



St Joseph's Family Society

People helping people





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Dear Friends,

Like many other western societies and democracies, but perhaps to a more severe extent, Peterborough and the surrounding areas are currently marked by increasing social and political division, and by disruption and uncertainty. There is less that binds us as a society than there was in previous generations.

Social media and wider demographic developments mean that we increasingly live in silos, in universes of world view and identity – pro Brexit / anti Brexit, Covid19 Coronavirus Pandemic and the recent Cost of Living Crisis have a knock on effect of a possible recession being just some of many lines that now divide us as a society.

In a recent inquiry into the future of civil society, it was found that charities and civil society must change if they are to meet the challenges our society faces and required a call on charities, among other things to be more accountable, and to stay true to their values.

I echo and welcome that challenge, as I am convinced that charities have the potential to be an important wellspring of cohesion and confidence. Not because they do 'safe', easy work, which creates a cosy consensus. Far from it – charities by the nature of their work will divide opinion. Charities are and must continue to be courageous advocates of their diverse and sometimes competing causes. The potential here for charities lies not in what they do or whom they help, but how they do it.

To put it starkly: charities have the potential to model the

leadership that the public expect but are not seen in politics or business or other areas of national life.

I truly believe that the public – people from all walks of life – are longing for strong, open, moral leadership. Charities have the potential to be a source of trust, reassurance, pride and belonging, to lead the change we need to see across society.

It's easy to think that 'charity' means 'raising money to help someone'. To be fair, that's what many charities spend a lot of their time doing. However, fundraising and charity do not mean the same thing at all. Charity means kindness, generosity and consideration. In Christianity, it specifically refers to the sort of unconditional love that Christians call 'Agape'. This sacrificial selfless sort of 'Christian' love is the love that God has for everyone, and that He showed when He sent His Son to die for our sins, Christians believe.

Unselfish love should lead to kind actions, and it is this sort of 'doing good deeds' that people associate with charity. Many charities in the UK were initially started by Christians, but the gospel message is for love to all people, so the work done is rarely focussed particularly on Christians, and often many non-Christians get involved and become part of the charity.

The St Joseph's Family Society as a charity has a role, an important role, in helping people in their communities to recognise this, and rise to the challenge.

I ask you to join us, as an individual, a family or family church of people to be key members of an organisation of "people helping people."

God bless,

José C. Rodriguez

Founder of the St. Joseph's Family Society

José C. Rodriguez

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

St Joseph's Family Society aims to relieve poverty in Peterborough through the provision of basic Nutritious food and other basic amenities.



The organisation serves the residents of Peterborough and the surrounding area suffering from disadvantage and social deprivation.

This essential service supports anyone in distress, regardless of the cause of their stress.

Our policy has always been to give immediate help to those in need.

To ensure we meet this demand and that our limited supplies are given to genuine clients, our referrers confirm the genuine need for the food parcel which enables us to provide food to clients at our outreach centres.

Our service is available to anyone in distress. This means that we do not discriminate against anyone, especially on the grounds of sex, marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or age.

St Joseph's Family Society promises to respect the confidentiality of any personal data you share with us, or that we have access to through introducing agencies, to keep it safe, and to always take every effort to protect your privacy.

FOODBANKS & FOOD HUBS



Food banks help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

We need your help to donate food to our outreach centres to help those in crisis.

These foods must be non-perishable foods such as those in tins, packets, dried milk, Long Life milk, tinned fruit, and healthy snacks.

The services we will provide will have an enormous impact on the people who use them, giving them an important breathing space at a time of great need and stress. We will help all who need our help and support.

Young, old, single people, and families from all backgrounds, religious belief, or ethnicity, without prejudice and because of their circumstances, cannot afford to buy food.

We aim to treat everyone fairly and with dignity. There will be no charge for the food or service.