

News From St Margaret's



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September 2007

Teddy Bears arrive at the Annual Gathering!

Archbishop Mario Conti, Archbishop of Glasgow and President of St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society joined with the staff team and the Council of Management to join our Annual Gathering earlier in the year. The Archbishop concelebrated Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald. Although the weather was poor, the afternoon was a great success. We had a bouncy castle for the children, as well as those adventurous adults who were brave enough to risk having a go! For the younger children we had a lucky dip into the "Shredded Swamp" with the chance to win a teddy bear. There was a distinct party atmosphere in the church hall with bright decorations and helium balloons, and a real buzz as old friends and colleagues met up for a bit of a catch up and a gossip! With lots to eat and drink, the afternoon was a great success.



Teddy Bears were out in force at the Annual Gathering on June. Lots of happy children went home with a new friend to care for.

Our Annual Gathering is always a popular event on the calendar, and this year was no exception. The day always attracts many families who have adopted through St Margaret's. It is always a pleasure to meet up with those who have adopted and who are now parents, and to hear how adoption has changed their lives and how the new family has developed. It is also a good opportunity for those applicants who are pursuing their application to be approved as adoptive parents to meet up with the wider family and association of St Margaret's.

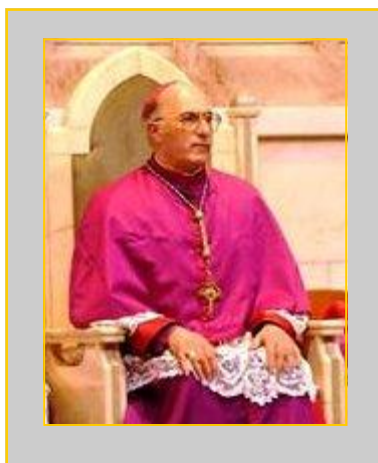
We look forward to doing it all again next year!

Archbishop Conti Expresses Support for St Margaret's

Archbishop Mario Conti took the opportunity at the Annual Gathering to express his continuing support for St Margaret's. The Archbishop concelebrated Mass with two fellow Bishops, Bishop Phillip Tartaglia of Paisley, and Bishop John Mone, Bishop Emeritus, and former Bishop of Paisley. During his homily, Archbishop Conti expressed his support and commitment to the future of St Margaret's in the light of recent legislation and speculation about the future of the Catholic adoption agencies.

Archbishop Conti is the President of St Margaret's. He has taken a keen interest in the development of the adoption legislation in Scotland resulting in the new Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007, and also in the new Equality Act 2006, which will have an influence on the way in which adoption agencies deliver services.

Archbishop Conti stated: "The Bishops of Scotland are very aware of the challenging nature of the legislation, but are nonetheless determined that the good work being done by agencies like St Margaret's should not be lost. Therefore I want to re-



assure you that St Margaret's will continue with its work, and will continue to be faithful to its mission, namely to find families for children."

It is reassuring to have the support of Archbishop Conti during this period of change. The new Equality Act is due to come into effect from the end of December 2008.

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Anne Runciman on the BBC!

The recent BBC series "Families Wanted" featured our very own Anne Runciman. The series was screened earlier in the year and featured a variety of services provided by adoption agencies throughout the United Kingdom.



One episode featured John, who had been adopted as a child and who came to St Margaret's to try to trace his birth mother. First of all Anne prepared John for what proved to be a very emotional journey. She then guided him through a process of providing him with some background information from the adoption record, before starting to attempt to trace his birth mother.

The trace proved successful and John's birth mother was traced. Anne made contact with her in the first instance, and, after an exchange of letters, the two decided that they would like to meet. John met his birth mother at our office. The BBC followed John through his journey and he shared his thoughts, hopes and fears with the camera. We hope that the film will be helpful to those who are thinking of tracing their origins, and that it will be helpful to adoption applicants in helping their children to understand and maintain their identity. Counselling in Search of Origins is an important part of the work we undertake at St Margaret's, and there is no doubt that it is very valuable in terms of informing the work we do with adoption applications.

St Margaret's was the only Voluntary Adoption Agency which participated in a filming project, and we are all agreed that Anne did a fine job of promoting St Margaret's on the telly!

News Round Up

There have been a number of changes in the office since the turn of the year. In February Claire Stone joined the team. Claire is a Social Worker who joined us from Quarriers. Claire had previously worked in a local authority setting in various capacities. She has always held a strong interest in working in adoption and this was her motivation for applying to St Margaret's. We wish Claire a warm welcome to the team.

Later in the year Veronica Barclay decided to retire from her post. Veronica had recently become a grandmother, and she decided that she wished to retire so that she could spend lots of time with her lovely new granddaughter. We wish Veronica a happy retirement.

Visitors to the office will see a difference to our surroundings. During the course of the last 18 months, we have installed new computers, we have bought new furniture, we have installed new carpets, and had a fresh coat of paint applied. Altogether this has given the office a terrific facelift, and has made for a much more pleasant working environment.

We have been working on our website and plan to have our website go live during September 2007. The address to access the website is www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk Please log on and have a look, and be sure to give us your thoughts for improvements. We plan to review and improve the site after it has been running for a couple of months.

Look What's On with Luke Watson!

September 2007

19th September—Post Placement Group

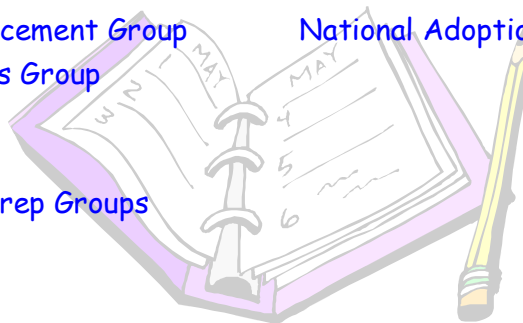
20th September- Waiter's Group

October 2007

2nd 4th & 6th October- Prep Groups

November 2007

National Adoption Week



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