

## **PRISON WEEK AT PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL**

At quite short notice the IMB at HMP Peterborough were invited by the Dean of the Cathedral to have a display stand in the Cathedral for Prison week from November 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Chairman, Alessio Beschizza contacted the Communication Section of the IMB Secretariat who sent a number of posters and other display materials for the IMB stand.

Members of the Board on rota manned the stand throughout the week and reported quite a lot of interest in the work of Independent Monitoring Boards.

IMB member Alan Turner says "A very interesting afternoon people visiting the Cathedral from other areas in the country found the exhibition and I was able to talk to them about the IMB and the Prison. A couple of people were very interested and promised to contact their local prison, mainly in the North of England. Three chaps asked if there were any jobs as Prison Officers so they were given the contact details for the Prison. One lady from Eastern Europe was very interested and put some literature in her bag; then her husband came along and told her she was not to even think of doing anything like IMB even though I tried to explain to him what was involved!"

A numbers of visitors throughout the week identified themselves as ex prisoners. To date there has been no positive interest from potential new members visiting the stand. The feeling is that with more notice and better publicity, the event is worth repeating but it has to be remembered that the invitation came from the Dean of the Cathedral.

John Webster.

Vice Chairman IMB HMP Peterborough December 2008