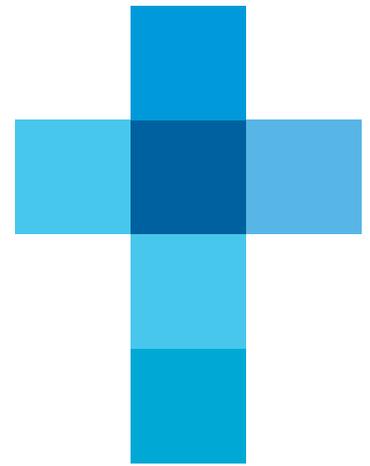


Catholic Care news



Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Catholic Care Newsletter



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019 and we hope you enjoy reading about the work of the Charity.

Much of our work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters and donors. During 2018 we were really touched by the generosity of so many of you who gave in a great variety of different ways.

Our Christmas Appeal was really something very special indeed.

Thank you for helping us to help those in need.

Christmas Appeal 2018

A huge thank you to all the schools and parishioners who have supported our Christmas Appeal 2018. Your response has been amazing; it simply gets bigger and better each year!

As Christmas drew nearer our van made journey after journey piled high to the roof collecting gifts, toys and food from schools and parishes, delivering them to our Head Office. From here in the week before Christmas, thanks to your generosity, our dedicated team made 340 toy and gift deliveries and 108 food hamper deliveries to children and families in need.

Financial donations towards our Crisis Fund amounted to £3234.00 which will enable us to offer support when it is most needed during 2019. It is amazing how far this fund can stretch.

All this is only possible as a result of the incredible generosity shown by schools and parishes across the Diocese. Thank you to all those who made Christmas 2018 so very special for so many children and families.



Catholic Care Christmas Cracker Project

Catholic Care launched its Christmas Cracker Project in December 2018 as a way of supporting the most disadvantaged families across the Diocese who would have struggled with providing food for their families over the Christmas period.

More than 2,300 families in the Leeds area alone will have relied on the city's foodbanks to feed them at Christmas.

In addition to our Christmas Appeal, and following the success of our Holiday Hunger Project in the summer, working together with schools across the Diocese, we identified the most disadvantaged families and delivered 40 "Christmas Cracker Hampers". Each hamper contained a fresh chicken, a range of fresh vegetables as well as mince pies, chocolate treats and a box of Christmas crackers was also supplied to make Christmas dinner feel more special.

We received some fantastic feedback 'Thank you so much for this lovely hamper! It will make a big difference to our Christmas this year' said one mum.

Christmas at Catholic Care

Catholic Care Christmas Party 2018

Staff, volunteers, and people we care for and support, Trustees and friends came together on the evening of the 24th November to start the Charity's celebrations early with the Catholic Care Christmas Party at the Leeds Metropolitan Hotel.

Guests, arriving in party dress, were welcomed into the beautifully decorated hotel with a Prosecco drinks reception and those attending felt an instant Christmas glow as they walked through the doors into a magically lit dining room with tables adorned in beautiful Christmas decor.

Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, welcomed all the guests attending. Trustee, Maureen Fletcher, kindly said a children's grace as "so much of the Charities work is with children and young people".



Christmas Celebrations in Silsden

First Tuesday's Friendship Group at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Silsden celebrated the coming of Christmas in fine style this year – not only with sherry and a lively Yorkshire version of "The 12 Days of Christmas", but also with a surprise visit from Santa Claus who was on his way through!

The working party met afterwards to toast the success of the night on 2 years of partnership working with the Embrace Project.

Oh No it isn't – Oh Yes it is!!

A group of Catholic Care's Young Carers enjoyed a festive Christmas trip to the Pantomime.

There was lots of fun and laughter followed by a smashing meal out. These resilient young people certainly ended 2018 enjoying friendship and smiles! A special thanks to the donor who so wanted these incredible young people to enjoy a Christmas treat. They certainly did.

Congratulations!

The staff team at Catholic Care's Leeds Children's Home celebrated National Christmas Jumper Day in style just before Christmas.

They were also celebrating the outcome of their recent Ofsted with a GOOD overall rating and including OUTSTANDING in Leadership and Management. They were also inspected by the Food & Hygiene Team and achieved a rating of 5, the highest rating. Following all this hard work they were all looking forward to a happy and very busy Christmas. Well done to all the team.



Christmas at St Williams Community Group in Bradford!

On the 11th & 12th of December we held our Christmas parties in St Williams & St Winefrides.

At St Williams over 70 people came to join in the festivities. Thanks to the fantastic Morrisons team who supplied a three course meal followed by mince pies and cake, we all enjoyed a fabulous afternoon. St Williams School Choir came and sang their hearts out whilst the mini vinnies from St Williams gave hands on support to the Morrisons team. Then Santa popped in for a visit, followed by a Christmas quiz provided by Maureen Verity.

At St Winefrides we had lovely 3 course meal. Music was provided during the meal by Declan Vink and it was lovely to see so many joining in for the Christmas carols. We had a bumper bingo session with our fabulous bingo caller Moira Page and a Christmas quiz provided by Sylvia Morgan.



Winter Wonderland

Families supported by Catholic Care's Gianna Project enjoyed a magical visit to a winter wonderland to see Father Christmas and his Elf helpers before Christmas!

Children talked to Father Christmas telling him their wishes for the special day. We also had a birthday to celebrate which was made even more special with an amazing cake from the organisation Free Cakes for Kids UK. Many thanks to them for helping to make the occasion so special. Lunch and cake was enjoyed by all to round off this fabulous Christmas adventure!



Catholic Care Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Many of us continue to be moved by the plight of so many families and children forced out of their homes and countries through no fault of their own fleeing war and poverty, risking their lives and those of their children to find safety and sanctuary.

Families arrive in the most tragic of circumstances, frightened, alone and traumatised.

Refugee Response: How to help asylum seekers and refugees in 2019

On Tuesday 12 February the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes & St William's (Parish of St. Blaise), Ingleby Road, Bradford, hosted another very successful meeting for the Diocesan Refugee Support Group.

The spacious parish hall was packed with nearly 100 people and at least 15 organisations that support refugees and asylum seekers in and around Bradford were represented. The opening presentation on Community Sponsorship for Refugees was presented by Sean Ryan MBE, National Caritas Community Sponsorship Coordinator and was followed by a series of shorter presentations, to give a flavour of the volunteering possibilities after which there was time for refreshments and plenty of conversation. As Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, said, "There was such a buzz around the room and people simply did not want to go home."



Just a few weeks ago Catholic Care's Gianna project started to support a family seeking safety; a pregnant mother and her two children who had witnessed the murder of their father and grandparents.

Later this pregnant mother was set alight and left to burn to death. She is here now in Yorkshire seeking kindness and help. All this is taking place in a climate of increasing hate crime and concerns around all forms of radicalisation, the services provided throughout the Diocese are needed more than ever.

Bags of Dignity!

A huge thank you goes to the Parish Family of SS John Fisher and Thomas More Parish, Burley-in-Wharfedale, who had the novel idea of filling used handbags with toiletries, ladies' products and men's personal hygiene and shaving necessities for those in need.

Six bags have been given to Sheila Pickles from St Monica's Housing to give to the asylum seeking women in the House in Beeston; four bags have been retained for the new house in Harehills for the asylum seeking women who will be housed there. Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care) made the final delivery of the remaining bags to St George's Crypt to support homeless men and women. Martin Patterson (Development Director at St George's Crypt) said "people often forget about specific ladies toiletries and the bags were very welcome". He thanked those who had donated.



Community Sponsorship Update

Community Sponsorship is where a community, may be a parish community or a local community, come together and welcome and support a Syrian refugee family.

Community Sponsorship is now an increasing force across the country with over 150 groups in various stages of formation and many having welcomed their family.

In the Diocese of Leeds Community Sponsorship was launched in May last year and one parish to take up the challenge was SS Mary & Michael in Settle. The initial interest spread into the community and a group was formed. Paul Kelly has summarised their progress in an article entitled Refugee ReSETTLEMENT Community Sponsorship Group which can also be read in full on the news page of the Catholic Care website. The Group are well on their way and are now in the process of completing their formal application to the Home Office supported by Catholic Care who are undertaking the role of Lead Sponsor.

One of the pre-conditions of actually welcoming a family is that a fund of £9,000 is held to support the family for "emergencies" prior to them receiving benefits. Fund raising activities are in full swing in Settle including Chris Beesley, who is a member of the group, doing a sponsored run across the Three Peaks on a freezing cold January day. So far he has raised £1,700 which is excellent. His donation page is still open at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chris-beesley Congratulations Chris.

If you are inspired by this and would like to find out more about Community Sponsorship and how you can become involved please contact Carol Hill at carol.hill@catholic-care.org.uk or Lucy Irven lucy.irven@catholic-care.org.uk



Catholic Care Supports Older People in the Community

Friendship groups

Catholic Care has been supporting older people through friendship groups in the community since 1994. The groups provide an opportunity for people to come together and meet in a friendly space, enjoy refreshments, have fun with time to chat and make new friends.

Our group activities include:

- Staying supple with our arm chair exercise class
- Enjoying a nutritious lunch
- Day trips
- Fun and games with Boccia Bowling and Kurling
- Interesting talks
- The opportunity to become a volunteer.

People living with Dementia are most welcome to attend our groups with their carer and join in the fun.

We have groups in Leeds, Wakefield, Normanton, Bradford, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Wetherby and Knaresborough. For further information please contact Peter on 0113 388 5400.

ALL WELCOME.



Catholic Care Launches New Lunch Group

Wednesday 13th February 2019 saw the launch of St John & St Winefride's lunch Group!

It was great to see some new faces as well as the regular attendees from the Friendship Group that has been at St Winefride's Church Hall over the last 12 months. As it was close to Valentines Day we gave all the ladies a little treat, a hand massage!

On the same day it was Rita & Jack's 61st Wedding Anniversary. That's 61 years of married bliss! Congratulations!



Thank you Asda Customers in Huddersfield

On 28th February 2019, there was good news all round for our Thursday/Friday Friends Older people's Community Groups in Huddersfield.

We applied for funding via the green token system at Asda and received a fabulous £200!!! Ann Hodkins, our Community Champion from Asda who helps at our group every Thursday, came along to deliver the huge cheque, just need to work out how to fit it into the machine at the bank now!!

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, or if you no longer wish to be contacted by us, please let us know.

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