



Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Cherish Life Network:

“Through moral conscience God speaks to each of us, inviting us to defend human life at all times”.

Pope Benedict, February 2011

We are all called to respond to this invitation in our own lives, whether in casual conversation or in crisis.

But there are many good people within our Diocese who also respond by actively engaging in other ways in defending and protecting vulnerable human life.

As a Diocese we would like to help those concerned to work together to make best use of their time, talents and energies. With this in mind we have set up a Cherish Life Network.

The Network purposes

In accordance with the Church's teaching, and in the spirit of St John Paul II's encyclical the Gospel of Life, to work to protect all human life from conception to natural death by:

- Making best use of existing 'pro-life' resources within the diocese through networking and mutual support and ensuring that priests and others in the 'front line' are aware of these resources.
- Discussion with those on the 'front line' and others to establish needs and gaps in provision and work with the network and others to supply these.
- Increasing awareness of and engagement in all aspects of pro-life work and supporting priests in this work.
- Encouraging and facilitating spiritual activities in support of this work.

The Network so far

When the Network was launched the first aim was to establish the nature and spread of existing 'pro-life' activities within the diocese, to identify and establish contact with those who wish to be part of this Network and to hear from them how the Network could help. This was achieved primarily through using an earlier version of this questionnaire. We were greatly encouraged by the responses received, demonstrating as they did the considerable level of commitment and the range of expertise and activities already represented in the diocese. We were also very grateful for the suggestions received, some of which are reflected in this revised questionnaire.

The Network will operate under the aegis of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and the Network Co-ordinator will be appointed on to that Commission. It is clear that the scope of the Network extends beyond the remit of any single diocesan commission and so the Network will certainly be supported by and work with other commissions especially the Marriage and Family Life and Social Action Commissions.

We have set up a Core Consultation Group to assist with planning and development. It is designed to reflect the range of expertise, activities and approaches represented within the Network. We hope to build this group further over time.

We have created a Directory of Network Members. This offers, subject to specific permissions, a brief account of each member's activities, geographical area of operation and contact details and we have also launched a 'Chatter' facility online, offering a quick and effective method of communication.

We are also creating a Directory of Resources for those needing help, using the information gathered so far. When it is ready you will find it on the diocesan website. This is always going to be 'work in progress' so if you are aware of other relevant resources, available to those living in our diocesan area, we would be glad to hear from you.

We are mindful of our duty to ensure that all activities facilitated by the Network are in conformity with the teaching of the Church not only in relation to their purpose but also in relation to the means employed and spirit in which they are done. With this in mind we have formulated a Network Protocol which you will find at the end of the main questionnaire. We are grateful for the assistance of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre in this regard.

The next step

Now we are ready to open the Network to new members. We warmly invite you to join us by completing this questionnaire and to invite others to do so too. (Further copies may be obtained from the diocesan website at www.dabnet.org/PastoralTeam/PastoralLife/JusticeandPeace or by contacting Ruth Gerun at DABCEC at 4 Southgate Drive, Southgate, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RP email ruth.gerun@dabnet.org) We would like to hear from both individuals and groups (whether formal or informal and whether affiliated to a larger organisation or not) who are actively engaged in some relevant activity.

We also want to hear from anyone who is not currently involved but would like to be so. Please use this form to indicate the areas of activity in which you are interested and complete the remaining questions where relevant.

Some questions are not key to this 'fact find' and need not be completed. They are there to facilitate any feedback or suggestions you wish to offer.

Personal/contact details will not be divulged without explicit consent, which we invite within the questionnaire. Please return your completed and signed questionnaire either by scanning and emailing to ruth.gerun@dabnet.org or by post to DABCEC 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6RP.

We will delete your details from our Network Members' database and Directory on request.

Thank you.

Cherish Life Network Questionnaire

1 *Name*

2 *Address*

3 *Email address*

4 *Telephone number*

Landline

Mobile

5 *Are you currently involved in this work? (Yes or no)*

6 *The name of your group (if any).*

7 *Roughly what geographical area / parishes / deaneries do you regard your current activities as encompassing?*

8 ***Your thoughts on the network purposes:***

9 ***What would you like to see from this initiative?***

10 Aspects of pro-life work:

We list below the areas of activity which we have identified so far. Please tick the boxes to indicate your own areas of activity or interest, whether this is through direct participation or facilitation.

*These are broad categories and may overlap somewhat. If you find it difficult to determine which categories apply to your own activity or interest please tick all those you feel **might** apply. The purpose of this section is, in part, to ensure you are **not** approached about areas in which you are **not** involved. Ticking a box does not imply any commitment on your part.*

10a Care:

(i) Pregnancy, post-natal and post abortion support:

(ii) Support for the vulnerable and their carers through care, advocacy, raising awareness (for example of Church teaching, relevant law and consequent vulnerabilities, medical protocols and practices, sources of support and entitlements):

10b Education

(i) Schools:

(ii) Adult formation:

10c Giving witness

Subject to the Network protocol, giving witness in defence of human life either individually or through participation in relevant campaigns. Activities might include engaging in public or academic debate (including online), lobbying and participating in public demonstrations. This category would also include encouraging and facilitating such activities such as by networking and the dissemination of relevant information:

10d Spiritual support

We urge all Network members to support its work and intentions through private prayer and sacrifice. Please tick here if you would also wish to participate in, facilitate or organise other suitable spiritual activities:

10e Are there any other aspects which should be added to this list?

11 Where are the gaps within the Diocese and what are the priorities in filling these?

12 How might this be achieved?

13 Please use this space to provide further information on your own activities if you wish

14 Do you have any further concerns or comments?

15 Permissions

15a *May we circulate the information provided under Questions 5, 6, 7 and 10 to other Network members? (Yes or No)*

15b *May we provide your contact details with this?*
15b (i) **Postal Address? (Yes or No)**

15b (ii) **Email address? (Yes or No)**

15b (iii) **Landline telephone number? (Yes or No)**

15b (iv) **Mobile telephone number? (Yes or No)**

The Network Protocol

The aim of the network is to support pro-life charitable work and apostolic activity within the diocese that is in conformity with the teaching of the Catholic Church both in relation to the ends and in relation to the means employed and spirit in which it is done. As a diocesan initiative, the network acknowledges the role of the bishop in fostering and coordinating various forms of the apostolate in the diocese, with due regard for the proper character of each. The network coordinator will refer any queries or disagreements about the appropriate use of the network to a representative appointed by the bishop to support this apostolic work.

17 **I consent to information on my activities and my contact details, as indicated in Section 15, being shared with other members of the Cherish Life Network and I acknowledge and accept the protocol set out above.**

Signed **Dated**

Please print your name

Since your signature is required would you please either scan and then email or, alternatively, post your completed and signed form to the Christian Education Centre (DABCEC) using the contact details below.

Thank you

Diocesan Database Form

It would be helpful if you would also complete the following database form. This enables us to enter you on the main Diocesan database and ensure that you receive Diocesan mailings relevant to all your areas of interest. This will supplement the materials which will be sent to Network members.

Again, since we need your signature on this would you please either scan and then email or, alternatively, post your completed and signed form to DABCEC, Crawley using the contact details on the form.

