

Life

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Life 
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lifeneWS

Registered Charity No. 1128355

Summer 2012 Issue 63 **FREE**



LIFE
Fertility Care
welcomes
Emilia

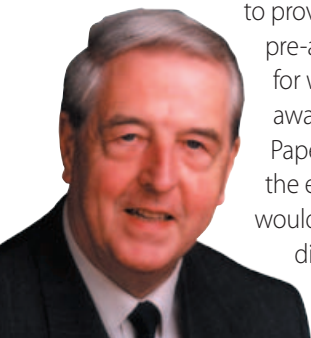
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A message from the National Chairman

Welcome to this edition of LIFE News!

Let's start with good things. We rejoice in the way the Housing team and supporters are keeping afloat our six houses which no longer have Supporting People money. We rejoice in the growing success of the LIFE shops programme, the revival of many LIFE groups and the continuing achievements of LIFE Education. We rejoice in the fact that, though we are far from really flush, our overall financial position is much more secure than it was 18 months ago. Much of this is reported in detail elsewhere in these pages.

But very importantly, there have been major stirrings on the political front. Last December, Health minister Anne Milton told the House of Commons that reducing the amount of abortion was 'an absolute priority' and conceded the need to provide independent pre-abortion counselling for women. We still await a Consultation Paper, promised for the end of June, which would allow public discussion about it.



The proposal put the wind up the abortion industry, which has suffered two more severe shocks. First came reports of growing numbers of British women having two, three or more abortions and of sex-selection abortion being practised in some British clinics. Then the Care Quality Commission, a national watchdog charged with overseeing healthcare, launched a nationwide inspection of abortion providers and found a shocking amount of non-compliance with the law – such as pre-signing of the authorisation forms.

For those who have believed that the Abortion Act was not always intended to open the floodgates, the law is being flouted blatantly. So, with even the BMA issuing a statement (on 27 June) calling for independent pre-abortion counselling, it is difficult to see how Parliament will not soon have to look at what is happening on account of – or despite – the 1967 Act.

There is a twist to all this: both the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists now make the following claim, namely, that it does not matter whether

a woman 'terminates' an unwanted pregnancy or goes to term – the effect on her mental health is the same. The psychiatrists add that abortion can sometimes prove more damaging than continuing the pregnancy (if the woman is pressured into it, has 'negative' feelings about it, etc).

We are being told that continuing a pregnancy will carry either the same risk to the woman's mental health as having an abortion or a lesser one. But 98% of abortions are done on the statutory ground that 'continuance of the pregnancy involves a risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, to the mental health of the woman.' Greater – not the same or less!

Parliament will have to acknowledge that the vast majority of abortions are not protected by the 1967 Act and are offences. That is what the experts are (unwittingly) telling us. In the meantime, in view of what the Royal Colleges are saying, how can abortion doctors continue to carry out abortions on mental health grounds?

Jack Scarisbrick



Cover story

LIFE FertilityCare gave us the confidence to try again

Meet Emilia, born 23 May, a week early, weighing 5lb 14oz. Mum Marsha Towey says: "I'd had two miscarriages but the NHS won't do anything until you've had three. I was too nervous to try again without knowing why I was miscarrying; losing a baby is such an awful thing to go through."

"I found out about the LIFE FertilityCare (LFC) programme through a friend whose sister had suffered three miscarriages but then gone on to start a family after treatment with LFC. Me and my husband Paul checked out the website and loved the fact that it works with your body, restores health and helps you to understand your cycle.

"We weren't keen to conceive without knowing what was going wrong. And the cost of LFC was very reasonable which was an important factor for us.

"The LFC physician, Dr Anne Carus, helped me to maximise my cycle and hormone levels, using cutting edge research which is not currently used within the NHS. I felt that she worked with me, explaining every stage of the process clearly. I was carefully monitored throughout my pregnancy and guided by the LFC team.

"Now we have Emilia we are elated and feel so lucky that we found LIFE and that we didn't give up."



Download the latest Annual Review

LIFE's Annual Review 2010/11 is now available to view and download:
www.lifecharity.org.uk/files/pdfs/ANNUAL_REVIEW_2010.11.pdf

lifeneews

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Print www.yeomansmarketing.co.uk
Design www.amathias.com

Further copies available from:
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01926 421587.

Life issues in focus

Niall Gooch, LIFE's Research & Education Officer, London



LIFE has never been far from the action during the last year. In the summer and autumn of 2011 we found ourselves facing negative press coverage, yet continued to support the right of women to be offered independent pre-abortion counselling. Government consultations on abortion advertising and sex education in schools made us determined to resist the normalisation of abortion and the removal of parents' rights in sex education. And 2012 has, so far, brought with it some extraordinary developments:

- The Falconer Commission – a supposedly independent body that in fact consisted largely of supporters of euthanasia – published its report, a transparent attempt to advance a particular agenda. Fortunately most of the media, and many politicians, saw the Falconer Commission for what it was, and the report appears to have died a death, for now.
- In February, a paper advocating infanticide highlighted many of the cruelties and inconsistencies of the pro-abortion position, for there are very few arguments for abortion that are not also, in the final analysis, arguments for infanticide.
- February also saw the first of two big scandals involving abortion clinics, when the *Daily Telegraph* revealed that a number of abortion clinics were offering illegal sex-selective abortions.
- The following month much more serious allegations came to light following inspections of abortion clinics by the Care Quality Commission. This time it was suggested, on good evidence, that many clinics were failing to provide women with appropriate

counselling and support, and were using pre-signed forms to get round the Abortion Act's requirement for two doctors' signatures.

- Two opinion polls also highlighted the uneasiness of the British public with our current system of de facto abortion on demand. In January, a poll revealed that half of all women thought the abortion law was too permissive.
- Two months later another poll revealed that six out of ten women supported a reduction in the time limit; over half of respondents thought that taxpayers' money should not be used to fund abortions except in emergencies; two thirds felt that women were not being given enough information about alternatives to abortion; and almost 50% felt that abortion should not be made available to under-18s without parental consent.
- Latest abortion stats showed an increase in teenagers having repeat abortions. For one in seven teenagers having an abortion in 2010, it was not their first. Clearly, many are using abortion as a form of contraception, with, for example, 57 teenagers having an abortion for the fourth time and a shocking 485 for the third time.
- In an attempt to tackle teenage pregnancy rates, an NHS report recommended that girls as young

as 13 should be given the Pill via pharmacies, without seeing their doctor. But leading experts claim it will exacerbate the problem, making teenagers more likely to have sex.

- A paper in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* highlighted what may be a serious problem in the compilation of late-term abortion statistics in England and Wales. The authors compared published data on late-term abortion with the data from the EPICure2 longitudinal study and found "substantial under-reporting" of late abortion in the official statistics.
- Evidence mounted concerning birth defects and IVF, with a study claiming that babies conceived through ICSI, a particular IVF technique, are twice as likely to suffer defects as babies conceived naturally.
- And on top of this shocking data, evidence continued to emerge that abortion can be extremely damaging to women's psychological and emotional health and wellbeing.

Whatever the issue – from rising STI infections to high abortion rates and the continuing attempts to liberalise the abortion law – LIFE's role in the public arena, defending life and the real dignity of individuals, continues to be an irreplaceable one.

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fundraising

Going the distance

Huge thanks to Jerry Bugden and Damian Gibbs (pictured left to right) who completed the BUPA London 10k Run on 27 May, raising around £1,400 for LIFE.

"There were 10,700 runners, including Mo Farah - one of the main GB fancies for an Olympic Marathon gold - who finished in 29 minutes," says Damian. "He just pipped me to first! Actually, I was pretty proud I came in at 3811 with a time of 1 hour, 1 minute."

"I was lucky enough to bump into Mo Farah!" continues Jerry, who came in at a fantastic 1 hour, 14 minutes. "He said 'excuse me, sorry' when he needed to get by us on our way to the start!"

Both men trained extremely hard, gradually working up to the 10k mark over a period of time. But their training wasn't without hiccups.



"After some weeks I dislocated my knee," says Damian. "But I managed to get through it and am so grateful for the wonderful support I've had."

Jerry echoes this: "Without the support from family, friends and LIFE supporters, we wouldn't have been able to do this and to raise the money we have."

New beginnings and exciting revivals

Stoke/North Staffs celebrated their launch at Holy Trinity Newcastle on 14 May, attended by around 50 people.

Annemarie Hawley (pictured holding cake) said: "It was a lovely night. Bishop David McGough came, as did LIFE staff Elly Petrucci, Kyla Taylor, Eireann Janssens and Liz Lloyd. I presented our plans to launch the Group and a Care Centre within a charity shop."

There are big plans to start a LIFE Group in **north Birmingham**. There are lots of LIFE shops planning to open - **Blackpool** in the autumn/winter and **Gloucester** in the



summer. **Rugby** have just launched a Group and are currently looking at premises. **Bristol, Leicester** and **Sheffield** are considering opening a shop, too. And plans are under way to revive **Nottingham, Central London, Leeds** and **Coventry** LIFE Groups soon.

Watch this space....!

Win £25,000 by helping LIFE!

Don't forget to sign up with charity lottery Unity for the chance to win £25,000 every week, just by making a £1 donation to LIFE. For further information visit

www.unitylottery.co.uk/life and sign up on-line - good luck!



Welcome

David Bennett (pictured) joined LIFE as part-time Head of Fundraising and Development in June.



"The voluntary sector is now an important part of the glue that holds society together," says David. "LIFE tackles moral issues head on and that's why I want to be part of what they do."

The rest of David's time is divided between a major charity based in London as Head of Strategic Partnerships and an international charity and fundraising consultancy. He speaks at national fundraising conferences and is on the board of a number of Christian charities and community organisations.

Living in Buckinghamshire, David has three grown up children, three land rovers, three vintage motorcycles, a garden on three levels - but just one wife to whom he has been married for nearly 40 years!

LIFE Shops

"LIFE's a fantastic cause - there's nothing like it."

At 22, Sammy Morgan (pictured right) is the youngest of the LIFE shop managers. Full of life and very creative, she has great organisational and managerial skills. Eireann Janssens, LIFE's Retail Development & Operations Manager, met up with her in Hereford to see how she was getting on

Why have you chosen to work in charity retail?

When you work for a charity you know you are giving something back. But also, no two days are ever the same. I meet all sorts of people and my team feel more like a family. Every morning I look forward to going to work.

How long have you worked in charity shops?

I started volunteering for Barnardo's several years ago and was then promoted to Assistant Manager. I haven't looked back!

How do you like working for LIFE?

I hadn't heard of LIFE before I applied for the job. Now I think it's a fantastic cause and that there's nothing like it. In Hereford, we have a Care service which is attached to the shop. I think other charity shops are thinking of offering services in their shops - it's something maybe LIFE has thought of first!

Describe an average day in the shop.

There are times when it's full on; people come in with their donations and they



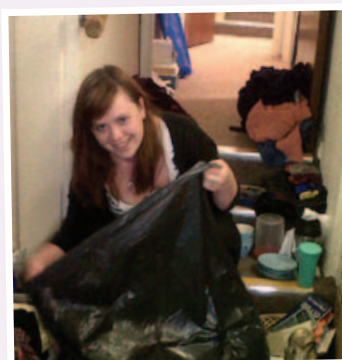
need sorting out immediately. Sometimes people want something unusual like a fancy dress item and that means searching for them. At other times, it's quieter and this is when I make sure the shop is tidy.

What is your biggest challenge?

Without a doubt it is the tight space. The shop is really well-located in Hereford's town centre but the downside is the storage space. We have to sort bags of donations the same day and store them in the loft.

Lastly, what makes a good charity shop?

To start with - a pleasant smell! I think we have all walked into charity shops which reek of musty old clothes and that is a huge turn-off. But above all, a good charity shop is one which has good stock, presented well; you can charge more for goods which are attractively presented. Lastly, I think having a regular turnover of goods is important - in Hereford we change all of the stock every two weeks to encourage people to come in regularly. Customers will come into the shop more often if they think they will be seeing new stuff.



A volunteer sorts through the donations

Help LIFE live on in your memory

For the last 40 years, gifts left by individuals in their wills have made it possible for LIFE to continue its valuable work saving children's lives and transforming their futures. Every donation we receive makes a real difference, supporting children, and those children's children, whom LIFE helped to bring into the world.

If you would like to consider remembering LIFE in your will and want to discuss options in more detail, please contact us on 01926 421587 or email sam@lifecharity.org.uk. Alternatively, just fill in the form and we'll send you further details.

Thank you.

Dear LIFE,

- Yes, I have left a gift to LIFE in my will*
- I would like to leave a gift to LIFE in my will*

* delete as appropriate.

Signed

Name

Address

Postcode

Date

Please return this coupon to LIFE, 1 Mill Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1ES.

housing



We call it home

I moved into the LIFE house a few days after my 16th birthday. I had already had my son, Jermaine, who was just over a year old but my family were not involved in my life and with no support from them I became quite depressed and lonely.

I found it hard to adjust to communal living in the house and to life with an inquisitive toddler. I had also enrolled on a beauty course at the local college and all the coursework was adding to my stress. As Jermaine got older things became more and more difficult for me; when he went through the 'terrible twos' he could be quite a handful at times.

It's coming up to two years since I moved into the house now and tenants have come and gone. I have built up good relationships here and the Support Workers are always on hand to help and advise me when I need it. Me and Jermaine call it home – it's the only home he has known.

I'm looking forward to being independent and living in my own home but at the same time will miss the support from staff and the other tenants. I have made some good friends and learnt a lot.

I have recently started volunteering at the local school as a teaching assistant and hope to be given a permanent position once Jermaine starts school. I now look forward to the future and will look back on my time at the LIFE house with fond memories.

Gaby Goyder

Mums come together for children's safety

Concerned mums at the Farnborough LIFE house got together to organise the purchase of a stairgate in the kitchen.

Jessica Henderson (pictured 2nd from left) says: "The children were turning the hobs on, opening the oven doors – even getting into cupboards! It's such a relief now that we can cook without having to worry."



Little girl is moved to launch appeal for Aylesbury LIFE house children

Aylesbury LIFE supporters Andy Burton and his daughter Amy, launched an appeal for new baby clothes for the Aylesbury LIFE house, following a recent visit there.

"We were shown around the LIFE house and saw how much a donation of toddler clothes meant to the mother of a little boy who had only the clothes on his back," explains Andy.

"Determined to help, I asked local people on Facebook and got a good response. But the real breakthrough came when Amy asked her headteacher to send a letter to all parents asking for clothing."

"The response was fantastic," continues Amy. "My headteacher even bought new clothes to donate to the appeal!"

Aylesbury house Support Worker, Louise Nichols, adds: "Andy and Amy want to encourage other schools to do the same. It's a great way to support your local LIFE house."

Andy Burton will be running London's Run To The Beat half-marathon on October 28th 2012 for LIFE. For further information or to sponsor Andy please email ajlburton@gmail.com



Pictured above: Amy (left) with Louise amidst the mountain of baby and toddler clothes donated.

Georgina's Story - "I learnt to be independent."

I was 17 when I moved into the LIFE house with my 9-month-old son, Michael.

My relationship with Michael's father had broken down and I had to move back to my Mum's. But Mum's three-bedroomed house was overcrowded with me, my two sisters, two brothers and Mum, so I had to leave Michael in the care of his Dad.

When I was referred to the LIFE house in Bracknell I was relieved to be back with Michael but nervous as I wasn't sure what to expect. I needn't have been - I settled in well to the LIFE house. Mum would come and visit every week and we met on other days, too.

The Support Workers at the house helped me to sort out my Housing Benefit and Income Support Claims, as well as Child Benefit as Michael's Dad had had to claim that while he'd been looking after him.

There were Life Skills sessions at the house covering topics like money management, household skills and childcare. These were really useful and the shopping vouchers I collected for attending meant I could treat Michael.

I realised pretty much straight away that it was important to keep up with the rent and the staff advised me to buy some small things for my flat for when I moved out, which I did.

Unfortunately, Mum suddenly passed away in July last year after a short illness. It was such a shock to us all. As I was the oldest child, I arranged the funeral as my Mum would have wanted. We all miss her very much, but I know she would be very proud of all of us and is with us all the time. Michael looks up and tells us that Nanny is in the sky.

In February, I was offered a two-bedroomed flat. We were ready to move on from the LIFE house as I had learnt to be independent and had a good idea of what life would be like. Living in the LIFE house is like an in-between stage; I had my independence but help from staff when I needed it and other girls to talk to if I wanted.

Things are going well and me and Michael are really happy. I still have things to get for my flat but I have made it into a nice home for Michael - and for when my brothers and sisters come to visit.

For further information about LIFE Housing visit www.lifecharity.org.uk/housing



Why LIFE Education?

If we are to build a pro-life culture then it is hearts and minds we need to reach. LIFE's Care service looks after the present; Education is our hope for the future. It's about vision and sowing seeds for future generations.

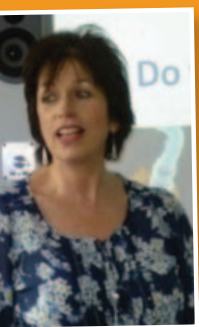
The LIFE Education service provides talks in schools, colleges and universities across the UK, discussing a wide range of 'life' issues. Here, two LIFE Education Officers tell us about the LIFE school talks which always have an immediate and important impact on young people.

"One sex education talk from a well trained LIFE speaker is as good as a whole series of normal lessons."

"They are all excellent speakers."

The Relationships Talk

Michaela Aston



It's a joy to see the dramatic effect this session can have on the students in front of me. It enables them to see the world through a different lens and many are relieved to be offered more life-affirming ways of living.

By exploring the pressures of the media and culture, students come to see how sex is being sold to them as safe and fun with no consequences, and they come to recognise how this greatly influences the choices they make. When I ask them to focus on what it is they really want, now and in their future, they always say that it is to love and be loved - not used, which they say is all that is on offer.

We discuss the real consequences of sexual activity – pregnancy, abortion, STIs, emotional hurt and feelings of being used. Many come to value themselves as individuals who matter and who are worthy of love



and respect. Often, girls come up afterwards and say things like: "Thank you. I now have a reason to say no." and: "Why didn't someone tell us this stuff before?"

One of the most exciting things I've been doing recently has been providing speaker training to university students, equipping them to form new pro-life societies around the country. Since the first training weekend last June in Oxford (with

another coming soon) a strong new network of student pro-life societies has developed; these young people are key to our pro-life future.

I always promote the unique services that LIFE offers – our Care and Housing service coping with the results of crisis pregnancies and abortions - and I am proud of what Education is doing to help reduce the number of these pregnancies happening in the first place.

"My experience is that LIFE talks, particularly on sex education, are better delivered and more relevant than talks given by school nurses or any other professionals in this field."

"They have become a highly valued component of our school's religious and moral education programme in the sixth form."



The Abortion Talk

Elizabeth Parsons

LIFE Education speaks to a wide variety of students from a mixture of backgrounds but it is the Abortion talk which is requested most often. Tailored thoughtfully to ensure we speak to them on their level, all our talks encourage questioning and stimulate debate. With abortion affecting one in three women before the age of 40, we are always sensitive to the fact we may be talking to students who are personally affected.

Often we are approached following a talk by a student who is struggling with something that's affecting them in some way. One girl in particular sticks in my mind: I was telling a story a counsellor had shared with me and an incredibly brave girl stood up in front of the whole year group and said: "That's exactly how I feel, I had an abortion two weeks ago." Thankfully, I was able to put her in contact with our counselling service.

Outside London, the North West - with over 24,000 abortions last year - has the highest abortion rates in the UK.

LIFE's Education work is vital in this area. Many students will never have heard the pro-life perspective before and will have subliminally accepted the abortion argument fed through the media.

Boys often feel excluded from the debate, seeing abortion as a 'woman's right to choose' and yet they too can be affected by abortion. Following a talk recently, a 16-year-old boy told me that his former girlfriend had an abortion without telling him. He was shocked when he found himself crying

because although he understood her decision, it deeply upset him.

We encourage students to think for themselves, question everything (including us) and make an informed opinion. Every single talk we give has a positive effect - some become instantly pro-life and others seriously question their current thinking. At the very least, they can see first-hand that pro-lifers are reasonable, nice people! Often, all that is needed for a shift in position is the truth. The facts speak for themselves.



Return to Kyrgyzstan

LIFE Education Officer Mark Bhagwandin returned to Kyrgyzstan in April, a year after his first visit.

"I was invited by Family Harmony, an organisation which promotes the value of long-term relationships, to deliver LIFE's Relationship talk to almost 500 students aged 15-17. Judging by the evaluation sheets gathered afterwards, it was a hugely worthwhile trip, with one student commenting: 'I have changed my attitude to sex and relationships.'"

care

"A very
informative
day."

Understanding pregnancy loss

Attended by around 50 delegates, the Walsall and Wolverhampton LIFE groups organised a seminar on 11 May exploring some of the issues around pregnancy loss. Walsall LIFE's Liz Lloyd, explains: "We welcomed a range of health and social care professionals as well as volunteers working in LIFE Care Centres around the UK."

Speakers included Elly Petrucci from the LIFE Education team discussing 'What is Pregnancy Loss?'; Dr Pravin Thevathasan on 'Abortion and Mental Health: some recent developments'; Ira Winter on LIFE FertilityCare and Ruth Kirchmeier from the Miscarriage Association.

"After lunch, Lisa Brayshaw from the Still Birth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS) talked about the help her organisation offers as well as sharing her own personal experience of loss," continues Liz. "And finally Elly Petrucci presented information about post-abortion counselling.

"Our evaluation forms showed the day had been an extremely useful one for participants, who said they had gained a better understanding of what their clients may experience following pregnancy loss and of the help available to support them."



Back row: Care Officer Rosalie Watkins of Wolverhampton LIFE. Front row l to r: Ira Winter, Lisa Brayshaw from Birmingham SANDS and LIFE's Liz Lloyd.

"The personal
stories shared
made it real,
not just another
training day."

"A wide range
of speakers with
a wealth of
knowledge."

"Please inform
me of further
workshops.
I found it very
helpful."





Naomi's story

"When Naomi found out she was pregnant, a friend recommended Derby LIFE Care Centre.

As she was 40 and this would be her fourth child, she was faced with a very difficult decision. Naomi was scared of going ahead with the pregnancy, not only because of her age but because she had experienced problems in her previous pregnancies and her existing children had some health issues.

After talking it all over, Naomi decided that she could go ahead and have her baby. She kept in touch for emotional and practical support throughout her pregnancy and on 11 August 2011 Ewan Barry was born weighing a healthy 9lb 9oz.

Naomi still keeps in touch with us and buys lots of clothes from the Derby LIFE charity shop. She has nothing but praise for the help she was given during her pregnancy and continues to receive support from us."

Lorraine Warren,
Care Officer, Derby LIFE

Ireland's Gain

Last December London-based PAPRI (Pension and Population Research Institute) published an exceptionally interesting report: one which poses a challenge to those responsible for our health policies and our legislators - to which they have not replied.

Entitled *Ireland's Gain*, it analyses the ways in which Ireland's women are significantly healthier than those in the rest of the British Isles and elsewhere, and speculates on what might happen to Irish society if it 'liberalised' its laws on induced abortion.

It reports the following striking statistics about the Irish Republic:

- it has a much healthier demographic profile than many other countries, with birth rates close to replacement level, 21% of its population under 15 (compared with 17.4% in the UK, 13.3% in Germany and 13.1% in Japan) and only 11.6% aged 65+ (against 16.5% in the UK, 20.6% in Germany and 22.9% in Japan)
- it, like Northern Ireland, has much lower stillbirth, low birth-weight and pre-term birth rates than do England & Wales, let alone Scotland
- it has the lowest maternal death rate in the British Isles
- it has lower female breast cancer rates than do England & Wales or Scotland (191.1 per 100,000 women aged 50-54 in 2009, for instance, compared with 274.2 in England & Wales and 282.2 in Scotland)

- there is some evidence that Irish women - in the North and the Republic - have fewer mental health problems, use fewer anti-depressants and suffer fewer diseases of the immune system (but all this requires further research)

How to explain these statistics? Clearly there may be many factors at work. We must not over-simplify. But is there not one obvious one? Irish women have fewer abortions than do English, Scottish, German and Japanese ones; and induced abortion is a known risk factor for such things as subsequent premature delivery, breast cancer and depression - let alone for wreaking demographic havoc.

There are strong forces at work in Ireland to embrace abortionism. But the Irish people should remember what their land has gained in the past from refusing to do so; and ours should face up to what our society has lost.

So far, alas, England's medical establishment has either poooh-pooohed PAPRI's work or conveniently ignored it.

Ireland's Gain – The Demographic Impact and Consequences for the Health of Women of the Abortion Laws in Ireland and Northern Ireland since 1968 - by Patrick Carroll of PAPRI is accessible on www.papriresearch.org

In Loving Memory



Joan Mary de Jong
5 September 1923 – 28 April 2012. Solihull LIFE committee member from its beginning.

Mrs Maureen Jones
died 1 April aged 87. Kingston & District group founder member, lifelong supporter of LIFE.

Mrs Jenny Mathison
died 15 March aged 91. Member of Blackpool LIFE since its inception in 1970.



The Reverend Father William Scanlan
25 July 1934 - 14 May 2012. Parish Priest of St Anselm's Roman Catholic Church in Dartford, Kent, generous supporter of LIFE.

LIFE National Conference

12/13/14
October 2012

Holiday Inn Coventry-South,
Ryton-on-Dunsmore,
Coventry, CV8 3DY
on the A45 (London Road)

The LIFE Conference is a great opportunity to hear excellent speakers, learn about the work of LIFE and catch up with friends. What's more, we have managed to keep accommodation costs the same as the last Conference and have even been able to reduce fees.



Speakers include LIFE Patrons:

Lord Alton of Liverpool MP
(Friday evening)

Don Maclean (actor and comedian,
Saturday dinner speaker)

Further speakers to be confirmed.

Workshops will be departmental
presentations and training sessions.

The Venue

The Holiday Inn Coventry-South is set in Coventry's leafy suburbs close to major Midlands motorways. Located in the heart of the Midlands, it is just 15 miles from Birmingham airport, 5 miles from Coventry train station and 9 miles from Leamington Spa train station.

Accommodation

All room reservations must be made through Joanne Morris at LIFE HQ on the attached booking form.

Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn and a local hotel (two miles away). Rooms will be booked first at the Holiday Inn

and then at the alternative hotel, on a first-come-first-served basis. Please tell us if there are special accommodation needs (i.e. disabled, wheelchair-user etc.) We will confirm which hotel when we send your maps/tickets etc.

Meals

On Friday evening hot meals will be available, cost £8 per person, £2 for a pudding (to be paid on the night).

The full Conference fee includes Saturday buffet lunch, morning and afternoon coffee, Sunday morning coffee and buffet lunch.

The Saturday-only fee includes

morning and afternoon coffee and buffet lunch.

The Saturday Conference Dinner is optional, and will be followed by a social evening with dancing. **The Dinner price of £18 per head does not include drinks.** Please tell us on the booking form if there are special dietary needs, and give details (i.e. gluten free, vegetarian etc)

LIFE Literature

Literature and goods will be available throughout the Conference. LIFE Groups may run stalls. Applications to Conference organiser, please.

Booking in

Please complete the attached booking form and return to Joanne Morris, LIFE HQ, 1 Mill Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 1ES with your cheque for **Conference fee(s), Saturday Dinner and accommodation.** We will send you maps/travel instructions, ticket(s) and the Conference programme nearer the time.

Unfortunately, the Conference venue does not have facilities for caring for children.

**STOP PRESS –
CONFERENCE FEE
TO ANY FULL-TIME
STUDENTS IS £5**

LIFE Conference 2012 Booking Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN CAPITALS)

Name of LIFE Group/Your name/Organisation

CONFERENCE FEES - ACCOMMODATION RATES ON REVERSE

| Please complete appropriate box | Number of people | Total amount |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| WHOLE CONFERENCE FEE: £40 | | |
| SATURDAY ONLY FEE: £20 | | |
| FULL-TIME STUDENTS: £5* for whole Conference *Excluding Conference Dinner and accommodation | | |
| SATURDAY EVENING DINNER: £18 | | |

Please note:

1. Fees are payable by EVERY person attending ANY part of Conference.
2. Fees INCLUDE buffet lunch, morning and afternoon coffee.
3. On Friday evening hot meals will be available, cost of £8 per person, pudding £2 (to be paid on the night).

(A) - Conference fees subtotal £

(B) - Conference Dinner (£18 per person) £

(C) - Accommodation (see reverse for rates) £

Grand total £

Please complete the Booking Form and return with full payment (cheque) per person for the Conference fees (A) Conference Dinner (B) & Accommodation (C). Please include a list of names for people attending. **Cheques should be made payable to LIFE, and returned to:**

**Joanne Morris, Conference Organiser,
LIFE,
1 Mill Street,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire, CV31 1ES,**

tel: 01926 421587 or joannemorris@lifecharity.org.uk

CLOSING DATE for cancellation refunds 21 September 2012.
LIFE retains a £10 handling fee on all refunds.

Hotel accommodation

Accommodation with full English breakfast
(Friday 12 October and Saturday 13 October 2012)
Holiday Inn Coventry-South or local hotel (two miles away)

£95

FOR 2 NIGHTS IN A
SINGLE ROOM

£115

FOR 2 NIGHTS SHARING A TWIN/
DOUBLE ROOM

| Please tick appropriate boxes | Friday night only | Saturday night only | Friday & Saturday (2 nights) | Bedroom requirement |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name* Address Postcode Tel: | | | | |
| Name* Address Postcode Tel: | | | | |
| Name* Address Postcode Tel: | | | | |
| Name* Address Postcode Tel: | | | | |

*To whom should tickets/maps be sent?.....

Please list additional people on a separate sheet.
Please let Joanne Morris know of any special dietary or accommodation needs.

housing

Garden makeover at Walsall LIFE house

"The garden at the Walsall LIFE house was in need of a complete makeover," says Support Worker, Nicola Barker.

"The old rubber tiles were coming loose, there were piles of rubbish stacked against walls and no plants in the garden whatsoever. None of the tenants used the space as it wasn't a nice place to be."

Thanks to a kind donation from the Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust staff enlisted the help of a local landscape company who transformed the garden in just a week. "We now have a patio area, bedding plants and an outside table, and the tenants use the garden regularly. We're all over the moon that we can enjoy the garden this summer!"



Helping hands for LIFE



Last May, members of The Besom, an organisation which provides a bridge between volunteers who want to give their skills, time, money or things and vulnerable people in need, decorated the kitchen at the Oxford LIFE house.

"The tenants are so pleased with the outcome," says LIFE Housing Support Worker, Maria Eveleigh. "The kitchen is the heart of the house and it's made it so much brighter and fresher. We are incredibly grateful for their help and look forward to them returning to paint the hall and stairs later in the year."

Jubilee fun at the Caterpillar Club!



Blackpool LIFE's Parent & Toddler group – the Caterpillar Club – recently held a Jubilee party. Regular Caterpillar Club client, 21-year-old mum of two, Nikki Hitchon, arranged face painting, pass-the-parcel, a tombola, dancing and a buffet.



3. SINGLE GIFT

I would like to support your vital life-saving, life-changing work. I enclose my gift to LIFE for:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| <input type="text"/> | £5 | <input type="text"/> | £10 | <input type="text"/> | £25 | <input type="text"/> | £50 |
| <input type="text"/> | £100 | <input type="text"/> | Other | <input type="text"/> | | | |

Please find enclosed cash or cheque/charity voucher/PO* *delete as appropriate

If you don't require an acknowledgement letter, please tick box ☐

Alternatively, if you would like to donate by credit/debit card, please provide your details below.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| <input type="text"/> | Mastercard | <input type="text"/> | Visa | <input type="text"/> | Solo | <input type="text"/> | Electron |
| <input type="text"/> | Delta | <input type="text"/> | Maestro | <input type="text"/> | CAF Card | | |

Card Number

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Maestro only | Start date | End date |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Card security number | Issue | Maestro/Delta only |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

DATE

Or visit our website at www.lifecharity.org.uk

giftaid it

4. GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, for every £1 you donate, GiftAid allows us to claim 25p from HM Revenue & Customs - increasing the value of your gift by nearly a third at no cost to you.

Please treat all Gift Aid donations as qualifying gifts of money made today in the future

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please notify LIFE Head Office if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return this completed form and send your donation in the enclosed freepost envelope or post to: LIFE, LIFE House, 1 Mill Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1ES

Please join or donate now

I'd like my donation to go to:

☐ LIFE's Housing service

☐ LIFE's Education service

☐ LIFE's Care service

☐ LIFE projects of greatest need

1. Personal details

 TITLE & NAME

 ADDRESS

 POSTCODE

 TELEPHONE

I would like to receive LIFE Update by email

 EMAIL

2. Direct debit for Regular Givers

 £

now & every month / quarter / year* thereafter, beginning

 DATE

 DD / MM / YY

*delete as appropriate

Please specify your preferred collection date. If the collection date selected falls within the next 28 days, the first payment will be collected the following month

 1st

 15th

 MONTH

 YEAR

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

 NAME OF ACCOUNT HOLDER

Bank/building society account number

Sort code:

Name and full address of your bank/building society

 TO THE MANAGER

 POSTCODE

Service user number

 699715

 REFERENCE

Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay LIFE 2009 Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with LIFE 2009 and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

 SIGNATURE

 DATE



group news

Ten Bridges of London sponsored LIFE walk – 23 September 2012, 2pm

Every two years the London Region LIFE Groups hold the sponsored 10 Bridges of London Walk. "Two or three hours in the fresh air with beautiful views of London, raising money for LIFE - brilliant!" says organiser Therese Walker. "We start at Tower Bridge, ending on Lambeth Bridge, with squash and biscuits provided in the gardens adjacent to the final steward's post."

Contact Therese Walker at dwalker@visuals.plus.com for sponsorship forms/directions for the walk or ring her on 0208 390 1080. Bring your friends and family!

▲ Thousands raised for Walsall LIFE house

The annual walk to Lichfield in memory of Kathryn Wilcox on 31 March raised £4365 for the Walsall LIFE house. 25 people walked the nine miles from Aldridge, while 20 adults, one in a wheelchair, accompanied by 11 children walked a shorter distance from the village of Wall. Walsall LIFE Chair Ann Terry, managed to persuade nine members of her family to take part!

Derby Catenians' gift to Derby LIFE ▼

At Derby Catenians' May meeting the past President, David Perry, presented a cheque for over £1000 to Barbara Gadsby, Secretary of Derby LIFE. David said: 'The Derby LIFE Group was the chosen charity for my year as President and I was pleased to exceed my target of £1000.'

In accepting the cheque on behalf of Derby LIFE, Barbara said: 'Following a burst pipe during the winter, the Care Centre counselling room is in need of refurbishment so the money will be put to good use immediately.'



Carrying the Olympic torch ▲

Derby LIFE Group Chair and Shop Manager, Margaret O'Brien, was in Derby city centre on 29 June along with 250,000 people to see the Olympic torch go past and she was able to hold it. "It was amazing and made my hand tingle afterwards!" she said.



500-mile challenge to raise money for LIFE

Stratford-upon-Avon LIFE's counsellor and Care Officer, Jane Featherstone, is walking the Camino – a 500-mile route through Spain – to raise money for LIFE, throughout September and October.

To sponsor Jane you can text JANE08 followed by a space and then the amount you want (either £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10) to 70070 or you can find her on our JustGiving page.

LIFE Sundays – go for them!

LIFE Sundays (appeals in churches) are still one of the best ways of recruiting new supporters.

If you are a church-goer could you ask your priest/minister to hold one? If you are a priest/minister could you offer us one, please, please?

For more info about LIFE Sundays call head office on 01926 421587 or email sam@lifecharity.org.uk

Useful numbers and contacts

Head Office:
LIFE House, 1 Mill Street,
Leamington Spa, Warks CV31 1ES

Tel: 01926 421587
Fax: 01926 336497

Email: sam@lifecharity.org.uk

National Helpline: 0808 802 5433

Text LIFECARE followed by
your message to 88020

Visit www.lifecharity.org.uk

Follow us...



If undelivered please return to:
LIFE, LIFE House, 1 Mill Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 1ES

Life

LOVING LIFE, OFFERING HOPE

LIFE is the trading name of LIFE 2009 which is a limited company registered in England and Wales (number 06786752), a registered charity (number 1128355) and a charity Registered in Scotland (number SCO41329) whose registered office is at LIFE House, 1 Mill Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1ES.