

New services coming soon

We are pleased to be launching two new services this spring with our Post Adoption Service and 'Monday Friends' our new community group in Normanton.

Monday Friends

We are all well aware that we live in an ageing society, and an increasing number of older people bring with it its own dynamics, particularly loneliness and isolation. Indeed a recent statistic publicised that 1 in 4 older people also suffer from dementia.

Supporting older people is not a new idea and for the last 18 years Catholic Care has successfully run an older people's community project in Huddersfield which promotes practical, social and spiritual wellbeing. The project deals specifically with the concerns of the elderly and helps to tackle everyday problems including those of loneliness and isolation.

Our community groups allow older people to meet new friends, develop new skills and lead fulfilling lives.

- The Happy Wednesday Group has 25 members. They enjoy 'aerobics for mature movers', making crafts and a bi-weekly prayer group.
- Thursday Friends meet weekly and have 20 members. They enjoy a lunch club with activities, gentle exercises, a raffle and bingo.

- Friday Friends meet weekly and have around 50 members. They enjoy a lunch club (including monthly fish & chips, a real favourite), gentle exercise, a raffle, bingo, credit union point, book club, nearly new stall and the sale of healthy fruit and veg bags.
- There is also a walking group, monthly outings and holidays organised.

Perhaps just as important as the activities, these groups offer numerous volunteering opportunities that encourage people to become active members of the community.

Based on our experience, the success of the Huddersfield project over the past 18 years, and the lack of community provision for older people, Catholic Care would like to roll out similar Community Projects for Older People across the Leeds Diocese.

We are commencing the project with the Wakefield Deanery and will be starting our first group at St John The Baptist Church in Normanton in April 2013.

These groups take time to establish, but we have an actively ageing Parish and feel sure the group will be a success. Monday Friends will start as follows:

10 am
Arrive for tea/coffee

10.30 am
Exercise class with an Age UK qualified instructor

12 noon
Light lunch

1.30 pm
Meditation takes place in the Church

1.30 pm
Dementia Support Group – this provides the opportunity for people with dementia and their carers to enjoy meeting other people whilst having a chat and refreshments. There will be opportunity to join in a craft activity. The group will also be joined by professional support from Age UK or the Alzheimer's Society to offer information and advice (from May)

2.30 pm
The offer of refreshments after meditation

The group has the potential to develop to include all the activities which the Huddersfield group has.

If you would like more information about this group, either to join or become a volunteer please contact Catholic Care on 0113 388 5400.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Post Adoption Support Service

Many of you will have followed, with interest, Catholic Care's long legal battle following the introduction of the Equality Act 2007 regarding the restriction of our adoption services on the grounds of sexual orientation to married couples.

Unfortunately, in November 2012, our latest appeal was turned down. This was despite the decision that our appeal was right in law, but the evidence submitted did not provide the necessary "weighty" reasons to allow lawful discrimination by limiting our adoption service to heterosexuals.

Following this disappointing decision we deliberated long and hard about carrying on the legal battle and indeed what the future held for the adoption service. After taking both legal and Church hierarchy advice the Catholic Care Trustees unanimously agreed that they could take the legal case no further and had no option but to close the adoption agency.

This was a very difficult and emotional decision to take as they felt very strongly that the commitment given to adoptive parents and families that as an organisation Catholic Care would always be there for them is still as strong a commitment today as it was at the time of adoption. From these discussions the Trustees also agreed to re-register Catholic Care as a Post Adoption Support Service.

Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care commented "I am very pleased that out of a very difficult time for Catholic Care's Adoption Service, there is some good news and that we will continue to support all those who have had a connection with the agency over many years"

As a Post Adoption Support Service Catholic Care will continue with the service we currently provide:

- Providing information to adopted adults – Access to birth records – Intermediary and tracing services
- Providing information to birth relatives of adopted adults – Intermediary and tracing services
- Support for Catholic Care children under 18 who the agency placed for adoption
- Support for adoptive parents

There will be a short delay of approximately 10 weeks between de-registering the Adoption Service and the registration of the new Post Adoption Support Service.

In this period we are very pleased to have made transitional arrangements with our sister organisation, Caritas Diocese of Salford, who will handle the regulatory side of the service for Ofsted, whilst Maria Dabou, the Post Adoption Social Worker here in Leeds will continue to deliver the service. We are confident that there will be a seamless service during this period with a multitude of rules and regulations being addressed behind the scenes.

2013 Anniversary Events

Good Shepherd Presentation
Friday 10th May 2013
at 10 am, Leeds Cathedral.

Celebration Mass Chief Celebrant: The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, Saturday 22nd June at 12 noon, Leeds Cathedral – ALL WELCOME

Open Day Showcase Wednesday 18th September 2013 from 9 am – 4 pm, Hinsley Hall, Leeds – ALL WELCOME

Annual Adoption Mass
Saturday 21st September 2013 at 1.30 pm, SS Peter & Paul, Wakefield

Cabbage & Bacon Evening
Friday, 4th October 2013 at 7.30 pm, Leeds Irish Centre
Tickets: £15 per head.
To reserve your ticket please contact Janet Flynn on 0113 388 5400 or email janet.flynn@catholic-care.org.uk

Dinner Dance Saturday, 16th November 2013 at 7.00 pm
Oulton Hall, Oulton, Leeds
Tickets: £50 per head. To reserve your ticket please contact Janet Flynn on 0113 388 5400 or email janet.flynn@catholic-care.org.uk

Annual Carol Service
Date and venue TBA

Catholic Care

150th Anniversary 1863 – 2013

news



Welcome, from Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter and I hope you all had a joyous and holy Easter.

The start to 2013 has been extremely busy for the Charity with so much going on including preparing for several regulatory inspections, preparing to launch new services and sadly saying farewell to some long established services and the friends we have made along the way. However, despite this period of austerity we all feel energised and very optimistic about the work we are undertaking to fulfil our mission to care for and support the weak, vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our society.

Our 150th Anniversary year has started exceptionally well. A presentation to the Annual Clergy Conference in February was received very positively. This was followed by an 'afternoon enjoyed by all' at the well attended public meeting and book launch on 26th February. We are holding several events throughout our landmark year and we look forward to seeing you at these.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and will pass it onto your friends to spread the news about the good work carried out by Catholic Care.



A service you can believe in

The celebrations have started...

The 150th Anniversary celebrations started with a trip down memory lane. The room hushed, the screen flickered into life and there was a large clock face whose hands moved backwards, faster and faster taking us back in time to 1863 and the foundation of Catholic Care.

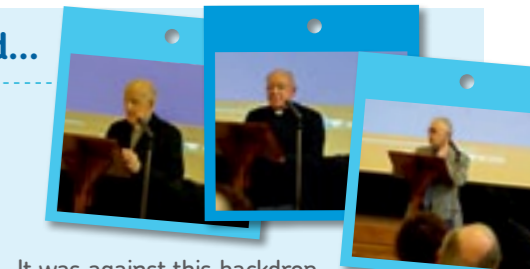
Mgr John Wilson started proceedings with a prayer of thanks for the good works undertaken by the Charity over the last 150 years, a marvellous achievement. He then offered words of welcome to a packed room, not a spare seat to be had on Tuesday 26th February 2013 at the Public Meeting held at Little Sisters of The Poor in Headingley to launch the Anniversary year.

An historical presentation of Catholic Care was shown, with pictures from the era set to music. The scene was set by Mary Simmons, one of the Charity's longest serving employees: Queen Victoria was on the throne and Leeds was experiencing a tough time.

It was towards the end of the industrial revolution and the city's growing pains were becoming hard to ignore. The problems of poor housing and poor health were responsible for the prevalence of disease and premature deaths.

The city's industrial plants pumped out smoke and pollutants non stop and the River Aire was so polluted that nothing lived in it.

This was a world without an NHS, antibiotics, or a welfare system – a very difficult world in which to be poor.



It was against this backdrop that the obvious question arises:

"How did the Church respond to the challenge posed by these social conditions?"

Bishop John Briggs appealed for funds to help in the creation of a Catholic orphanage, which became known as Mount St Mary's orphanage for girls – and so Catholic Care was born.

Then followed contributions from 3 of the Charity's former Directors: Mgr John Murphy who covered the period from the 1950s to the 1980s, Canon Peter Maguire covering the 1980s, and Stuart Hanlon for the 1990s. Each talked about the topics pertinent to the day and entertained all with their memorable tales. Carol Hill, the current Director of Catholic Care, concluded the presentation summarising the services offered today and talking of her vision for the future, concluding "Catholic Care is a vibrant Charity, we really do have lots going on with our existing services and future developments."

After this very informative and at times moving presentation as many memories were evoked by the photographs displayed on the screen, Mgr John Wilson formally launched the 150th Anniversary Book and presented a copy to each of the former Directors. The formalities over the audience enjoyed light refreshments whilst meeting up with old familiar faces.

Making memories

Young people from our children's home went camping in the February half term and what an absolutely fantastic time they had.

Holidays with family, friends and loved ones are something that most of us take for granted and leave with us lasting memories of those wonderful times spent together. However, this cannot be said for young people in residential care who often come from very difficult backgrounds and would often prefer to forget things which may have happened in the past.

It is therefore so very important to offer our children the opportunity to make happy memories which, like us, they can carry with them into adulthood. And so it was decided, after much consultation with the young people, that in the February half term a trip to Dalby Forest North Yorkshire, staying in Scandinavian camping pods was an excellent choice for a holiday.

So with bags organised and the car packed to bursting point the intrepid group of explorers set off for four days of outdoor activities.

Whilst there the fearless crew conquered "Go Ape", a high level assault course in the trees with spider nets, zip wires and Tarzan swings; were all smiles after a spooky Ghost Walk around Whitby and survived the exploration of the deepest darkest depths of Dalby Forest. The whole team was really proud of the shelter they built - 5 star or what!!

A good time was had by all with many happy memories to take back. Roll on the next trip, wherever it is - here we come!!

"I had a great time at Dalby Forest. We all had lots of fun, especially on Go Ape and making the den in the forest."



Director, Carol Hill, attends the Annual Clergy Conference

The Annual Clergy Conference for the Diocese of Leeds took place at Hinsley Hall from the 5th to the 7th of February. Mgr John Wilson kindly invited Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care) to talk to the Clergy, giving them a flavour of the great work undertaken by Catholic Care, the Diocesan Charity on behalf of the Diocese.

There was a light hearted start to the talk as Carol informed the Clergy that 2013 marked the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of Catholic Care and showed slides of previous Directors of the Charity in their younger days, including Mgr John Murphy, Canon Maguire and Stuart Hanlon which were met with great hilarity.

Carol then went onto say that "the mission of Catholic Care in supporting and caring for the weak, vulnerable and disadvantaged within our society has remained constant throughout the history of the Charity. Today we offer a varied range of care and support services to both children and adults".

To mark this special year Catholic Care has produced some new information material, including display boards, leaflets etc.

All these were designed using pictures taken of the Charity's services users, the people who are cared for, and so Carol delivered a presentation brought to life by the very people who matter most. After fully informing the Clergy of Catholic Care's current activities and future plans Carol ended the presentation by saying "St James tells us that good words alone do not constitute faith and good works must accompany those words. Catholic Care lives the faith."



Being part of a history and looking forward to the future

At Catholic Care our aim is to include the people we provide a service to in all that we do.

When we launched our new information material as part of our celebrations to mark our 150th Anniversary, it was only natural that the people we provide a service to should play the starring roles. And so began a period of great excitement throughout Catholic Care with willing models from all our services dressing for the occasion, being on their best behaviour and demonstrating their most creative acting skills.

The intrepid professional photographer, who was a little nervous to say the least, soon fell in love with our residents and tenants. Everyone had a great time with much laughter and this enjoyment is evident from the fantastic photographs which were taken.

Two of the tenants from our Mental Health Supported Living project in Leeds were eager to take part. They wanted their photographs to show their increased levels of independence and how their confidence is growing on their recovery journey. After consultations with the photographer they requested that their photographs be taken at Leeds Market. The tenants are regular visitors to the market, where they buy fresh produce for their communal Sunday lunch, chosen by a different tenant each week.

Our team supported the tenants in arranging their photo shoot and in achieving the message they wanted to portray. The two tenants involved were pleased and proud to be part of this venture and of the end result. No prize for guessing what was for Sunday lunch that week!



Catholic Care Annual Appeal 2013 Sunday 10th March

Each year the Diocese of Leeds allows us to make an appeal for funds to undertake charitable work on its behalf within the Diocese.

This work is a vital sign of the presence of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church within today's often difficult and unwelcoming society.

The appeal is crucial for Catholic Care as it allows us to connect directly with people throughout the Diocese. It also creates an opportunity for the Charity to raise its profile and inform people about the work we carry out for the weak, vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community. This in turn gives us a unique source of referrals that can reach the heart of a community where local people need our services.

On behalf of Catholic Care a huge thank you to the Parishes and Parishioners who so generously support our appeal.

Thank you

Directory of who we care for:

Learning Disability Services

We take a positive approach to caring for those with learning disabilities and prefer to focus on an individual's ability, not their disability. To give people greater control of their lives, we promote personal development through the learning of new skills. Our outreach service also enables people to live independently for longer, in their own homes.

Children & Young People's Services

We aim to positively change the lives of children and help them fulfil their potential by offering tailored child-centred care in a family setting. Our residential homes provide high quality care for children unable to live with their own families, plus short-term stays, which allow a period of respite for both the child and their carer.

Gianna: Pregnancy & Parenting Services

Throughout the Diocese of Leeds we offer confidential one-to-one support to girls and women who discover they have an unplanned pregnancy, regardless of their religious beliefs, race or marital status. We also offer practical support, including parenting advice, financial assistance and baby equipment until the baby's first birthday.

Mental Health Services

We provide self-contained accommodation in a safe and secure environment for adults with mental health needs, offering them greater independence and support. Each person has access to a range of communal facilities, including a lounge, a kitchen and a laundry room. Support workers are also on hand to offer advice and guidance on day-to-day issues or concerns.

School & Family Social Work Services

Our qualified team of professionals provide advice, support and counselling for children, young people, families and teachers. Our priority is always to overcome the difficulties that may prevent a young person from reaching their full potential. As a result, we provide bespoke support to help with bereavement, parenting, relationships, school and college.

Older People's Services

Our community-based groups help to tackle loneliness, reduce older people's dependence on social care and promote healthy living. They also fulfil members' spiritual needs and encourage them to take responsibility for their own communities. Our outreach service additionally offers support in people's homes to enable them to live independently for as long as possible.

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.

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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Diocese of Leeds

Prayer for Pope Francis I

O Lord,

Guide Pope Francis in the way of Jesus. May the Gospel inspire him and may truth be his guiding force. Give him wisdom, zeal and the gift of governance as he leads the Church on the journey to the Kingdom.

Amen.

Catholic Care
A service you can believe in