



# The Slice

DECEMBER 2015 | ISSUE 9

## Welcome...

Well what a year this has been! We are starting to lay the foundations for the changes needed to get Life where it deserves to be – as the leading prolife charity in the UK and an organisation that leads the way in making abortion a thing of the past. The changes we're making will ensure that our services target those who really need them; the women on the brink of abortion, the men affected by abortion and, of course, the unborn children who wouldn't get to see the light of day unless we were here. Perhaps most importantly, the changes we're making will ensure that our services are sustainable long into the future. We want to change the culture of abortion by making it easier for those facing troubled pregnancies to keep their babies.

We all know that change doesn't come without its fair share of upheaval and I want to thank you for your support so far. I have been so impressed with the commitment of Life staff, volunteers and supporters throughout and it's this

enthusiasm and dedication that will get us through the necessary periods of change.

Have a wonderful (and restful!) Christmas and I hope, like me, you are looking forward to an exciting 2016 for Life.

*Stephen Sharpe, CEO*

## In this issue...

**Improving communications with Regions** - p2

**Education** - p2

**What to do about spam emails** - p3

**Middlesbrough high flyers** - p3

**The great Christmas bake-off** - p3

**Fundraising** - p4

**Shops** - p5

**Housing - a successful year** - p5

**Elf & Safety!** - p6

**Thank-a-Colleague** - p6

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

from everyone at Head Office!





## Improving communications with Regions

So that we can ensure effective communication between Life Regions and head office, each Region has been assigned a senior member of staff with whom they can liaise.

**“ These staff will be the main point of contact for Regional Representatives on strategic issues, ensuring clear messages are communicated. They will attend Regional Meetings and can troubleshoot where necessary. ”**

Margaret Coward, Operations

Region	Head Office Link
Scotland	Anne Scanlan
Northern Ireland	Stephen Sharpe
North West	Liz Parsons
Yorks & Lincs	Margaret Coward
North East	Beckie Reeves
Midlands	Isaac Nyirenda
Thames Valley	Mark Bhagwandin
West & Wales	Vicky O'Brien
Surrey & Sussex	Stephen Sharpe
London & South East	Anne Scanlan
Southern	David Bennett

**For further information about the scheme and how it can benefit your area, please contact your Head Office Link.**



*Merry Christmas from the Education team!*

## Education



On 21 November the second Embrace event took place at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. Attended by over 1000 young people from across the country, Embrace was a perfect opportunity for myself and Helen to meet a new generation of potential pro-lifers and tell them about the great work that Life

does. The theme was 'Build my Kingdom' and given the new exciting era Life is heading towards in 2016 it felt like an appropriate subject to reflect upon.

We were met with a warm welcome, both by the organisers and by those attending the event. It is advertised as an event to meet other 'like-minded' young people and that's exactly what we found; we were fortunate to speak to a number of young people congratulating Life for its ethos and for the services it provides. Flanked by two other pro-life charities, there really was a sense of positivity for the pro-life cause. Here's hoping we'll see this grow even stronger in 2016.

**Elizabeth Parsons, Senior Education Officer**



*Photo courtesy of Phil Walker*

## What to do about spam emails

As you are all aware we have been receiving an inordinate amount of spam emails. A reminder to send all non-trusted or in any way suspicious-looking emails to [spam@premieritnetworks.com](mailto:spam@premieritnetworks.com)

**Please do not open any dodgy looking attachments.**

*Stuart Cowie, Communications*

## Doncaster's AGM

Doncaster Life's AGM was held on 26 November. Secretary, Shirley Davies, said:

**“ We were excited to hear news from Margaret Coward that a new Life house is opening in Doncaster to support women in the area to find an alternative to abortion. ”**

**“ Three key figures - Vera McDonagh, Caring Officer for 39 years, Susan Bownes, our Counsellor/ Co-ordinator and Ellen Rockley, Treasurer – were presented with flowers as they are retiring from their posts. They will all be greatly missed. ”**



*Ellen Rockley*



*Vera McDonagh*



*Susan Bownes*

## Thank you to Middlesbrough high flyers

When the 7th Nunthorpe Air Scouts heard about the work of Life they decided on a project to help. A lot of hard work by the boys and girls went into producing over 20 sets of pushchair and cot blankets. Handmade from beautiful fleece material with owl motifs, the blankets have already been given to clients in Middlesbrough, Oxford, Walsall and some Life shops who have all been delighted with them. Thank you for your hard work and generosity.



## The great Christmas bake-off

The Wimbledon & District Life group held a pre-advent cake sale over the weekend of 21/22 November in the St. John Fisher Parish Hall, Merton. Cakes, home-made breads and preserves were on sale after each of the five masses, raising a fantastic:

**£628.00**





# Fundraising

## Do you give directly to a LIFE group?

Would you like to give someone a chance to win £25,000 for Christmas? Then make them a gift of a Unity Lottery subscription! Play for as little as £1 per week and the money raised goes directly to support the work of Life. The person you buy the Unity subscription for will be allocated a six digit Unity Lottery number, which will remain theirs for as long as you want. You subscribe for any length of time – maybe until next Christmas when you can do the same! Every Saturday, the lucky winners are selected at random and a prize cheque is issued and posted directly to them, so there is no need to claim. For more details and to sign up, just go to the Unity Lottery website:

<http://www.unitylottery.co.uk/charity/display/LIFE>

## Good luck!

*You must be 16 or over to enter. 50p of every £1 goes directly to Life, the remainder being used to cover prize money and administration.*

## Shopping online for Christmas? Now you can support Life at no cost!

Easyfundraising is a great way to raise money for Life every time you shop online. When you make a purchase from any of the participating retailers, they (not you) make a donation to Life. It's a simple way to support us at no cost to you. You can choose from any of 2,700 top retailers including Argos, John Lewis, Amazon, Apple, Next...

All you have to do is register once with Easyfundraising at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=18799>

and link your account to us at Life. Then every time you want to shop online, simply go through Easyfundraising to the retailer and make your online purchases in the usual way. It couldn't be simpler!

## A note about fundraising at Christmas...

Half the post I'm receiving at home this month seems to be a Christmas appeal for this or that charity. It's tempting for Life to add ours to them, just so that we don't lose out. But we're not. Our supporters have been so generous we feel we shouldn't badger them this Christmas.

**So instead of a begging letter, I would like to add my voice to others here at head office in simply thanking you for your support over the year. Your generosity has touched our hearts in the way you have given your time, energy and yes, money, to help vulnerable young mums and to make it possible for them to keep their babies. Thank you.**



Image courtesy of Keith Williamson

There's another reason, too. I'm particularly mindful of poor Olive Cooke, whom we read about in the papers earlier this year. She was hounded to death by some charities to give to them. That appalled me, which is why Life doesn't use, and never has used, telephone canvassing or high pressure techniques because you, our supporters, are more like family.

So although you'll still get the occasional communication from Life, it will be simply to inform you of particular needs. That's what family is about, and we think that's important to you too.

May you have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

PS If you've been approached by someone who would particularly like to support us this Christmas, send them here:

[www.lifecharity.org.uk/donate](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk/donate)

where they can select 'Christmas Appeal'.

## Bogus Telephone Canvassing

Some of our supporters are being inundated by fraudulent calls purporting to come from Life and using high pressure techniques to get them to 'donate'. As you know, Life does not, nor ever has, used telephone canvassing to raise funds. If you are ever asked by a telephone canvasser to donate to Life, do NOT provide your credit/debit card details. We have reported the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office who have asked us to help track them down, so if you ever receive such a call, please try to obtain as much information as you can before you hang up and report it to Vicky O'Brien at Head Office.

**David Bennett, Fundraising & Development**





# Shops



## News Round-Up

- Margaret Richards and the Doncaster shop have been given £50 by Sainsbury's. Companies have charity policies which mean they will give if they are asked.
- Basingstoke Shop Manager Dorota Ciaston, pictured centre with volunteers, has been inventive in the way she recruits volunteers – reaching out to a foreign language centre and a home for the elderly.
- Sarah Palmer of the Eastleigh shop is attracting many more donations and clients since the launch of their Facebook page.
- Weymouth has piloted a care initiative for struggling parents. The shop gives vouchers to Sure Start and Children's Centres allowing parents to have baby equipment and clothes on a donation only system. Other shops that want to join this scheme should contact:

[eireannjansens@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:eireannjansens@lifecharity.org.uk)

## In Loving Memory

Sharon Meadows, the erstwhile Shop Manager of Weymouth who resigned in January 2014, died on 4 December after a long bout of cancer. Even though Sharon was suffering, she was a very determined person and able to summon up the energy to move the shop from George Street to the Esplanade where it is now. She put her heart and soul into the shop and was an amazing person. She will be missed.



## Housing - a successful year

The three Housing Roadshows this year provided us with valuable feedback from tenants and ex-tenants. In our 'You said/We will' report we detail our response to some of the feedback – some tenants expressed worries about moving on from the Life house, for example. So we will put in place measures to address this, ranging from working closely with local landlords and estate agents to closer links with local authority housing departments.

The Annual Performance Review 2014/15 celebrates the achievements of Life Housing in the last year as well as identifying areas for improvement. Overall, the results from tenant questionnaires in Sept 2014 showed 92% of tenants were satisfied with the service they were receiving.

**Beckie Reeves, Housing Contracts Manager**





Emma Turner



## Elf & Safety!

### Emergency Evacuation Assessments

Can you please ensure that you complete and return your Emergency Evacuation Assessments to the HR Department at head office? These assessments apply to all staff and volunteers. They have been introduced alongside the Fire Safety policy review. If you have any queries, then please email me.

### Workplace temperatures

Winter has well and truly arrived... temperatures are dipping and cold weather is on its way. One question that frequently gets asked is:

#### "What is the minimum workplace temperature?"

Temperatures in indoor workplaces are covered by the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, which place a legal obligation on employers to provide a 'reasonable' temperature in the workplace.

The Approved Code of Practice [1] suggests the minimum temperature should normally be at least 16°C. If the work involves rigorous physical effort, the temperature should be at least 13°C. These temperatures are not absolute legal requirements; the employer has a duty to determine what constitutes reasonable comfort in particular circumstances.

If you require any more information or guidance on workplace temperature, then please email:

[emmaturner@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:emmaturner@lifecharity.org.uk)

**Emma Turner, Health & Safety and Facilities Manager**

## Thank-a-Colleague!

Huge thanks to Lynne Drakeley, head office Finance Manager, for organising our Christmas lunch AND our Christmas night out this year! We all had a fantastic time. Your spreadsheets and organisational skills are now legendary Lynne!

*From everyone at head office*

## Farewell & thank you to:

**Sarah Sewell** – Bournemouth Support Worker

**Karen Berrington** – Stoke Shop Manager

## Key contacts

Head Office is here to help – so if you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our main number is **01926 312 272** or you can email the admin department at [admin@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:admin@lifecharity.org.uk)

Email addresses follow this format:

**firstnamesurname@lifecharity.org.uk**



Stephen Sharpe  
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(Finance)  
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Thomas Gower  
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Margaret Coward  
(Operations)  
**07515 068 077**



David Bennett (Fundraising,  
Development & Communications)  
**07775 761 590**



Anne Scanlan  
(Education and Media)  
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Stuart Cowie  
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