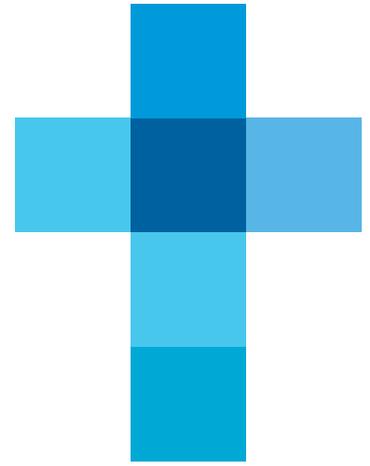


Catholic Care news



Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Catholic Care Newsletter

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed the glorious summer. The people we care for and support certainly did as you can read about here.

This newsletter highlights our increasing work in the community, reaching out to those in need. You can also read about our Oscars evening where we recognise our much valued staff and volunteers for their fabulous achievements.

If you enjoyed your read and you would like to work or volunteer for Catholic Care please do not hesitate to contact us.

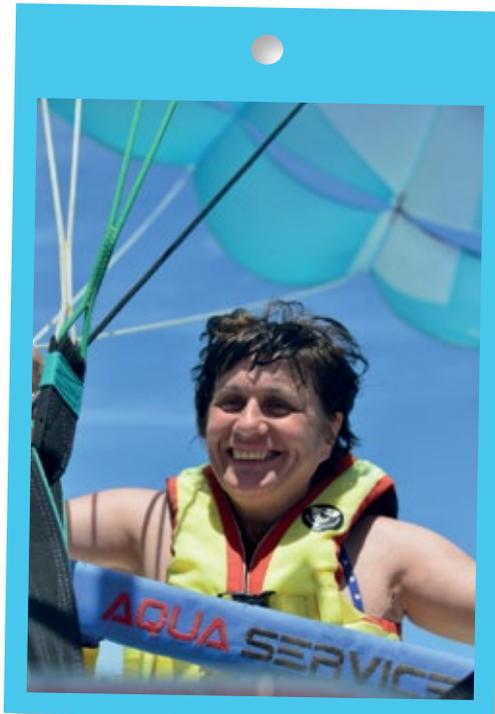


The Sky is No Limit

The summer of 2018 saw the people we care for and support holidaying across Europe and the UK and enjoying a whole variety of activities and experiences. You can read more inside. However, perhaps the highlight of the whole summer was Caroline achieving her life long ambition to paraglide. Here's how she did it.

Two of the lady residents from our residential home for adults with a learning disability in Leeds travelled to Bulgaria for their summer holidays. They enjoyed a fun filled holiday at Sunny Beach including lazy days on the beach and by the pool, a traditional Bulgarian evening with local food, dancing, singing and even fire walking. They went on excursions to take in the spectacular views of the Blue Mountains and the wildlife on a river cruise.

Then came the highlight with Caroline fulfilling one of her dreams – to paraglide over the sea! She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and is counting down the days to next year when she can do it all again. The smile on her face says it all.



Foundry Mill Celebrates 25 Years

Foundry Mill is Catholic Care's scheme of flats offering a safe and secure place to live with tenancy support for those people with mental health issues.

On 16th August the staff and tenants gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Foundry Mill. Throughout the day they were joined by Vivien Birch (Catholic Care Trustee), former staff and former tenants. It was great to see old friends reunited and people returning to Foundry Mill with such happy memories. There was a very calm, homely and chatty atmosphere around the place all day. Carol Hill (Director) said "It was a very memorable day enjoyed by all".



A service you can believe in

The Caribbean comes to Leeds with Catholic Care's Fish & Chip Calypso Evening

On a balmy June evening with temperatures more at home in the Caribbean, Trustees, staff, volunteers, donators and the people we care for and support together with their families gathered in the sun kissed gardens at Catholic Care's Head Office in Leeds for the annual Fish & Chip Supper event.

Traditional stalls including raffle, tombola, name the bear and roll a penny kept us all busy and raised nearly £400 towards the services we provide in the community which is fantastic.

The Fish & Chips from Dodson's Fresh Catch were delicious as was the dessert which followed including cheesecake and strawberries and cream.

To give the whole event the calypso feel we were all entertained throughout the evening by the ever popular steel pan band "Steel Crazy" who were back by popular demand, playing a variety of toe tapping tunes.

It was a great night thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Summer 2018

Summer 2018 at our Leeds Children's Residential Home was a real fun time, packed with a great variety of activities and trips to suit everyone. This is really important for the young people, not only in giving positive childhood memories but making a difference for some of them who can struggle with communicating easily with others and managing different situations well. Activities and holidays included horse riding, swimming, Go Ape, Bridlington, Wales, Barcelona and Euro Disney.

The people we care for and support in our Adult Learning Disability Service also enjoyed a real variety of activities and holidays and really took advantage of the great summer weather 2018 will be remembered for. As well as the trip to Bulgaria shown on the front cover residents also had a walking holiday in Northumberland and trips to Skipton, Knowsley Safari Park and Malham. Food always figured highly on these outings by way of either a pub lunch or a great big picnic.

Nicky and Daniel who live in Sutton in Craven picked the only rainy week for their holiday to Skegness, but despite the weather they had a really good time. A parent commented "My son has the best times on his holidays - he would like to go every day".

David, Sarah and Tracy who live in Keighley enjoyed a week long holiday in Benidorm - and what a week they had. Trustees visited the home shortly after their return and received a full "report" from David and Tracy over lunch.

Scarborough proved a popular destination for Jim and Pauline who live in Brighouse. The sun shone and they enjoyed walking, meals out and of course some retail therapy.

Our home in Bingley split this year with the "boys" holidaying in Norfolk and the "girls" going to the Wye Valley. The "boys" had a fantastic time staying in a luxury wooden lodge with a treehouse and hot tub whilst the girls visited the Wye Valley Butterfly Garden, enjoyed meals out, coffee shops and retail therapy.

We hope you enjoyed reading just a sample of how the people we care for enjoyed themselves this year. Thank you to our staff for making it all possible.



The Making Memories Roadshow Visits Holy Family School, Keighley

The Making Memories Roadshow has developed from Catholic Care's Embrace Project and focuses on the older and younger generations in our communities exchanging their experiences and getting to know one another.

This week the Roadshow was at Holy Family School in Keighley visiting a class of 30 very boisterous Year 10 Health & Social Care students. They were very interactive with the presentation and asked lots of questions throughout!

Their tutor, Mr Kambahaita, in turn told us about his upbringing in India and Africa and how he had come to Keighley.

The new Faith in Action programme was also a topic of conversation and how it's important to be community spirited and care for your neighbours.



Holiday Hunger Project

Catholic Care's School, Children and Family Wellbeing Service works closely with Headteachers and staff in approximately 65 Catholic Schools across West Yorkshire.

Through this service many of the families who we support experience hardship and poverty. This is often exacerbated during school holidays when free school meals for children are not available.

There are approximately 170 non-school days a year where children cannot access Free School Meals. Many simply go hungry. Research shows that 78% of households helped by foodbanks had skipped meals or even gone days without eating in the past 12 months. This is likely to be most acute during times when free school meals are not available.

This summer with the help of funding from the 'Sisters of Cross and Passion', we undertook our Holiday Hunger Project. As part of this we delivered 112 holiday hampers to families across the Diocese.

Each hamper contained items to prepare a cooked family meal along with breakfast items and fresh fruit and vegetables. With the funding we were also able to support 2 school summer camps in the Leeds area. At Corpus Christi we were able to feed 40 children each day for a week and, at St. Anthony's Primary School we provided a hot cooked two course lunch for 50 children for a week.

Finally, we provided 15 mothers and their young children with food for the day when they visited Eureka Children's Museum on the first Gianna summer outing.



The Embrace Project

For nearly 2 years now Catholic Care has been part of the Embrace Project along with Father Hudson, Arch Diocese of Birmingham; Caritas Diocese of Salford, and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN).

We have been working in the Keighley and Sipton Deanery where the focus of the project has been in supporting Parishes to support their older people. The project has produced some excellent imaginative initiatives the latest of which you can read about below. Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of this project.

The Big Breakfast Club meets sporting legend

In October the Big Breakfast Club in Sipton, part of the Embrace Project, broke from their usual gathering time and had lunch at the Devonshire Arms, enabling them to go to the Sporting Memories event afterwards at next-door Dyneley Barn.

They heard ex-professional footballer and star of BBC 1's 'Class of '92: Out of Their League' Gareth Seddon speak about his career.

Even for the non footie fans Gareth was inspirational and talked for over an hour at a very personal level about how he had overcome various major life challenges. He's now retired from playing but is using his experience and talent to encourage young players.

As you can see from the photograph, Mike and Ronnie, who are regular attendees at the Big Breakfast Club, were in their element!



A Night to Celebrate Staff and Volunteers at the 3rd Catholic Care Oscars

Over 100 staff and volunteers gathered expectantly in the Hotel Metropole in Leeds for the 3rd Catholic Care Oscars, an evening to recognise and celebrate achievements of staff and volunteers.

Deacon Joe Cortis, a Trustee of Catholic Care, started proceedings with a short Gospel reading reminding us all to use our talents. Bishop Marcus, who had joined the celebrations for a short time before flying off to Rome, thanked all staff and volunteers emphasising that their dedication and commitment really did reach out to those in need and made such a positive difference to their lives.

Before the awards were presented staff and volunteers from new services were recognised. Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care) who presented the evening with Tim Parr (Trustee) said the past 18 months had seen “an evolution in new services at Catholic Care, particularly those services delivered in the community”.

During the evening awards were made for 100% attendance and for qualifications achieved.

Sometimes we have to say goodbye to our friends and colleagues as they start a new chapter in their lives and retire. On the evening two colleagues were recognised – Kath Green who had served the Charity faithfully for 40 years, joining as a nursery nurse in 1978 and ending her time supporting adults with a learning disability, and Kathleen Ireland who will be much missed for her welcoming and friendly disposition after 17 years as Catholic Care’s Head Office receptionist.

Three awards were made to those members of staff who have served the Charity for 25 years – Tracey Burke, Maureen Lockwood and Janet Flynn.

Our awards then moved on to Teams of the Year. For the Adult Service this was jointly awarded to the Westhaven and Templegate homes for adults with a learning disability both for their inspirational and dedicated care for residents who they have cared for over 20 years living with an advanced ageing process.

Our next Team of the Year award was for Children’s Services. Our Charity has a long history of caring for children and young people, but this year two of our newer projects were joint winners. These were the team who have established the Young Carers Project and the team who set up the Holiday Hunger Project.

Our third category for Team of the Year was for the team in our Community Services. A distinctive feature of the Charity’s work in the community is the invaluable contribution of our volunteers for without them the work in the community simply would not exist in the way it does. The winners here were the Stay and Play group from St John the Baptist’s Church, Normanton and St William’s Luncheon Club for older people in Bradford.

Our two big awards of the evening followed firstly with our Volunteer of the Year. These special people give freely of their time and energies and perform such an important role for Catholic Care. The winner was Ray Fishburn for his support in our Keighley projects.

Finally there was our Employee of the Year. For this award staff nominate their colleagues who they thought had not only done their job well but had also gone beyond the call of duty. We had 13 nominations which came from right across the service spectrum. After much deliberation it was decided that the winner was Steve Clarke who is the Deputy Manager at the House of Light Residential Home for adults with a learning disability.

“Steve’s dedication to his role knows no bounds; always putting the needs of the residents first and going the extra mile to ensure they enjoy life to the full”

Congratulations to all those receiving nominations and awards.



Thank you to the Catenian Association, Wharfedale Circle

On Saturday 27th October Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care) attended the Annual Dinner of the Catenian Association, Wharfedale Circle, as a Guest of Ian Monger, the 2017 President. Catholic Care was the nominated charity during the year of Ian’s Presidency. The Charity has a special place in Ian’s heart as he and his wife worked at the House of Light residential home for adults with a learning disability for many years.

After the meal Carol was presented with a cheque for £2,000. “This is an amazing amount” said Carol “I will ensure that we put it to good use”. Carol went on to talk about, by way of example, the Holiday Hunger Project which the Charity ran for the first time this summer. (You can read about this elsewhere in the newsletter).

Carol told those present that their very kind donation will support such a project and she promised to keep them all informed.



Fantastic News for St William's Luncheon Club and St Winefride's Lunch & Friendship Group!

It's good news all round for our Bradford Older People's Community Groups held at St William's and St Winefride's as our friends at Morrisons Farmer's Boy Production Factory have agreed to supply the soup and rolls for the friendship group and the main course for the luncheon club.

They will also be providing ALL the food for the St William's Christmas meal and helpers on the day to prepare and cook the meal for 75 people.

THANK YOU MORRISONS!

Young Carers Project

During the summer the Catholic Care Young Carers have met up regularly to enjoy friendship, activity and laughter. Amongst others they have enjoyed trips to Tropical World, Escape to play crazy golf in the dark, and the Leeds Activity Centre.

Here both the junior young carers group and the senior group took part in a range of outdoor activities including Bush craft, orienteering, and assault course to end with the favourite activity the fabulous water slide.

The young people were able to enjoy being together taking time out from their caring responsibilities to relax and have fun and to try out new and exciting activities!



The Caritas Leadership Week

Leaders from the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) met at Palazzola near Rome over the week 24-28 September 2018.

The purpose of the week was the formation of leaders within the Network through personal development, developing relationships as a community of leaders and experiencing being part of the global Caritas family and universal Church.

Throughout the week lectures were given by Kerry Alys Robinson, who is the founding member of Roundtable, an organisation established in the USA which is dedicated to promoting excellence in the management, finances and human resource development of the Catholic Church.

In between the lectures the conference made two visits to Rome. Morning Mass was celebrated in St Peter's Basilica at St Peter's Tomb Altar.

This was followed by a visit to the soup kitchen of the Community of Sant'Egidio, a truly inspirational experience where volunteers talked of how they support the homeless, and then a meeting with Caritas Internationalis and the Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development.

On the second visit to Rome the conference had lunch at the British Embassy to the Holy See with Ambassador Sally Axworthy. This was followed by a Mass with the Bishops of England and Wales, who were visiting Rome for their quinquennial 'Ad Limina', at the Basilica di San Paolo fuori le Mura, around the Tomb of St Paul.



Becoming Dementia Friendly

Catholic Care began its journey to becoming a Dementia Friendly organisation in 2016 and is now registered with the Dementia Action Alliance and is making great progress towards achieving this goal as we follow our action plan.

We have two trained Dementia Friends Champions, Rachel and Helen, and have run a number of Dementia Friends Information Sessions for our Trustees, staff, volunteers and members of parishes across the Diocese.

Our two most recent sessions took place at the Charity's Induction Day for new staff and Trustees and at the House of Light (residential home for adults with learning disabilities) where staff, volunteers and one of the residents took part.

Our aims are for all staff and volunteers to complete the Dementia Friends Information Session and to have the opportunity to become a Dementia Friend, along with developing more community groups which are open to those living with dementia and their carers. We are also working closely with the Diocese of Leeds to become Dementia Friendly.



Launch of Community Sponsorship Scheme

On a May evening representatives from Parishes across the Diocese gathered at Wheeler Hall for the launch of the Community Sponsorship Scheme in the Diocese of Leeds.

Members of the Diocesan Refugee Support Group including Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care), John Battle (Chair of the Leeds Diocesan Justice & Peace), Deacon Joe Cortis (heading up Caritas Leeds) and John McLaughlin (St Monica's Housing) hosted the evening and welcomed guest speakers including Sean Ryan, who is the National Caritas Community Sponsorship Co-ordinator, Tim Finch from Citizens UK and the Home Office.

Those gathered heard all about Community Sponsorship, what is involved in setting up your parish group, how it has such a positive impact on Parish life.

As with all things there are rules and paperwork, but Rebecca from the Home Office explained it all very clearly.

The first Community Sponsorship Group in our Dioceses is now in the process of setting up. This is an ecumenical group formed out of St Mary and St Michael Catholic Church, Settle. They have progressed in leaps and bounds since their meeting and they really demonstrate the power and enthusiasm of volunteers. Catholic Care are working with the group as the Lead Sponsor.

If you would like to hold a meeting in your Parish to find out more, Carol or one of the team are very happy to attend.



Prayer to our Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here.
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen

A big THANK YOU to all our supporters and donators for your continuing and much valued support.

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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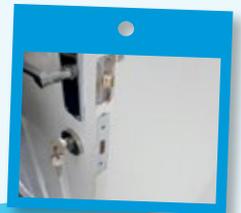
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A New Home for Asylum Seekers

Catholic Care is very pleased to announce that they have purchased a house which will provide a new home for four asylum seekers in Leeds.

The house has had some refurbishment work done on it to create private living spaces for its residents. But now the work has been completed Catholic Care has made the house available to St Monica's Housing, a charity within the Diocese who already run a similar home from the former presbytery at St Anthony's in Leeds. They will care for and support the asylum seekers.

This project, which is part of the Diocesan refugee response to the refugee crisis, will provide for those people on the very margins of our society a breathing space and a safe place to live for a short time whilst they make a start on getting their lives in order.



Catholic Care

A service you can believe in