



Solidarity in action

Emmaus Gloucestershire January 2010

Christmas

Yes, I know it's gone, but I wanted everyone to know that Gary Robinson dressed up as Santa and went to the children's ward of the general hospital in Gloucester to distribute Christmas presents for the kiddies unfortunate enough to have to stay in hospital. Gary managed to phone a number of shops and get donations of selection boxes and other goodies. He managed to fill his costume and looked the part (died in the New Year, Gary), right



down to the false beard! The shops that helped out were Sainsbury's, Staples, and Bookers cash and carry. Many thanks to them and to Gary for his solidarity work. Mention must also be made of Santa's

little helper, a role played with talent and skill by Neil who, despite much encouragement, refused to wear green tights and a pointy hat.

Big Issue sales

Every Big Issue sold through the Cheltenham shop earns Emmaus Gloucestershire a small commission. This does mount up, however, to a reasonable sum each week. It has been decided by Companions that this money should go towards the funding of the Night Shelter cooking that takes place on Friday nights, and to possibly funding a soup kitchen in Cheltenham in the New Year.

Training Courses

Four companions; Jav, Gary, Jason, and David have successfully completed a first aid at work course. They all did well and have shown both a commitment to Emmaus Gloucestershire and to themselves. There will be regular training opportunities for everyone in 2010 so why not try and improve your skills or knowledge?

Church talk

A very successful talk about Emmaus was given to St Lukes Church in Cheltenham by Pete, Jason, and David Newton. This took place on a Sunday morning and was very well received by the congregation.

Paris Exchange

An exchange between EG and Neuilly Plaisance communities will take place in March. The length of stay will be two weeks and two Companions will be going to France and two French Companions will be coming to us to work. This should be the start of regular exchanges and so all Companions who fancy a bit of *entente cordiale* need to get passports sorted and to brush up on their *oui et non*.

Leisure Club

Rumour has it that a leisure club has been formed with the intention of going to GL1 every week. Can this be true? Watch this space.....

Website

A company called ChuseDesign have offered to build a new website for us. The idea is to have something that looks good, explains what EG is about, and is simple to update. The new site should be on line some time in February.