer led by Canon Daniel Cronin former Administrator at Westminster Cathedral took place in April at St Bede's Basingstoke.

It was an opportunity for people across the diocese to reflect and pray upon how we become welcoming communities to all the Catholics who live in our midst whether or not they go to Church.

FATHER DANIEL O'LEARY

Fr Daniel O'Leary has a special message of welcome for all non churchgoers - see our website: www.kit4catholics.org.uk.

SPIRIT IN THE CITY

This special evangelisation event takes place outside Westminster Cathedral over the weekend of 4th/5th June and KIT has been invited to 'man' a stall.

"THE CHRIST WE ARE THE CHRIST WE SHARE" CONFERENCE

Members of the diocesan KIT Team led a Workshop at this Portsmouth Diocesan Conference held at Bournemouth in January, which was well received.

CELEBRATE CONFERENCE ILFRACOMBE

Members of the KIT Team were among those invited to present Workshops at the Celebrate Catholic Charismatic Conference which is held annually in Ilfracombe.

Hundreds of delegates from across the Country attended the Conference and the KIT Team were delighted that our two Workshops were well attended.

KIT Group at ST Michaels Leigh Park, near Havant, Hampshire

Since the group started in October 2006, we have seen the establishment of opportunities for returning Catholics to pray, learn, discuss and socialise together.

Initially the outreach work was primarily for returning Catholics, but what we have learned in the KIT team is that there are many parishioners who are not able to return to the church for many reasons and for them, the KIT team brings the church to them in their own homes.

It is a humbling experience listening to the stories of the housebound, those with mobility difficulties, sight and hearing impediment, and mental health problems. Entering their world, through the privilege of home visiting, gives us all an insight into another's faith.

We hadn't seen Annie [not her real name] for some years, like others we didn't know why she no longer came to mass. What we learned on a visit was that her husband had died several years previously and she was frightened to come back to church because she had lapsed for so long. But Annie was deeply religious, she had a set prayer routine and there were special places for her treasured pictures and statues. The KIT visitor's welcome and understanding was all that was needed for her to return to church, to share her grief and her joy.

The setting up of The Tea and Chat Group was an opportunity for anyone
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"established" or returning to the church, to meet together regularly.

It has proved very popular with the seniors in the parish. Our parish priest has called them "Precious and a Power House of Prayer" and so they are. The elderly and marginalized so can so often be forgotten, in our busy church life. But as KIT members, we reach out to them by keeping in touch and where appropriate, bringing the church to them.

Carole Maddock KIT worker

Why not host a workshop in your parish/pastoral area?

Members of the diocesan KIT Team are happy to present a Workshop in your area. Contact enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk for further details.

We've got a grant!

In the autumn of 2009 KIT received a donation from Porticus an international Catholic Charity, to help fund it's work.

This has been used to advertise KIT widely in the National Catholic Press, to reprint a revised edition of the KIT Manual (available from enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk at a cost of £8),

Also to re-design the KIT Website (work still being completed) and the purchase of various office items to aid our work.

and Finally - KIT QUOTES

"Now I feel I really belong" (A member of a Parish after a visit from the parish KIT Group).

"I can't thank God and his helpers enough" (A person who has returned to regular attendance to Church after attending a series of KIT Meetings).