



***K*night *o*f *S*aint *M*ary *o*f *B*ethlehem**

Bulletin 22nd September, 2024.



Overview

A challenging but hopeful time: The rising cost of living, the impact of economic gloom, and the ongoing challenges within our healthcare system etc are placing a strain on countless households. Yet, amidst these challenges, we also find opportunities for compassion, support, and hope both for those who we serve and also equally important, for those who serve - the very nature of this work can be psychologically and emotionally taxing, it is crucial that each and everyone of us is supported.

Developments



The contents of 50 Care Packs to be distributed in October have arrived, we now need funds to maintain this level.



Last week, a CPD-certified training course was conducted at Cross Street Chapel in central Manchester to address the recognition and prevention of youth homelessness and was attended by some of our members. This course can be repeated if there is sufficient demand from our organisation and others. The training was facilitated by DePaul, a charity dedicated to providing a safe haven, opportunities for growth, and a brighter future for young people experiencing homelessness.

Morning Star in Hulme

On Friday, 4th October, Michael Pole and Keith Anderson will be conducting a peer-to-peer mental health workshop at The Morning Star in Hulme. This event will offer a safe space for those in need and provide signposting services.

[Morning Star in Hulme - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

Manchester Homelessness Partnership

On 9th October, Keith will be joining Phillip Guest and Natasha Stanley, an operational officer, at a stall at the Manchester Homelessness Partnership's Homeless Health Event, organised by the Physical Health Action Group to coincide with World Homelessness Day (10th October).

This event will be an excellent opportunity to network with others in the sector. It is open to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as professionals working in the field. Attendees will have access to a complimentary lunch, goody bags, and haircuts.

Date: Wednesday, 9th October Time: 11am - 2pm (stall setup from 10am) Venue: Moss Side West Indian Sports and Social Club, M14 4SW



[Moss Side West Indian Sports and Social Club, M14 4SW - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

Walk the Bridge

19th of October at Carr Mill Dam in St. Helens at 13:00

[Carr Mill Dam in St. Helens - Bing Maps](#)

The General Meeting

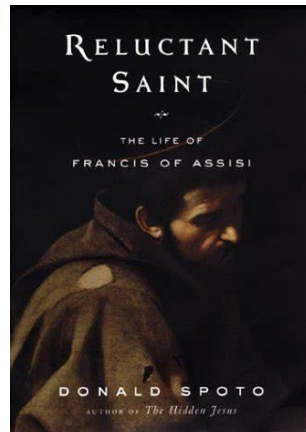
This remains on target for the 2nd of November, 2023 and will be held at the Unitarian Church in Altrincham [About our Inclusive Church | Unitarian Chapel, Altrincham \(altrinchamunitarians.org.uk\)](#) Time to be announced.

The Knights Templar GoodWill Charity of Scotland are attending and have booked into;

Travelodge
Altrincham Central
Grafton Tower
Stamford New Road
Altrincham
WA14 1DQ.



Book Review:- Reluctant Saint, Francis of Assisi. Spoto,D.



I read this a few years ago and can see the parallels between what the Order is aiming to achieve and some of the works of Saint Francis of Assisi, a figure often portrayed as a paragon of virtue. However, Spoto's insightful biography offers a more nuanced perspective, exploring the complexities and contradictions that existed beneath the saintly image - something we can all relate to.

Through meticulous research, Spoto delves into the historical context of 13th-century Italy, providing a vivid backdrop for Francis's life. He examines the societal and religious conditions that shaped Francis's choices and beliefs, offering a deeper understanding of his radical embrace of poverty and his founding of the Franciscan order.

One of the strengths of "Reluctant Saint" is its exploration of Francis's internal struggles. Spoto doesn't shy away from examining the doubts, fears, and temptations that Francis may have faced. This honest portrayal humanises the saint, making him more relatable and accessible to readers.

[Reluctant Saint: The Life of Francis of Assisi \(Compass\): Amazon.co.uk: Spoto, Donald: 9780142196250: Books](#)



To conclude

It is very pleasing to see events supporting the community come to fruition. I have no doubt that this is forming into a very capable and organised Order capable of tremendous results both now and in the future as our numbers rise, the release of the website and publicity regarding our efforts will assist this. A strong Order will always take time, effort and patience to come to fruition.

It is clear that society has its problems, but also it has its counter to this, I have a firm belief in the innate kindness and compassion of the human condition regardless of any societal construct. It is now time to work together to create a more positive outlook for all of us.

With gratitude as always.

Privy Chamber

