

LAZY SUNDAY 18TH MAY

Our annual event supporting Christian Aid Week. Please come and join us for a day of worship, fun and food as we raise money for Christian Aid. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea will be served from the café, young people will wash cars, and there is a talent show and cake stall. There will be lots of opportunities to help in the running of the day please speak to Barbara, Miriam or Karen.

MINORITY ETHNIC ANGLICAN CONCERNS DAY DIOCESAN CONFERENCE.

Saturday 10th May Keynote speaker Dr Elizabeth Henry (CMEAC National Advisor) will be here at St Mary's 10am - 1pm. Please see Miriam and the letter on the notice board for more information.

TIMEBUILDERS CEILIDH

Timebuilders are going to have a home-grown Ceilidh (Barn Dance) on **Saturday 31st May**. They urgently need a caller for the dancing - do you know anyone who could help with this? If so, please talk to Steve as soon as possible (contact details below)

WOMEN ASYLUM SEEKER PETITION

Following our dealings with Yarl's Wood, Yo suggested the following petition may be of interest to members of our congregation:

Over the last few weeks the campaign on Yarl's Wood detention centre has been under the spotlight.

This week UN investigator Rashida Manjoo attempted to visit Yarl's Wood on a fact finding mission about violence against women in the UK. She was blocked from visiting the

detention centre. Manjoo said: "If there was nothing to hide I should have been given access." On Channel 4 News last night I said that Manjoo should have been able to meet the women locked up in Yarl's and I asked: "What is the Home Office trying to hide?"

The last few weeks have set many people asking: why is our government imprisoning so many innocent people? In 2012 nearly 2,000 women who came to this country to seek protection were detained.

Since starting our campaign 'Set Her Free' to end the detention of women who seek asylum, we've had some success. Many MPs have spoken up in Parliament. But now we have to see some action. You can help that happen.

Best wishes,

Meltem

--- Content of petition ---

I'm supporting Meltem's campaign calling for an end to the detention of women who seek asylum.

We need to wake up to the cruel reality about what is happening to women who are detained in the UK. In 2012 nearly 2,000 women who came to this country to seek protection were detained in Yarl's Wood detention centre. These women have not committed any crime. They have come to this country to find refuge from persecution. Yet we are locking them away and treating them like criminals.

Please help us to end this. Sign the petition here: www.change.org/RefugeeWomen

Thank you!

NEXT WEEK - SUNDAY 4TH MAY

10.30am Holy Communion: Julian (preach and lead); David F (reads); Barbara T (intercessions); Della (drinks); Margaret & John I (stewards); Kevin & Barbara (communion assistants); Jem, Jess, Veronica & Jon (music)

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