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GOOD NEWS

THE BIG HELP OUT - CORONATION WEEKEND

The King is inviting everyone to do something big or small to help others over the Coronation Weekend, May 6th to 8th.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

It has just been announced that the government is extending the Household Support Fund with £842 million for a further twelve months from April 23 to March 31, 2024, to support households most in need of help, with essentials related to food, energy and other essential costs.

OCEANS

After 20 years of negotiations, 200 countries have signed up to a binding treaty that will protect 30% of the high seas.

THE VERTICAL FARMS OF TOMORROW

High tech, without soil and brimming with life, vertical farms are the new agricultural frontier, springing up all over the country. Using the GrowFrame method, a 10,000 square feet farm factory has started up in Berkshire and is brimming with greens, herbs and spices.

DEVON AND CORNWALL REFUGEE SUPPORT

Good things are happening locally thanks to the staff and volunteers.

There are now at least 6 hotels in Devon and Cornwall housing 943 asylum seekers and more hotels looking to open in the region. Case workers have been providing training and advice to frontline volunteers, County Councils, Police, NHS staff among other statutory bodies, identifying safeguarding, wellbeing or immigration concerns.

The HEALTHPOINT project has been conducting face to face outreach in the hotels, with a core of volunteer GP, and also other health professionals who are interesting in learning about the challenges that occur when working with

refugees. Volunteer GPs have completed 194 health assessments.

DRCS provides many activities for refugees, English classes, sport, gardening walks and cycling trips.

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

THE TRUSSELL TRUST

which supports 1300 foodbanks in this country has reported a tsunami of need, with needs outstripping donations for the first time. It sees this as alarming and has launched a special appeal,

POVERTY AND EQUALITY

(SVP Newsletter Feb 2023)

“We must not confuse the terms Poverty and Inequality. They are certainly similar but they present differently and must be faced in different ways. Poverty is simple, measurable can be fixed through change. Inequality on the other hand is more than a lack of finance and involves lack of opportunity, safeguarding and protection. It is vulnerable and involves a shifting of global factors. There is no quick fix. It goes beyond charity to campaigning for Justice.

Jesus came for us all, but paid special attention to the poor, exploited, ignored, enslaved, mistreated and scapegoated.

So let us pay special attention to all victims of inequality systems.

It is important therefore in following Jesus that all of us our churches do work for Justice and Peace.

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Do something to bring to the attention of others in your church that following Jesus is more than almsgiving and involves praying and actively working for justice and peace.