

## **MCF Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2008**

First of all, apologies that we are unable to attend tonight's meeting.

The last year has brought many changes in the life of MCF with the introduction of a new strategy for the next three years.

Alongside our Sunday morning meetings, which are attended by around 250, we have put on a number of events throughout the past year. The highlight had to be the Christmas production. Around 600 people came to see "Christmas Cards", led by ex-Zimbabwean cricketer, Henry Olonga. Other events included a cabaret evening and visits from comedian John Archer and the Lacey Theatre Company.

Avalanche Ranch, a holiday club for 5-11 yr olds, ran during the first week of the summer and was attended by nearly 100 children. September then saw the start of a children's club on Thursday evenings, which takes place in the community centre. Planning for this year's holiday club, PowerLab, is already under way.

As in previous years we sent a team, of mainly young people, to Croatia to help run a holiday club for local children. This was supplemented in December when we delivered over 200 shoeboxes full of goodies to be distributed in local schools. In addition to the Croatia team we will be sending two teams to Denver to work with the homeless and three teams to rural Zambia to help with building, medical projects and two children's camps.

In local terms we have formed a partnership with Eye Volunteer Centre, which covers the Debenham area, and are working with the new High Suffolk Children's Centre, to allow us to help the community more effectively. We are also planning several more events for this year in Debenham, including a Euro football finals fun day in association with the Leisure Centre.

Furthermore, we are currently working with several schools in the area as part of the OneChristmas project in which children record a Christmas CD and DVD with the proceeds going to charity.

This year has been very worthwhile and the next can only be better, as we try to be a light in this community.