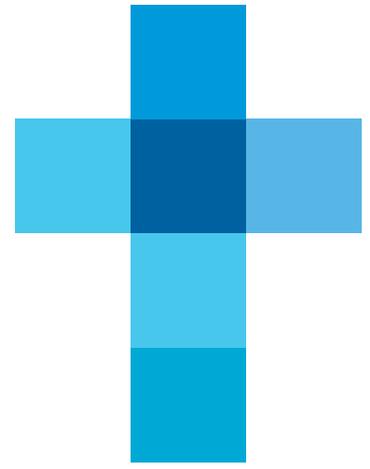


# news



## Welcome, from Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2014, a new year which promises to be as busy as the last, I look forward to sharing our good news with you throughout the year.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our friends and supporters for all your great help last year in all sorts of ways, including tidying cupboards and donating toys; knitting cardigans, hats and blankets for our Gianna Project; and your donations, especially towards our hugely successful Christmas Appeal for the needy families in our local communities. **Thank you.**

## Strong words from London

**On 20 November Carol Hill and Chrissie Moran attended CSAN's annual Parliamentary Reception in London along with other leading Catholic Charities and Parliamentarians.**

Bishop John Arnold called on all present to take inspiration from Pope Francis and be a "voice of poverty in our world". He said "we should judge the success of our society and our civilised living on measuring how well we help those most in need, the most vulnerable in our society", noting that "poverty is a challenge to the whole sense of justice, to the very fabric of our society".

Following the Reception Carol commented: "The challenges facing Catholic Care have grown. Despite some signs of economic recovery which will unfortunately take a long time to trickle down to the margins of society, we are seeing unprecedented levels of in-work poverty and an explosion of demand for support services".

## A 'gem' of a Ball

**On the 16th November 2013 within the prestigious surroundings of Oulton Hall Hotel, Leeds, Catholic Care held its inaugural 'Sapphire Ball'; a formal 'dinner dance' arranged by and on behalf of the Charity.**

Whilst fundraising was one of the aims of the event, by far the main objective was to highlight the ending of this special anniversary year; 2013 has been a 150th Anniversary 'events' and celebration year for the Charity.

The 'black tie' event was well attended, the atmosphere and surroundings were superb, and the programme for the evening was carefully orchestrated and very well received.

In and amongst the dining and dancing, Natalie who performs as an 'Adele' tribute act entertained the guests.

The Master of Ceremonies, Mr Richard Strudwick, who, as a young boy, had been raised by Catholic Care's earlier nomenclature, the 'Rescue Society', gave a heart-rending after dinner speech on his early life within the care of the Charity and a fascinating overview of his family and their international history.

Catholic Care's Director, Mrs Carol Hill, welcomed those in attendance and thanked all concerned with the organisation of the event.

The overall assessment and reaction by those who dined and danced into the early hours was...  
"When is the next one?"



## Tenants' locality meeting held at Bradford Road Sunday 8th December 2013

This was an extremely lively event as it was followed by the Bradford Road Christmas party.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Crownest Lane and Eller Mews, and we were later joined by tenants from Craven House. Tenants from Oakhill Clough and South Craven sent their apologies as they were not able to attend due to other commitments. Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed and the agenda items were discussed. All were very positive about the support they receive and are really looking forward to Christmas.

The meeting closed with good wishes for all and the party began - fab food, great company - enjoyed by all!



## Older People's Services

On the 18th September, Wednesday Friends started at St Austin's Church, Wakefield designed to keep the over 50's fit and active.

Participants meet every Wednesday at 1.45pm and the class commences at 2pm with our Fitness Instructor, Julia Lawson. Julia specialises in Zumba and general keep fit plus salsa-cise! The class costs £2.50 for the hour and includes a tea or coffee following the exercise. Currently 12 people are enjoying the class and we are always on the look out for new members. A great time is enjoyed by all!

A new group is due to start in the New Year at St Peter and Paul's Church in Durkar, Wakefield.



## Catholic Care - 150 years 'young' and thriving!



Towards the end of September this year it was a delight and a pleasure for Catholic Care to host an 'Open Day' at the Diocese Pastoral Centre, at Hinsley Hall, Headingley, Leeds.

The event was held in order to commemorate and herald its 150 years of giving support and charitable intervention across the Leeds Diocese wherever such need has been in evidence.

The celebration Open Day took place with tremendous enthusiasm and there was no mistaking the buzz in the air, together with a vibrancy shown and felt by all involved on the day; dignitaries, guests and staff alike.

There was the opportunity to visit the displays on each of the Services that the Charity delivers and also to speak with various members representing each of those Services. Strolling into the library one could benefit from a rolling screen presentation about the Charity's history. Similarly, in an adjacent room was an opportunity to share with the respective Heads of Services, a presentation and more finite information surrounding their particular field of specialism.

The Charity itself was 'born' over one and a half centuries ago. Its main and commendable aim and focus in those early days was to ensure that orphaned and deprived children were afforded the very best Christian support.

Catholic Care's successes over the years have been too many to list here but the Charity has never allowed itself to sit on its haunches or to be complacent and it continues to expand and develop.

Over more recent years Catholic Care has spread its net to cater not only for children but adults, the elderly, the clergy, schools and families.

It was a privilege and an honour to have the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Tom Murray and his Lady Mayoress, Edna, as guests and equally to greet the Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Joanne Dodds and her Consort, Robert Dodds.

The attendance by many noted guests, including the Diocesan Administrator, Monsignor John Wilson, and the overall representation from many parishes and organisations was greatly impressive and appreciated.

Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, hosted the occasion and afterwards paid tribute and thanks to all concerned in making the Charity overall, the splendid entity which it is.

Carol said: "I feel it is a great honour to be involved with this wonderful organisation and I feel proud of the tremendous achievement and effort in evidence, not only today but every day around the Charity and its attainments. Long may it continue!"



## An Irish Night to Remember

The Leeds Irish Centre was the perfect location on Friday 4 October for Catholic Care as they hosted the much anticipated "Bacon & Cabbage" evening, and what an Irish night to remember.

The traditional fayre of Bacon & Cabbage was served up together with a choice of desserts. The sherry trifle proved a big hit, perhaps being more sherry than trifle!

The traditional Irish theme continued with breathtaking entertainment from the talented girls at the Joyce O'Donnell Dance School who demonstrated such composure and skill, even from the youngest member of the dancers, and they were all warmly applauded.

One of the main aims of the evening was fundraising to support the Charity with the work it does and to enable it to meet the increasing demand on its charitable services. Carol Hill, Director of the Charity said a few words about the 150th Anniversary and that the venue for the evening's event was very appropriate as 150 years ago the first orphanage at Mount St Mary's was built in the area. Money was then raised by some amazingly accurate "rolling a coin at a bottle" which was thoroughly enjoyed by the younger members of the revellers and a raffle. Formalities complete, the DJ played on into the night. His efforts were well appreciated and the dance floor thronged with service users, staff, donators and supporters.

**Thank you to everybody for their support.**



## When a Child is Born

**On Friday 6th September 2013 Eileen Holland, a member of Catholic Care's School & Family Social Work Service who also runs the Gianna Project, gave a presentation at the European Union of Catholic Women's Conference held at Hinsley Hall. The title of her presentation was quite simply 'The Gianna Project, Pregnancy and Parenting Services'.**

Eileen spoke about the formation of the Project when Catholic Care was approached by Archbishop Arthur Roche to provide a service to support crisis pregnancies and to save lives: "If just one life can be saved," he said, "it will all have been worthwhile".

She told the attentive audience that the Project is named after an Italian doctor who herself experienced life threatening problems when she was pregnant. Sadly she died in April 1962 seven days following the birth of her fourth baby. She was canonised in May 2004 by His Holiness Pope John Paul II and is now remembered as St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Patron Saint of mothers, doctors and unborn children.

Eileen explained how the remit of the Project has moved on since the early days and now "supports girls and women throughout the Diocese of Leeds who discover they have an unplanned pregnancy". Eileen continued, "We agree to support the family until the baby reaches its first birthday and respond to the needs of these women during what may be a challenging time in their lives".

Eileen then invited one of the young mothers and her baby, who had been supported through the Gianna Project, to share her experience. The brave mother gave a very moving account of how she was so frightened when she thought she might be pregnant and how Eileen had been so understanding. She then explained how Eileen had sorted out everything at school so she could continue with her studies and had taken her to her GCSE exams just days before the baby was born.

Gianna then supported mother and baby with clothes and equipment. This story has ended happily with both mother and baby doing well. The young mother plans to look after her baby this year before returning to college in September to continue with her studies and achieve her ambition of becoming a nurse and to support herself and her baby.

The Gianna Project is supported by Catholic Care's charitable income and following the presentation, a generous donation was kindly made by the Catholic Women's Conference.



## Directory of who we care for:

### Learning Disability Services

Positive services delivered in residential and supported homes that focus on people's abilities and not their disabilities.

### Gianna: Pregnancy & Parenting Services

Confidential, one-to-one support and helpful advice.

### School & Family Social Work Services

Our qualified team of professionals provide advice, support and counselling for children, young people, families and teachers.

### Children & Young People's Services

Services that make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in our residential care.

### Older People's Services

Community based groups to support friendship and tackle loneliness, and provide practical support to maintain independence.

### Mental Health Services

Services that focus on mental, physical and spiritual needs, delivered in supported accommodation.

## Our Mission

In everything we do, we strive to show how the teachings of Christian love, charity and justice can shape the way we live together.

We aim to achieve this by taking the Caring Church into the Community and offering practical services and support for anyone who is weak and vulnerable, regardless of their faith.

Remember us, O God;  
from age to age be our comforter.

You have given us the wonder of time,  
blessings in days and nights, seasons  
and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year  
and fill the months ahead with the bright  
hope that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Changes at Redholt

Following the de-registration of 'Core residential' provision back in July 2013, Redholt has undergone a major internal refurbishment. This includes a creation of a 'Sensory/Chill Out' room, in readiness to provide respite/short term residential provision for children and young people with learning disabilities, particularly those on the Autistic Spectrum.

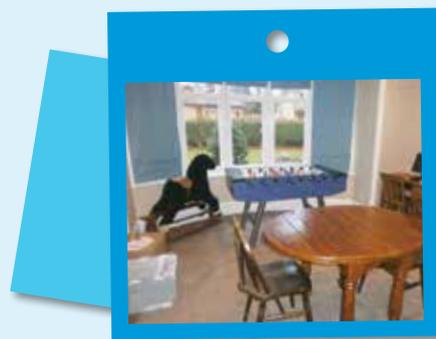
We are now in the process of preparing all documentation in relation to registering the new service with Ofsted. We hope to be up and running early in the New Year.

The new service will also provide a Family Support Service to families and carers who have children and young people diagnosed with Autism and/or learning disabilities within their own homes.

We were able to launch this new service back in September 2013.

We are currently working with a number of children and also offering support to a small number of schools who have children on the spectrum.

The majority of the referrals have come through Catholic Care's School and Family Social Work Service and we work very closely with the social workers and the schools, providing regular reports following support workers' sessions.



## Dementia Friends

Managers from Adult Services recently attended a training day which included the vision for dementia care; the dementia care initiative and dementia care communities.

Providing person centred planning and person centred care, and the need for early diagnosis improves the lives of people living with dementia. At the close of day the managers were invited to become dementia friends. What is a dementia friend? A dementia friend learns a little more about what it is like to live with dementia, then turns that understanding into action.

With a helping hand people living with dementia can still have good relationships with their families and friends, enjoy their hobbies and live independently for longer.

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