

# The HEART for CALNE Newsletter

No. 4 NEW YEAR 2012

## SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

Matt. 19 : 13 (AV)

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*Bob Kenway led the HfC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January by informing us that it was "St. Agnes Day". Did we know who Saint Agnes was? No. Well, apparently she was a child martyr, who, at the age of twelve or thirteen suffered martyrdom in around 304AD.*

The story of St. Agnes led Bob to open our eyes (if they needed opening) to the difficult family situations of some children and teenagers in this country; Calne isn't immune from some of the bad news, and here was an opportunity to pray into these situations. We opened by reading Matthew 18: 1 – 7, and Bob observed that the way we treat children is in fact a mirror of ourselves, adding: "Schools today have become the leading agency in social care"\*.

Bob did quite a bit of research on the Internet, including The Children's Society *Good Childhood Report 2012* (summary), and extracts from the Mothers' Union report *Bye Buy Childhood*, etc. JK has these for you to borrow as part of a HfC resource library.

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\* Heart-for-Calners may wish to be reminded that in fact some schools do invite us in to pray: look for details in every Newsletter.

## The Open Blue Bus

*Terry Mills*, a member of Calne Baptist Church, explains –

"Our aim is to provide a safe environment for young people who would normally hang around our town centre (thus also providing a safer town centre for the whole community). We hope to build relationships with young people, which may give us the opportunity to show them God's love. We would like to provide good adult role models to youngsters who may not come into contact with them on a day-to-day basis.

We see 140-220 different young people per 11-week term. This term so far we have seen on average over 60 young people per week.

Although some weeks' Bus visits have to be cancelled because either we do not have enough volunteers or bad weather or the bus breaks down, we try to do 33 sessions per school year; generally we achieve 23-28 per year.

'The Bus' has no age limits but we see mainly 9-13 year olds. Some of the teenagers come and go during the evening, but generally 25 stay in or around the Bus all night. We supply free hot chocolate or milk shakes. We have games consoles (Wii, PS3 and Xbox) and board games (*Connect 4*, *Frustration*, etc.). The young people are playing more games with the adults and we have built up several good relationships. Not overtly Christian but moving along the Engels scale.

We currently have seven helpers and need at least two more. Of those seven, four of us do every week, two do every other week and one drives the bus back every week.

We have funding until February 2012 and are in the process of applying to funding bodies to secure the future of the Bus.

*What 'fruit' has come from this initiative?*  
The police have said there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour since 'The Open Blue Bus' started: the Bus has clearly contributed to this reduction.

Terry Mills

## Intercessors' Calendar

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The 2012 timetable of Heart for Calne prayer times is now available; please make sure you pick up your copy at the next HfC meeting (some churches have them on display, so you can collect yours there or you can ask jk for a copy – tel. 816314).

The next Heart for Calne meetings are -  
**Saturday 18 February** between 9.30 & 11.30 am in **the Evangelical Church, Oxford Rd.**, and  
**Saturday 17 March** in the Coleman's Farm Community Centre (same time) – if you need a lift, please phone jk at 816314.

**The next dates for praying 'at & for'**  
**Fynamore and St.Dunstan's Schools are -**  
Fynamore School : 20<sup>th</sup> March (1 pm – 2.30)  
St.Dunstan School : 1<sup>st</sup> March (4.30 – 5.30).

These schools would really appreciate more people coming to pray: the timing may well be difficult for many folk – would anyone like to suggest better days or times to which they could commit? My guess would be that most of the pupils would not otherwise have their names mentioned in the Lord's throne room; so for that reason it would be worthwhile to see if we can make changes that would enable more people to attend. jk

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## SALE : 20% OFF Books – DVDs - CDs

A reminder that the Christian Book Shop has its sale until the end of February  
OPEN Tuesday-Friday 9.45-1.30 Saturdays  
10.00-12.30 (Sunday & Monday closed)

and NEW THIS YEAR the shop is stocking TRADCRAFT Easter eggs with a little book telling the Easter story for children £3.99

## Intercessors' Focus

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**Both our stories in this issue, focussing as they do on children and teenagers, have prayer requests which you may feel moved to put in your permanent prayer diaries.**

**Please pray for -**

- > parents in their parenting, especially as today they are under very strong commercial and cultural pressures;
- > children's vulnerability to exploitation via the Internet;
- > the Open Blue Bus: the organisers have funding to take them up to February 2012, and are now waiting to hear the outcome of three applications;
- > for more volunteers for the Open Blue Bus;
- > children in family situations where there is violence and abuse;
- > children living with disability, long-term illness, mental health issues or coping with bereavement;
- > the Open Blue Bus volunteers, that they may interact well with the teenagers who come on a Friday evening, and become good role models; and conversely, that the young people will respond positively;
- > other agencies supporting children and teenagers: doctors' surgeries, Social Services, NHS mental health team, Police, Barnardo's, Children's Society, NSPCC.

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***"Listen to the whole New Testament this Lent"*** was the headline in my email inbox this week. It went on ....  
"Download Bible Society's free audio New Testament – *You've Got The Time* – and listen during Lent. It'll be just 28 minutes a day. And in 40 days, you will have listened to the whole New Testament".

Just log on to [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk) and click on You've Got the Time. jk