

**EVENTS
JANUARY 2005**

24 hour Coffee Break 2005

This nationwide event happens on 4 March 2005, during Fairtrade Fortnight, and aims to highlight the plight of poor farmers. ActionAid asks that coffee or chocolate-themed fundraising events serving Fairtrade tea, coffee and chocolate are held. In 2004 £50,000 was raised to help ActionAid's fight against poverty.

ActionAid has teamed up with the Fairtrade Foundation, Cafédirect and The Day Chocolate Company to provide a fundraising pack bursting with ideas, advice and chocolaty recipes. In addition, a bumper starter pack of Fairtrade Mark coffee, tea and chocolate is available for free to all participants – just complete the order form in the fundraising pack.

To order a fundraising pack visit www.coffeekbreak.org.uk, t: 01460 238047 or e: coffee@actionaid.org.uk.

Homelessness Sunday 2005

Homelessness Sunday 2005 tells the story of thousands of children and young people throughout the UK whose lives are stunted and damaged by homelessness. With the well-established mix of facts, examples, worship materials and ideas, the Homelessness Sunday Resource Pack is based on the Bible readings for the day.

30 January 2005. For more details and to order a resource pack, visit www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk.

Visit to St Petersburg

The London – St Petersburg Group has issued an invitation to join them for a visit to St Petersburg in 2005. The date of the visit will be 27 April – 4 May and there will be places for about 15 people. The approximate cost of the trip will be £650-700 per person. It is essential that places are booked before the end of January; if you are intending to book, please do so as soon as possible.

For further information please contact Patricia Morton, 54 Roe Green, London NW9 0PJ, t: 020 8204 7531 or e: cp.morton@virgin.net.

Make Poverty History

2005 is a year of incredible opportunities to make a difference for the millions living in desperate poverty in our world. The UK will chair the G8 and take up the presidency of the EU, which means that the UK government will be in a unique position to challenge the unjust structures that keep millions of people trapped in poverty. Charities, trade unions, campaigning groups, celebrities, churches and faith communities have joined forces to create a year of action which just might change the world. Christians are a vital part of this coalition.

The 'Vicar of Dibley' Christmas episodes will have a clear MPH focus to them. Women priests will shortly be receiving an invitation to march from St Martin-in-the-Fields to 10 Downing Street on 14 January. If you are keen to participate in this initiative then please e: Tbaker@christian-aid.org.

The Church Launch of 'Make Poverty History' is an ecumenical event at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, 11am – 4pm on 29 January.

For details of events or to register for the Church Launch, visit www.makepovertyhistory-churches.org or t: 020 7288 8600 or 020 7916 8632.

Poverty Action Sunday – Prosperity with a Purpose

Formerly Unemployment Sunday, Poverty Action Sunday (6 February 2005) is an opportunity for churches to pray, act and give.

As a nation, Britain is more prosperous than ever before. Yet in spite of the Government's efforts, over 3 million children are still living in poor households, 3 million households regularly borrow money at interest of 180% APR and above, and the gap between rich and poor continues to grow.

Timed to coincide with the publication of a major report, 'Prosperity with a Purpose', by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland at the end of February, Poverty Action Sunday will provide an opportunity for Churches to reflect on one of the most pressing questions which faces us as a society: What is the purpose of our prosperity, and how can we find ways to share it more justly? Resources can be downloaded from www.church-poverty.org.uk.

Biblical Training for Contemporary Ministry – Open Mornings at Oak Hill

One of the greatest challenges which Christians face today is the effective training of those who will lead the Church in the new millennium. This open morning is aimed at people who are thinking about theological training in the future, potential pastor-teachers, youth ministers and evangelists, and clergy and laity concerned about ministry in tomorrow's Church.

26 February 2005, 10am-2pm. Visit www.oakhill.ac.uk or contact Clare Osborne, t: 020 8449 0467 (ext. 240), e: clareo@oakhill.ac.uk, for more details.

Cookies for a Cure – World Leprosy Week

Can you help LEPRO by holding a 'Cookies for a Cure' Party during World Leprosy Week – 23 January to 30 January 2005? All the money raised will go towards supporting LEPRO's development programmes in Asia, South America and Africa.

Simply bake or buy some cookies, and invite friends, neighbours and colleagues to join in – LEPRO will send you, free of charge, all you need to make your Cookie Party a success. By collecting 'cookie contributions' at your party you will soon raise the £21 needed to help cure one person of leprosy, restoring their health, hope and dignity.

Leprosy is one of the oldest recorded diseases in the world. 700,000 cases are still diagnosed annually and 4 million people have dreadful disabilities as a result of the disease. Yet leprosy is easily curable and the complete eradication of the disease is the stated aim of LEPRO and the reason that the charity exists.

For your pack, send your contact details to Anastasia Evangelides, 36 Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2QH, t: 020 8420 2765 or e: cookies@lepra.org.uk.

Resources from the Society of Mary and Martha at Sheldon

Sheldon specialises in providing resources for people in ministry and/or their spouses, although many resources are open to everyone. Prices are quoted at the discounted rate for clergy and/or spouses, and are fully inclusive. (Please note that Sheldon will be closed to guests 7 – 31 January 2005.)

Quiet Week: 6 – 11 February; Myers Briggs: 28 February – 2 March; 12,000-mile Services: 20 – 25 February, 8 – 13 May.

For more details, visit www.sheldon.uk.com, t: 01647 252 752, e: smm@sheldon.uk.com or write to Society of Mary and Martha, Dunsford, Exeter EX6 7LE.