



# The Slice

## JULY 2015 | ISSUE 4

### Pass it on!

Following the last issue of The Slice we have received wonderful feedback from groups and teams throughout the country. It is an exciting time for LIFE and there is a lot of news and information to share, so we are pleased to announce that we are increasing publication of The Slice to a monthly run. If you know people who are unable to get online please print a copy of The Slice and pass it on.

**Stuart Cowie, Communications**

## The rebirth of LIFE ...continued

The new Executive Team continues with the review of the services and activities of LIFE. Over the coming weeks and months, the team is reviewing the effectiveness and financial viability of the care services and shops. This is part of the overall process of ensuring the charity's operations are sustainable and meeting the needs of the women, babies and families using our services. This may include the closure of some services that are not sustainable.

We are pleased, however, to announce the opening of a new shop in Leeds and a new house in Somerset. We will continue to look at the commissioning of new sustainable services over the coming year. Please do work closely with the team as they work at securing the future of LIFE for another 45 years.

**Stephen Sharpe, CEO**

## That's dedication...

Stuart Warren, husband of Derby shop Manager Lorraine, and her brother-in-law, Ian, have done an enormous amount of hard work in preparing the new Derby shop for opening. They have decorated, erected shelving, cleaned floors, transported equipment and stock – often at weekends – and have even taken days off their own work to ensure the job got done. **A massive thank you to you both.**

## Volunteers – at the heart of LIFE

Over the past months Stephen has been travelling all over the country visiting houses, shops and care centres, meeting many staff, volunteers and women using our services. On return from his most recent trip to the north including Leeds, Doncaster, Liverpool, Manchester, St Helen's, Wolverhampton and Middlesbrough, he returned to head office enthused by the wonderful people he met and the projects he visited. When giving feedback to the Executive Team he said: **"Volunteers are at the heart of the organisation and they are the people that give life to LIFE. Throughout the country there are hundreds of people providing support to our mums and children, staffing the shops, collecting donations, running events and the list goes on."**

Stephen has asked each member of the Executive Team to support one of the regional groups, so please do let us know the date of your next regional group meeting and one of the members of the Executive Team will be joining you.

If you have friends and family who would like to help support the work of LIFE, either as a volunteer or by making a donation, please encourage them to get in contact here <http://lifecharity.org.uk/what-you-can-do/volunteer> or call **01926 312272**

So a big **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers who are the heartbeat of LIFE.

**Vicky O'Brien, HR**



## Housing

The LIFE house in Dartford held a coffee morning on Wednesday 1 July. Bally Majhail, Senior Support Worker at the house, said: "It was a great success with the Mayor and Mayoress and many local statutory and non-statutory services attending. We even received a thank you letter from the Mayor and he has been promoting us on his Facebook page."

“ The Mayoress and I thank you for your invitation to attend the 'Coffee Morning at Life' on 1st July where we were able to gain some knowledge about the organisation and the terrific support it provides to those young women who find themselves in difficulty due to pregnancy or with a young child. ”

**Ian D Armitt, Mayor of Dartford**



Support Worker Joy Scudder (left) with the Mayor & Bally Majhail.

## LIFE at the Great Yorkshire Show

For over 20 years LIFE has had a stand at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate. A team of 12 volunteers covered the three-day show engaging the public and giving away LIFE pens, pencils and merchandise. "Around 1,000 people visited the stand," said LIFE trustee Eileen Maher, "but one father in particular stood out. Holding the 28-week baby model, he said his daughter was born at 27 weeks and her legs dangled either side of his wrist. She had had no problems breathing, cried straight away and after three weeks in an incubator, was allowed home. Then he pointed to his gorgeous little girl, now age 3."

## Shops



### Leeds shop grand opening!

25 July saw the opening of the new Leeds LIFE shop, attended by guest of honour Eden Taylor-Draper (centre) who plays Belle Dingle in Emmerdale. Lillian Metcalfe-Hart, the daughter of one of the shop's volunteers, cut the ribbon much to the delight of Manager Deanne Tuite (left).



## Finance

In response to concerns raised over the transfer of money from the group accounts to the shop accounts we have found that this exercise i.e. the physical transfer of the cash is no longer necessary in accounting for the split of care/shop expenditure.

While this task has been carried out over the past 10 + years i.e. head office recharging groups for shop/care expenditure (well before the central shops account), this will no longer be necessary as we are able to apportion the costs via our accounting software.

I will continue to update groups on the profitability of their local shops and, as always, if any of you have any questions regarding shops finance I am happy to assist.

**Thomas Gower, Shops Finance Assistant**



## VAT reclaims for shops

– best you keep the money...!

In the last issue of The Slice, Stephen spoke about our activities in the finance department to register for VAT and the associated cross charge between the group and retail accounts relating to the costs of Care Centres located in shops. You will be pleased to hear that we have found another way of providing an audit trail. We therefore will not be transferring the money from the group accounts.

I am really keen to work closely with the groups supporting our shops, so please do not hesitate to contact me and provide feedback...we are listening.

**Thomas Gower, Shops Finance Assistant**

## Hello & welcome to:

**Lynne Drakeley, Finance Manager**

**Deanne Tuite, Leeds Shop Manager**

**Jennifer Rochford, Bristol Shop Manager**

**Samantha Penny, Derby Care Centre Manager**

**Sarah Sewell, Bournemouth Support Worker**



## Farewell & thank you to:

**Michaela Aston, Education Officer**

**Holly Speed, Bristol Development Officer**

**Lisa Luxton, Shop Manager, Blackpool**

## END OF YEAR RETURNS

You are kindly reminded that this year's Annual Returns are now due. The Annual Returns should be made up to 30 June 2015.

**Please ensure that the completed Return reaches Head Office by 31 July 2015.** If you complete an electronic version (spread sheet) please send it directly to me at [isaacnyirenda@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:isaacnyirenda@lifecharity.org.uk)

Your support is always appreciated.

**Isaac Nyirenda, Director of Corporate Services & Finance**



## The Amex – Celebrating the Jubilee of the Arundel and Brighton Diocese

A LIFE team of volunteers joined our CEO at the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Jubilee celebrations at the Amex football stadium on 5 July. Joined by over 11,000 people from throughout the Diocese it was a great celebration of 50 years of the Catholic church in the south. A team of volunteers from LIFE had an impressive stand and spoke to literally hundreds of people about the vital work that LIFE is undertaking both in that Diocese and throughout the UK.

## New Team Member...

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Lynn Drakeley as our new Finance Manager. Lynn will be enabling us to get back on top of our detailed bookkeeping and speed up the flow of financial information internally and externally to our volunteers and groups. Lynn...welcome to the team.

**Isaac Nyirenda, Director of Finance**

# Education

## The Prolife Research Unit & the Cross-Party Prolife Parliamentary Group

A vital part of our work and one of LIFE's best-kept secrets is our involvement as founder members of the Prolife Research Unit. This unit supports the Cross-Party Prolife Parliamentary Group through the provision of information, articles, speeches and briefing papers for Members of Parliament. It is also this group that is behind the initiative to raise awareness of prolife issues such as abortion and assisted suicide that you will hear about through the press and church and community groups. Various campaigns are organised ranging from lobbying MPs, post cards and email campaigns and events in Parliament.

LIFE continues to take a lead in this group by providing a member of staff for a few days each week. Stephen attended his first meeting reiterating LIFE's commitment to the initiative. The Research Unit is supported by Care, Right to Life, and LIFE. Stephen said: "The research unit and Prolife Parliamentary Group are the primary way of influencing Parliament... if an organisation is not round this table, then they limit their impact on the laws of this country."

## Thank you Michaela

The Education and Media Department said a fond farewell to Michaela Aston this month. Michaela's decision to leave LIFE was not an easy one and she herself described it as like cutting off a limb. She started her journey 21 years ago supporting and caring for women in Brighton. Five years later she became an Education and Media Officer and has worked tirelessly for LIFE and for the pro-life cause ever since. Michaela told us that she is "already nostalgic for the past 16 years which were full of so many wonderful memories. There is nothing to beat team work and that sense of working together for a great cause. Relish it, for few are lucky enough to ever have that privilege."

We say to Michaela: "Working with you has indeed been a privilege. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment. You have been more than just a valued colleague, you have been a much-loved friend to everyone on the team. We wish you well as you embark on the next chapter of your life. We will miss you terribly."

PS.... Like so many of us on the Education team, LIFE and the pro-life cause runs through Michaela's veins, so secretly we are all hoping that we have not heard the last of our dear friend and colleague.

**Anne Scanlan, Director of Education and Media**

## 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 312272** or you can email the admin department at **adminstaff@lifecharity.org.uk**

Email addresses follow this format: **firstnamesurname@lifecharity.org.uk**

Stephen Sharpe (CEO) **07545 264492**

Isaac Nyirenda (Finance) **07787 546508**

Thomas Gower (Retail Finance)

Margaret Coward (Operations) **07515 068077**

David Bennett (Fundraising, Development & Communications) **07775 761590**

Anne Scanlan (Education and Media) **07986 864560**

Stuart Cowie (Communications) **07515 578588**

Vicky O'Brien (Human Resources) **07768 397980**

Liz Lloyd (Care) **07786 390861**

Eireann Janssens (Retail) **07515 578597**