

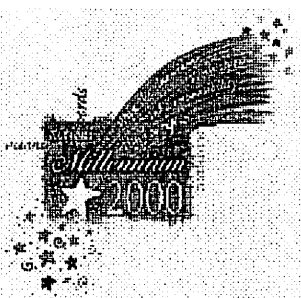
MILLENNIUM CARD

Dianne Bayfield writes about the millennium card which she and her husband Richard have initiated:

Back in the summer, we were discussing how we could best communicate the idea of the CSC to our friends, relatives and acquaintances. We thought about when we get in contact with everyone we know, and the Christmas card mailout came to mind. It didn't seem appropriate to send a Clean Slate leaflet, so the idea of a special card was born. Initially we thought we could send it to the people on our own business and personal address lists. We then realised the potential the card had for communicating the message to many more people if it was adopted by the patrons and supporters of the campaign and the wider public in general.

So, a project was set in motion to create a card, which would stand out from the Christmas mail, communicate the key aspects of the campaign, challenge people to think about the Millennium in a different way, and to want to send it. Our company Bayfield Associates has agreed to produce the card as a 'gift in kind' to the campaign and to underwrite the costs involved in the project.

In true 'Clean Slate' style, my first Millennium card will be sent to an old University friend with whom I have lost contact - we last saw each other some 20 years ago. We drifted apart when I was rather dismayed at an action she took in 1980 that caused significant hurt to me at the time. I have borne a grudge against her all this time, choosing to allow that particular action to colour our subsequent interactions rather than remembering the good times, the friendship and support we had shared previously. I find that she is now in Australia, so although we were perhaps not destined to remain close friends, I am going to write to her. I will acknowledge the part I played in the breakdown of the previous warm relations, celebrate the times we had together and swap news of what has happened in the intervening years.



The A5-size millennium card is available immediately at a cost of 30 pence each, plus £1 p&p for every 10 cards ordered (min £1). You can order using the order form, or by phoning the special millennium card order hotline: 01865-454828.

CLEAN SLATE STORIES

I have today written a long overdue letter of reconciliation, bridging a gap of several years, by asking forgiveness for my lack of care and lack of attempt to heal the breach between me and two of my friends. (Stella Weaver, Croydon)

An old friend had made a very hurtful remark in her letter. I wrote back sharing my hurt with her. She wrote a wonderful letter apologising for her insensitivity. Now we are both free of any hard feelings. (Anon, Hampshire)

I believe that the record on my slate has been wiped clean, and I am in the state of having been forgiven. However, I am very vulnerable. My pride would get the better of me if I thought that I was becoming perfect in any way! A recurrent record on my slate is entered when I break the ninth commandment of God: 'You shall not bear false witness.' Gossip, writing people off, being critical of others behind their backs and scoring points off others. Recently I have had to apologise to a colleague for character assassination. (Anon, Suffolk)

I have been cleaning my slate. I wrote my brother-in-law to apologise for interfering in the drafting of my father-in-law's will, which then had to be unscrambled. I have not heard anything from him yet.... (Anon, USA)

Since the CS Guides arrived at our church, they are making a difference. (Anon, Scotland)

As news of Australia's National Sorry Day [over treatment of Aborigines] sunk in, I thought about our native people in Canada. I wrote to a few whom I know to apologise for the hurt that had been done to their people when the children were forced into residential schools and made to speak English. I enclosed copies of the CS Guide to explain what had prompted my letter. (A Canadian)

**T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE! £6 each
or 5 for £25, plus £1 postage. M, L or XL.
Great Christmas presents!**

MEDIA NEWS

As we go to press, the BBC has just invited the CSC to feature on BBC1's Sunday morning programme, 'The Heaven & Earth Show' on November 7th. Edward Peters will be interviewed live in the programme's Manchester studio.

The **Oxford Mail** has decided to support the campaign, and will run a number of articles during the next five weeks, culminating with coverage of the Oxford Clean Slate Week (more below).

In **Radio Thames Valley's** Sunday morning programme on Oct 17, Headley Feast interviewed Edward Peters about the CSC for seven minutes. In the same programme a month earlier, Revd Michael Chantry used his weekly talk to highlight the campaign as 'offering us important suggestions to give deeper meaning to the New Millennium instead of the usual alcoholic binge'.

Relate News has written briefly about the CSC.

The Church of Scotland magazine **Life and Work** in its October edition featured the CSC as one of a number of millennium opportunities.

A considerable number of church newspapers and parish magazines have written about the CSC. For example, **The Sarum Link** (Salisbury) carried a piece under the headline 'Supporting the CSC at Alderholt'.

LIBRARIES

For the last two months of 1999, **Cardiff Central Library** is carrying a major display about the CSC. Other Cardiff libraries have also been sent display material.

The library services in **Glasgow** have requested posters and leaflets to send to their 35 service points in the city. In **Oxfordshire**, all 50 libraries have been sent material.

MEETINGS

At a Town Hall reception on October 5, **the Lord Mayor of Oxford**, Cllr Val Smith, launched an Oxford 'Clean Slate Week', to be held from November 29 to December 5. Her reception was attended by Oxford personalities, including the Chairman of the County Council, the Bishop of Oxford, Dr Evan Harris MP, and representatives from churches, the Police, the University, voluntary organisations, businesses and the ethnic minorities.

Describing the Clean Slate Campaign as 'an imaginative millennium idea', the Lord Mayor welcomed this 'chance to reflect and think where we, the community and the world are going. Clean Slate gives us a chance to do this. It is a simple idea, which won't cost money, and something we can all do.'

In **Cardiff** on October 24, the Campaign's Chairman was guest speaker at an Inter-Faith Celebration to mark the end of One World Week. On November 28, he will be guest speaker at a Forum meeting of the **Birmingham Council of Faiths**. 107 city councillors are among those circulated with the CSC leaflet accompanying the meeting invitation.

SCHOOLS

75 schools in Oxford have been invited to enter a Clean Slate Schools Competition for children aged 5-11. The prize for the nine winners will be tea with the Lord Mayor of Oxford in her parlour on December 2nd. The editor of the Oxford Mail will be one of the judges.

SPECIAL MEDIA EVENT

December 1st

This event will gather about half of the campaign's 80 patrons in **four venues**, linked by telephone, to highlight the CSC message.

The **purpose** of the meeting is two-fold:

1. A chance for patrons to meet each other and evaluate the CSC – an information pack will be handed to each one;
2. An opportunity for further media coverage, featuring either the meetings themselves or some of the personalities involved around the time of the meeting.

Martyn Lewis will host open conference calls between London, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. There will be comments from the Bishop of London, the Chief Rabbi and Iqbal Sacranie (in London), Cardinal Daly (in Belfast), a Scottish patron (in Edinburgh) and a Welsh patron (in Cardiff). Ann Widdecombe MP and a Labour MP will also speak.

A press release will go out in early November and the media will be invited to the meetings (though it is anticipated that only the larger group in London is likely to attract much attention as a news event).

FINANCE

A steady flow of small, and one or two larger, gifts have enabled us to pay all our bills to date, and have funds in hand to take us into December. We are very grateful for all who have supported the campaign.

WEBSITE

There is a lot of material on our website: www.cleanslate.org