



Cleaford News

February 2009

We normally wish to send the following, but will be reviewing our arrangements in the near future, so we ask for no deliveries at present please.

- ⇒ New clothes and shoes
- ⇒ Toys, complete puzzles, games
- ⇒ Coloured pencils, felt tips
- ⇒ Paints, brushes and craft materials
- ⇒ Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap
- ⇒ Medical items—must be at least 6 months within expiry date
- ⇒ Incontinence pads

Visit our website at cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk—it has recently been revised and refreshed by our Trustee, Andrew Henderson.

We are no longer sending food, knitted blankets, **second-hand clothes**, computers, monitors and printers.

Abigail Cleaver

Four of us—Jan and Phil Dunford, and Abigail and Angus Cleaver—sat round a table early in 1994, and decided that we were being led to form The Cleaford Christian Trust, to put the little help we had been giving to the church in Brasov in Romania on a proper footing as a registered charity.

I clearly remember saying at that time that if we formed a charity we would have to keep going, and not lose interest and fall away. Abigail had already been packing some boxes on the floor of our spare bedroom, and she took charge of the logistics from then on. She was to grow to love, and be loved by, many in Romania.

Just under five years ago Abigail was diagnosed with breast cancer, with secondaries in her jaw, liver, lungs and hips. We were told that no cure would be possible, but that the doctors would work hard to control the disease, commensurate with giving her as good a quality of life as possible. They realised that her family and her work were very important to her, and would do their best to enable her to carry on as long as possible.

In the summer of 2008 we celebrated 40 years of happy marriage and teamwork, had a super summer holiday, and her labours were recognised by the Queen with an invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, which was a glorious day much enjoyed.

After a long series of chemotherapies, and two sessions of radiotherapy, her consultant concluded that her body needed a rest from the onslaught just before last Christmas. During January she developed a serious infection in her right arm, and was treated for that in Mount Alvernia Hospital in Guildford. During that stay we were told that the disease in her liver had progressed, such that no further treatment was appropriate.

The family was able to gather in Farnham from Sweden and Siberia where they live, and Abigail passed her last days at home watching her four grandchildren play around her. Having said her goodbyes, she slipped away peacefully in her sleep at the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice early on the morning of January 31st, 2009, having, in her own words, “had a good innings”. She had kept her vow to keep going with the Trust work.

There will be a cremation service, attended by the family and a few friends at 3 pm on Friday February 13th, followed by a service at Farnham Baptist Church, to which all are invited, at 4 pm. that day.

We propose to mark Abigail’s life and work with a special memorial service later, when the whole family will again be able to gather in Farnham and to which absolutely everyone is invited. This will be at Farnham Baptist Church on Saturday 23rd May. Please take this as an invitation to come to either or both services.

Abigail had two specific requests; that there should be no black at the funeral, and that in lieu of flowers any donations should come to the Trust. In consultation with our friends there, we propose to fund a project in Romania that will serve as a memorial to her.



Brasov, Romania March 2007