

Welcome to the Summer 2009 edition of  
**Family Life Matters!**

Our big news this year is the success of the Celebrating Family Funded **Parenting Project** and the continuation of funding for the second year.

In the autumn our FLM team grew and we were delighted to welcome **Anne Ruane** as Parenting Support Worker and **Angela Fieldhouse** as an additional Administrative Support Worker. (A more recent temporary change has seen Sylvia Williment, FLM Administrative Support Worker, seconded temporarily to the office of the Episcopal Vicar for Christian Life.)

All the most recent news is, as usual, on the website [www.flm.org.uk](http://www.flm.org.uk). **Parenting Courses** are listed too so look to see if there is something near you. If not and you would like one read 'Engaging Parents' and contact Anne.

Family Life Ministry is here to encourage family people to realise and live their vocation to 'guard, reveal and communicate love'. There are many ways to love but no doubt at all that love is our vocation, so look on the website and let us know if there is anything here that you would like to be part of.

To thank you for your continuing support for Family Life Ministry we have a special offer: **FAMILIAS**, our professional association, was launched in September 2008. Our gift to you is your first year's Associate Membership free. FLM will pay one year's subscription for Family Ministers in Leeds Diocese. To take advantage of this just send your completed form to this office and we will process it for you! Associate membership entitles you to attend meetings (including the annual national celebration) and access to resources. To find out more go to [www.familias-ew.org.uk](http://www.familias-ew.org.uk).

Also available on request from this office is a free copy of the presentation on **The Spiritual Care of Dementia** by Dr Adrian Treloar organised and hosted by FLM in May.

Finally, thank you for the love you already live in your family life at home. It may look and feel unimportant or boring or even downright difficult but it is God's work you do and God is always there to help when you call.

Wishing you joy in your family life and a happy and peaceful summer,

*Breda*

**Breda Theakston**  
FLM Coordinator

## Engaging Parents

Anne Ruane, FLM Parenting Support Worker, is busy engaging parents for the new Parenting Project. This is funded through the Bishops' Conference Celebrating Family Project. Every year 15 new volunteers in Leeds Diocese will get a nationally accredited qualification at Level 3 OCN in Group Leadership Skills.

With this training the volunteers will be very well prepared to set up and run quality parenting programmes, including those of the internationally renowned Family Caring Trust, in parishes and schools where they live and work.

The good news this year is that 16 people have already undertaken the first round of training and completed the first part in March 2009. This success led directly to us getting the funding for the second year so Anne is now planning the next round of training in March 2010.

If you would like to be nominated by your school (this anticipates the government's new 21st Century Schools strategy) or parish to take advantage of this unique offer talk to your Head Teacher or Parish Priest and get in touch with us for more details.

Everyone knows that a child's outcome at school and in every area of their life depends more heavily on parental involvement than anything.

This is a great opportunity to engage with parents and help them in their mission to raise their children to the best of their ability and in partnership with schools, parishes and the wider church!

Contact Anne Ruane 0113 261 8050 or email [psw@flm.org.uk](mailto:psw@flm.org.uk)



## Book a 'Home is a Holy Place' Workshop

Remember Listening 2004 and that fabulous day we had on the lawns here at Hinsley Hall in June 2004? You may even remember filling in a questionnaire for Listening 2004 or being part of a discussion group talking about the realities of family life for you at home; in the world and in the church.

Well, the findings from L2004 (as it came to be known) were written up and published by the Bishops of England and Wales. The report, 'Not Easy But Full of Meaning', highlighted the needs and desires of family people in the church today.

Not content to listen the Bishops acted to launch a project to support family people. Called 'Celebrating Family: Blessed, broken, living love' it has three main themes: Everybody's Welcome to encourage family friendly parishes; Home is a Holy Place to encourage family spirituality and Passing on the Faith to encourage parents and grandparents in sharing their faith at home. See the website at [www.celebratingfamily.org.uk](http://www.celebratingfamily.org.uk).

The latest resource to emerge from this is a DVD resource pack called 'Home is a Holy Place'.

Linda Pennington and I have developed a 2 hour workshop exploring this wonderfully rich, flexible and easy to use resource pack and we will visit your group, parish or school. To book a session, contact us on 0113 261 8050 or email [flm@flm.org.uk](mailto:flm@flm.org.uk)



## Refresher Day Saturday 19th September 2009 Hinsley Hall, Leeds 10am — 4pm

If you missed our day at Wentworth Castle in May and are supporting engaged couples or involved in any family ministry then this is for you!

For those not able to be there in May we are offering the same format of sharing, contemplation and quiet time, this time at our own beautiful Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Leeds.

Look on the website for an outline of the day (which will include a look at the new Home is a Holy Place DVD resource pack).

This is for Marriage Preparation Presenters and all Family Life Ministers who would like a little 'time out'. Book online or contact us (details back page).

£25 per person; £40 per married couple includes a splendid Hinsley Hall lunch and refreshments (expense forms available).

(Sadly no crèche facilities available at this venue)

## Train to be a Marriage Preparation Presenter



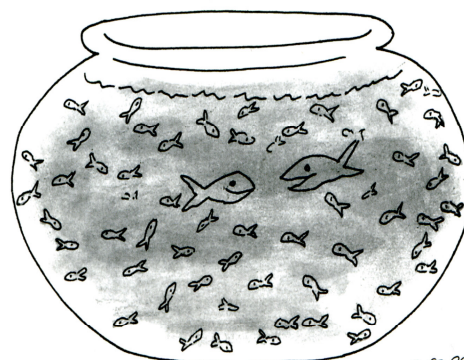
Last year 11 new Marriage Preparation Presenters completed their training in the use of the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Programme:

Welcome and congratulations to Edwin and Deirdre Bonner (Sacred Heart, Ilkley), Patrick and Helen McShee (St Mary's, Horsforth), Patrick and Julie Tanner (Cathedral, Leeds), John Kiarie, Stephen and Christine Habron and Alison and Jonathon Kirton (Holy Redeemer, Huddersfield)! And many thanks to their priests and parishes for supporting them in this important ministry.

If you would like to join the growing teams of parishioners who support engaged couples as they prepare for the most amazing sacrament of marriage then talk to your parish priest and get in touch.

**Next training will be in November 2009:** Four Monday evenings at Wheeler Hall, Leeds.

To find out more about the programme and the training go to [www.flm.org.uk/marriage/preparationcourse/preparationpresenters](http://www.flm.org.uk/marriage/preparationcourse/preparationpresenters).



S. GROSS

*"I guess we'd be considered a family. We're living together, we love each other, and we haven't eaten the children yet."*

## Family Life is not always easy

If you would like extra help in your family relationships look at [www.flm.org.uk/links/helplines](http://www.flm.org.uk/links/helplines) to access professional support.

### Some local numbers:

**Marriage Care** (for individual and couple counselling)  
0113 261 8045 / 0113 270 3940

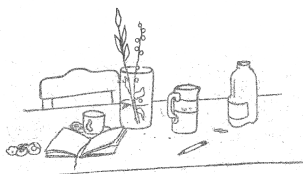
**Catholic Care** (social work support for parent/child/school/ adoption) 0113 388 5400

**Age Concern** 0113 245 8579

**Life** (pregnancy counselling) 0800 849 4545

**Al Anon and Alateen** 020 7403 0888

## HOME IS A HOLY PLACE.....



.....because God's presence graces all creation.

## What else is available?

**The Wednesday Word** a family friendly midweek look at the gospel [www.wednesdayword.org.uk](http://www.wednesdayword.org.uk)

**Beginning Experience** for those recovering from relationship loss, call 0113 261 2732

**Teams of Our Lady** fellowship for married couples, call 01642 827 993 / 01937 574 831  
[www.teamsofourlady.org.uk](http://www.teamsofourlady.org.uk)

**Retrouvaille** a weekend away for couples in breakup  
[www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Natural Family Planning** call 0113 260 0844

**Growing Old Grace-fully** call 0113 388 5400 or email [roddy.minogue@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:roddy.minogue@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**There are many more support and networking links for couples and families go to [www.flm.org.uk/links](http://www.flm.org.uk/links)**

## Your stories please

We need your stories about what is happening where you are for the FLM Report which is due out in autumn. Please let us have a short paragraph (anything from this – which is just 85 words- to a maximum of 500 words) about any family life activity or event in your community including parish or school over the last two years with any photographs you have.

To: [flm@flm.org.uk](mailto:flm@flm.org.uk) or FLM, Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds LS6 2BX.

## St Therese of Lisieux relics

In October the relics of the 'Little Flower' as she has come to be known will be in The Cathedral in Leeds for just 48 hours from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Families are welcome to visit at any time and we hope to be able to offer refreshments and activities especially for families on the afternoon of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### Help wanted!

In September we will plan how to use that time and sort rotas so that no one has to do too much. Please get in touch if you would like to help.

### What do we need?

People who would like an opportunity to: pray the Rosary with families; pray the Rosary with children; have special activities to increase awareness about St Therese and her family life; provide cakes; serve teas; wash up and act as guides and welcomers for families.

**Are you creative?** We also need help to prepare a St Therese 'Rose Tree' with paper petals for people to write their blessings on and to help prepare an attractive display of accessible information about St Therese's family life.

St Therese's spirituality was nurtured in a loving and faithful family. To share this good news about the special power of family life to 'guard, reveal and communicate love' we want all who visit her relics to see how important her family was to her faith.

This can only happen if we have enough people on hand to help so if you would like to join us please contact Breda on 0113 261 8050 or [flm@flm.org.uk](mailto:flm@flm.org.uk) as soon as possible.



## FLM Library

The Family Life Ministry Library has moved!

It grew beyond our ability to cope in the office and is now happily housed in the main Hinsley Hall Library (and so accessible day and evening when Hinsley Hall is open!).

Have you read any good books lately? Let us know!

One book that changed my life is 'How to Talk so Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk'.

To see this and other books and resources in the Family Life Ministry library go to [www.flm.org.uk/contact/library](http://www.flm.org.uk/contact/library) for the catalogue or call in when you are in Headingley. If you have read a book that changed your life and relationships, especially your relationship with God and family then we want to know about it!

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# KEEP IN TOUCH

## HAVE YOU.....

Moved House?

Got a new telephone number ?

Got a new Email address ?

## DO YOU.....

Want any help with a project ?

Not know what to do next in your parish or school ?

Want a new perspective on something ?

Want to meet others who share your interests/needs/ life situations ?

Want to be added to or removed from our mailing list?

## IF YOU CAN ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THESE.....

.....**GET IN TOUCH**

### How to Contact Us

The FLM team consists of:- Breda Theakston (Coordinator); Anne Ruane (Parenting Support Worker), Marjorie Parker (FLM support ) and Angela Fieldhouse (Administrative Support).

We can be contacted by phone: 0113 261 8050; by email: [flm@flm.org.uk](mailto:flm@flm.org.uk);

by post: Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 2BX.

***For more (including extra copies) go to [www.flm.org.uk](http://www.flm.org.uk)***

*Pass this on! Pin it to your notice board!*

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