

quite well, having served on the same ecumenical committee as him in Blackburn Diocese. The invitation list for the Anglican Delegation was somewhat biased in favour of the 'High Church Mafia' and the two folk who should have been top of the Anglican list were mysteriously conspicuous by their absence; namely myself and Martin Jacques who is current Anglican Chaplain to Bucharest and Sofia. Anyway, be that as it may, and totally undaunted I was in Sibiu that week and from what I saw of the conference I was glad not have been involved. You have never seen so many dog collars in one place in your life. No thank you! The real reason from my presence in Sibiu that week was to obtain my 'Right of Permanent Residence' documentation from the Police in Sibiu. This may well come in handy when I am made redundant from my present post in three years time.

Three faith Forum: I recently attended the 3FF advisory board meeting in London, and just today have received an invitation to a special dinner in London at which Canon Andrew White (one of our patrons) is being presented with an award for his endeavours to bring about peace in Iraq and the Middle East. Given that the tickets for the dinner sell at a suggested £250 a head, I am trusting that my invitation is a complimentary one.

What a clever lot!!!

In addition to Vasile hoping perhaps to do his doctorate there are other matters which should be noted.

Nuti has enrolled on a special six months long social work course run by the local authority. This course is fully accredited and those who pass it are presented with a diploma. It will consist largely of her doing her studies at the weekends and she is the only NGO

worker on the course. This has gone down really well with the authorities and she has been very well received on the course.

Aurelia has signed up for a course in Occupational Health and Alex has very nearly completed his doctorate.

Speaking of being 'clever'. It was often asked of Mandy and myself whether we weren't being wreckless, or even just plain stupid by having our two children educated within the Romanian state school system. Without being complacent about it we were always basically confident that all would be OK. And so it has proved to be - thankfully. Adina recently took her GCSE examinations and came away with nine grade 'A' and one grade 'B' results. So we are all well pleased.

At the end of this shorter newsletter you will find a list of dates about when I might be able to come and give a talk to your Church/Rotary/Lions group etc. Please see if you can perhaps arrange a talk to raise the profile of Romania in your area.

I say this for two reasons. The first is that SHARE/Ascensium are really struggling for money ('broke' is the word which most readily springs to mind!) and so any talk usually raises a few shekels for the coffers. But additionally there is now a real 'post EU accession malaise' about the place. What I mean by this is that because Romania (and Bulgaria) is now a fully-fledged EU member many organisations have just washed their hands of it. The Big Lottery for example won't now give any money for projects. Similarly we were invited to apply for money to an organisation in Deventer in the Netherlands. Alex prepared the application forms and jumped through all the required hoops only to be told twelve months later that they were no longer offering funds to Romania

because Romania was now in the EU. EU funding is supposedly directed through the national government for distribution at national and local levels, but this is taking a long time to come through and so we are struggling to raise funds from anywhere at the moment. The need is still great but how we are going to meet that need, let alone pay the staff at Christmas, I am really not sure at this point. So everything you can do (please, please consider regular monthly, quarterly or annual giving). If you can get some money for your car boot then please sell it. If you want to raffle your partner then please feel free. We will happily accept the proceeds. Times really are difficult. We can but hope that the EU money comes on stream more quickly than we anticipate - but that is not likely. Meanwhile we still have bills to pay and salaries to meet. Please, please help in any way you can, and at the risk of clogging up cyber space for a moment or two, please feel free to circulate this newsletter to anyone whom you might think needs a cure for insomnia - sorry, I meant anyone who has a generous heart. This is not the time for short arms and deep pockets!!!

That's it till next month. Please see dates and addresses etc on the following sheet. Please also get used to accessing the website - we hope to keep it updated fairly regularly and there should be some very recent photos on there very shortly.

'Ant time, any place, anywhere' - just call Steve Mr Martini (actually he prefers a pint of Stella Artois, but that is another story) - he will travel to any part of the

world to try and raise funds and awareness of the ongoing needs of Romania.....

Dates when Steve is available:

Wednesday Nov 21
Thursday Nov 22
Friday Nov 23
Saturday Nov 24
Monday Nov 26
Monday Dec 3
Wednesday Dec 5
Thursday Dec 6
Friday Dec 7
Monday Dec 10
Wednesday Dec 12
Thursday Dec 13
Saturday Dec 15
Wed Jan 9
Thurs Jan 10
Fri Jan 11
Sat Jan 12
Thurs Jan 24
Fri Jan 25
Sat Jan 26
Mon Jan 28
Wednesday Jan 30
Thurs Jan 31
Fri Feb 1
Mon Feb 4
Thurs Feb 7
Fri Feb 8
Sat Feb 9
Mon Feb 18
Tues Feb 19
Wed Feb 20
Thurs Feb 21
Fri Feb 22
Mon Feb 25
Tues Feb 26
Thurs Feb 28
Mon Mar 3
Wed Mar 5
Wed Mar 12
Thurs Mar 13
Any other future dates please enquire.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

www.uk-share.org.uk

Donations/CAF cheques etc made payable to 'SHARE' and addressed to:

69 Liverpool Old Road
Much Hoole
Preston
Lancashire,
PR4 4RB
England.

Telephone: (0044) (0)1772 612267

Steve mobile 07754 177689
Mandy mobile 07715 113500

In Romania:

Ascensium
Str Ion Slavici
Sibiu -2400
Romania

0040 269 215181

UK Bank: Lloyds /TSB

South Birmingham Branch,
793 Bristol Road South,
Nothfield,
Birmingham,
B31 2NP

A/C # 07879999

Don't Forget

Re-arranged AGM

Now December 8th

At Coventry Cathedral

Commences 11.00

Please try and be there!
