

TOGETHER FOR A CHANGE

Spend a Penny – and Change the World

One of the most inspirational stories of how *Together for a Change* can make a difference has come – as you would expect – from a local *Guild* branch. Challenged by the fact that it would only take a **one percent** shift in how we spend our money to eradicate world poverty, this group is raising funds for *Dare to Care* by asking members to put in 1p for every pound in their purse. It is a wonderfully simple idea, but one which not only will raise the necessary funds, but also gives us a sign of how apparently tiny things can change the world.

This ***Guild Update*** shows how, with your help, we are already making progress in bringing together people across the globe. After an inspirational couple of days listening to people from seven different communities we have chosen the communities of ***Easterhouse*** and ***Royston*** to begin to turn this dream into reality. In this edition you hear a little of what their hopes and dreams are. You will also, we hope, sense a little of the sense of excitement and responsibility that they feel. We are immensely grateful to the *Guild* for giving us this chance to *dare to care* and believe that with your vision and energy we can, indeed, start to change the world.

Read on – and be excited at what you are allowing to happen. ***Spend a Penny – Change the World.***

Martin Johnstone
Co-ordinator

ROYSTON

St Paul's Parish Church in the East End of Glasgow serves five different communities along the four mile length of Royston Road.

Together for a Change brings our churches an enormous challenge over the next two years! Stimulated by this project, we are looking to try and understand what it really means to suffer poverty in the east end of Glasgow at the beginning of the twenty first century. We don't intend to do this by amassing statistics but, rather, we are looking to listen to local people and to allow them to share their experiences and opinions. Using video reports we hope to let groups and individuals along the Royston road listen and make comment and to feed these comments back to the people who first shared their stories and thoughts. In this way we look to build a picture of the reality of poverty in our community. Update reports from Together for a Change will feature week by week our church service where we use digital projection every week.

EASTERHOUSE

The two Church of Scotland congregations of Lochwood and Easterhouse: St Georges and St Peters submitted a joint proposal. The project is focused around young people and the issues of gang culture, drug and alcohol abuse. The group is keen to develop a link with Jamaica



Don't forget that the Together for a Change team has been busy with speaking engagements at Guild groups around the country - to book a speaker for your Guild phone 0141 333 1948 or email priorityareas@uk.uumail.com

EASTERHOUSE

THE "TOGETHER FOR A CHANGE" CAKE MIX



THE FIRST MIX

Take two neighbouring congregations of the Church of Scotland, Easterhouse: St. George's & St. Peter's and Lochwood. They have different theological traditions, have experienced some congregational rivalry, and have different approaches to mission in one of the poorest communities in Scotland. St. George's & St. Peter's has long history of community involvement, including its own Community Association, and its recent developments in worship. Lochwood has its emphasis on mission to young people, with Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade, the "Megaclub" for children and "TYO" for young people, regular Summer Missions and involvement in Scripture Union groups. Add the different outlooks and experiences of the two ministers, Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson and Rev. Stuart Duff, and stir to achieve a commitment to work together for the good of the community and especially its young people.

THE SECOND MIX

Take the first mix and add to it some real spice, with the inclusion of the representatives of the community groups who are involved with local youths, Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse (F.A.R.E.), The Pavilion Youth Café, The Easterhouse Project Trust, Cyberzone, and a little seasoning from the John Wheatley Further Education College and its Learning Support Network. Stir together hard, looking out for the lumpy bits that don't mix too well, to achieve an understanding of the issues facing young people in Easterhouse, a desire to see their lives improve and their horizons widen, and an immense amount of computer hardware, and IT knowledge.

THE FINAL MIX

Take an inner-city community in Kingston, Jamaica, famed for violence, gangs and drugs, but lightened with a passion for music and football. Allow communication using different types of technology, the young people to share personal and communal stories of joys and sorrows, hopes and pain, and let this bitter-sweet mixture flow freely throughout the cake mix.

ROYSTON

WHAT KIND OF LINKS WILL WE FIND WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY?

Partnership with a community in the developing world will bring a whole new dimension to our thinking. People rightly say that our experience of poverty in Scotland is nothing compared to that in other countries. Well, we shall see. We look forward to the challenge of sharing this whole experience.

THE ARTS CAN HELP US EXPRESS PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE...

Through 2000-2001 we were part of a very exciting and ambitious community-arts project. Two of the artists residencies helped us understand how people think of themselves and how they cope with life living with pressure and disadvantage. One artist, Stephen Healy, took dramatic photographs of local people with their 'mongrel' dogs set against a streetscape. With an originally immigrant Irish-catholic population there is a sense that we are a 'mongrel' people - and proud of it!

Another artist, Jenny Brownrigg, worked with a group of local women and discovered that a good number escaped into reading romantic fiction. From a goth teenager to a granny who loved *Mills & Boon* there was a shared discovery and enjoyment of this way to cope with the harshness of life around them.

We believe that the arts may help us again to express some of the things we will discover over the next two to three years.

