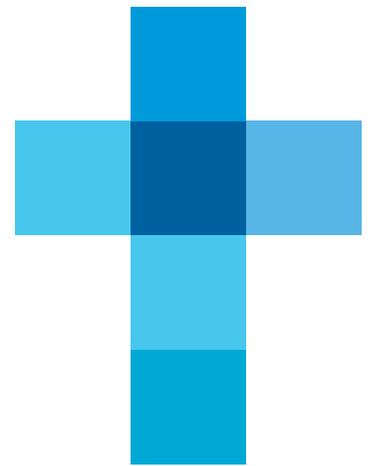


Catholic Care news



Welcome from Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care

Happy New Year and welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter.

Once again we have had a very busy time over the winter months with our Christmas Appeal, Christmas Celebrations and evolving services which really do make a difference to people's lives.

At this time of year we often plan ahead, so please take a look at our forthcoming events and make a note in your diary. All are welcome.

I hope you enjoy your read and may I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.



Catholic Care AGM, 6th November 2014

Catholic Care held its AGM on 6th November in the Auditorium at the Little Sisters of the Poor Care Home, Shire Oak Road, Headingley.

Following a warm welcome from Stuart Hanlon, Acting Chair of Trustees, Canon Maguire, Trustee of the Charity, opened proceedings with prayers before passing over to Stephen Johnson, Finance Director, to take us through the Charity's recent audit and financial position.

Carol Hill, Director, then presented the Charity's Annual Review, taking the audience through the events of the year, which included the Good Shepherd Celebrations held in Leeds Cathedral in May. She informed everyone that this appeal had raised £45,000 and extended heartfelt thanks "to all the young people in our Diocese who have been so generous with their time and money".

Carol went on to tell of the Staff Awards Evening which recognised the importance and achievement of our staff. She also recognised the contributions from our many volunteers.

Other events throughout the year included a golf day, summer fayre and bacon & cabbage evening.

The review then moved on to the developments in the services carried out by the Charity including the "Through Care" flats at the Leeds Children's Home; a new funding model for adults with a learning disability and new models of accommodation being developed in Kirklees and North Yorkshire, and the 100th referral for the Gianna Project.

Carol talked about how, this year, we were able to deploy our Crisis Team from the School & Family Social Work Service into Corpus Christi Catholic College following the tragic events there and offered much needed support and guidance to pupils, staff and indeed the whole school community.

Services for Older People have been a focus during the year with new community groups being set up and the launching of an outreach service providing care and support in the home.

Carol also told of the new venture in the provision of apartments with care and support for older people.

The first project is due to open in Harrogate in the New Year with projects in Headingley and Skipton to follow.

The Guest Speaker this year was Professor Graham Mulley, Emeritus Professor of Elderly Care at the University of Leeds. He is an eminent speaker and well known for his work in the field of older people throughout the city of Leeds. The Professor gave a very interesting, thought provoking and often humorous talk about what it means to age and he gave us many practical tips including "eat less, walk more" a message we will hopefully remember for years to come.

Following this engaging talk Stuart Hanlon presented gifts of thanks to Dr Hagerty and Patsey Toher for their tremendous work and commitment to Catholic Care during their time as Trustees following their resignations during the year.

The afternoon ended with refreshments.



A service you can believe in

Catholic Care 

2015 Events

Friday 1st May 2015

Good Shepherd Celebration, Cathedral Church of St Anne, Leeds 10am.

June 2015

Charity Golf Day, Sandmoor Golf Club, Leeds 17 – further details to be released on our website.

Friday 5th June 2015

Summer fundraising event – please come and join us for a hog roast and other refreshments in the grounds of our office in Headingley, together with stalls and entertainment from 4pm to 7pm. Tickets: £5 and £3 (for children under 12) Available from joanne.cunningham@catholic-care.org.uk

27th November 2015

Christmas Party – please join us and start your Christmas celebrations at the Catholic Care Christmas Party held at the Leeds Irish Centre from 7.30pm.

17th December 2015

Christmas Carol Concert, St John Fisher's High School, Harrogate 7.30pm.

All very welcome

The Catholic Care Annual Carol Service

Held at St Philip's Church in Middleton on Thursday 11th December. The children from St Philip's Primary School were fabulous, performing a number of Christmas Carols whilst members of staff recited some beautiful poetry. The Service ended with all the children performing a dance to the "Irish Blessing" which brought a tear to the eye.

Refreshments were then served in the school hall and there was the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes of donated toys and chocolate hampers. There was also a craft stall of small gifts made by a member of staff's daughter who kindly donated the proceeds to Catholic Care.

The children left the evening tired but with happy smiles on their faces.

"The children worked so hard, it was a lovely way to celebrate Christmas" said Chrissie Moran, Service Manager for the School & Family Social Work Service.



Cardinal Nichols calls on Parliament to take a lead from Catholics



On the very timely date of 5th November, Carol Hill (Director) and Chrissie Moran (Head of the School & Family Social Work Service), headed down to London to represent Catholic Care at the 2014 CSAN Parliamentary Reception held at the House of Commons. Over 140 Parliamentarians, representatives from leading Catholic charities and faith-based agencies gathered to hear addresses from His Eminence Vincent Nichols, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Minister of Faith.

The Cardinal called on Parliament to take a lead from Catholics saying:

"A critical part of serving society, whether through the calling of politics or through the Church, is to face the reality before us. This is where rhetoric ends, where philosophy gives way to reality, where dogmatism gets its hands dirty. For us this is what being a church of the poor and for the poor really means. Our self-awareness is sharp; our sense of purpose is clear. Perhaps governments could take a lead from this too."

Cardinal Nichols set out the Catholic vision for society:

"What is critical in our times is the question of what kind of society we want to build. Many are uncertain. Many are fearful. We are not. We know. We are committed to our task."

Finally the Cardinal thanked the charities saying:

"Together, as a Church, we embody what it means to love our neighbour and work towards human flourishing."

The Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles followed with his address telling attendees that it is important for charities to challenge politicians on issues of social injustice.

He also said:

"It is impossible, utterly impossible, to think about Great Britain today without a vibrant, prominent Catholic community – Catholics in this country make Great Britain what it is."

Following such inspirational addresses and the opportunity to mingle with MPs and colleagues from other charities, the journey home did not seem too long at all.

Thank you to all who made donations to the Christmas Appeal

Each year Catholic Care has an appeal at Christmas to support those families in need in our own communities during the festive season. For some there is no Christmas dinner and no presents for the children. Your generous donations totalling £1400 enabled us to help those in our community that are so desperately in need.

We also received a multitude of food hampers, toiletries and toys from the schools, colleges and Parishes throughout the Diocese. It is inspiring to see that in many schools this act of charity often forms the focal point of their Christmas assemblies and promotes the true meaning of Christmas.

As a direct result of their generosity we were able to deliver over 55 hampers and we made over 91 toy deliveries before Christmas.

We also ran the "When a child is born" appeal in some schools. Again generosity abounds and we have enough baby clothes, toiletries etc to keep our Gianna Project going for the forthcoming year.

Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care said: "On behalf of the Charity I would like to say a huge thank you to all who made donations to the Christmas appeal. Your generous donations really did make a difference."

Stepping into Christmas with Catholic Care at the Irish Centre



Stepping into Christmas on Friday 28th November was certainly a night to remember as we danced into the early hours at the Leeds Irish Centre.

Catholic Care provided a warm welcome to everyone who attended the party night, be it as members of staff, charity supporters, service users and all other invited guests.

The splendid Christmas theme which bedecked the venue ensured that the evening had a wonderful and truly seasonal feel, which of course was enhanced by the many fabulous party outfits.

The traditional Christmas dinner was both plentiful and excellently presented, the luscious chocolate dessert which followed ensured that compliments to Alan the chef were bountiful – a superb example of Christmas fare ‘par excellence’.

Jamie Ansbro entertained the party of over one hundred guests as he maximised his powerful and splendid voice and caused the room to rock; his was such a fabulous performance that he has already been booked for the 2015 Christmas party event.

Dancing continued into the early hours with the excellent choice from Simon, a regular and very popular DJ at the Irish Centre – a splendid and rocking good time was had by all.



New Service at Children's Residential Care Home

The Charity's Leeds residential care home for children and young people opened its doors on 5th December 2014 to welcome visitors including professionals, representatives from the local authority, members of the clergy, former members of staff and former residents to officially open its new 'Through Care' facility.

During the spring and summer building work has been underway to extend the current home by adding on 2 'trainer' flats to provide the opportunity for the young people to learn independent skills before they leave care and enter the big wide world.

Now the home has 2 fully fitted out flats, which the young people can move into from the age of 16 and they can learn those basic skills such as washing, cooking, cleaning, shopping and budgeting which are so important to everyday life. As the flats form part of the care home the young people can learn these skills whilst in the secure environment of care from members of staff who they know and trust.

We hope that this opportunity will equip the young people with the skills they require to make a successful transition from care to independence.



Child friendly Leeds...

Leeds City Council's ambition is for Leeds to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in.

This is a crucial element of their strategy which they want to attain by 2030. Their commitment to being the best city is founded on the global movement of child friendly cities initiated by UNICEF and guided by the voices of children and young people here in Leeds. They are working to bring everyone together to make Leeds a child friendly city – a place where children are valued, supported, enjoy growing up and look forward to a bright future.

Catholic Care was invited to become part of this campaign and Mary Simmons is one of our Child Friendly Ambassadors.

We are now one of the 300 businesses and organisations to have joined the campaign. Thousands of children and young people have shared their top 12 wishes for a child friendly city. The top three are:

- Safe journeys and easy travel around the city.
- Being able to express their views, feel heard and be actively involved in decisions that affect their lives.

- A greater number of better quality jobs, work experience opportunities and good quality careers advice for all.

Catholic Care's Children and Young People's Services contribute to the ambition and the 12 wishes. As an Ambassador Mary will attend quarterly networking meetings and share our news and support children's rights.

Further information on Child Friendly Leeds and the 12 wishes can be found on www.leeds.gov.uk/c/Pages/childFriendlyCity/



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.

School & Family Social Work Services

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

Older People's Services

Community Groups to support friendships and tackle loneliness. Community Outreach - providing care and support in your own home, helping you to live independently for longer. Accommodation - apartments offering freedom and independence with care and support close at hand when you need it.

Gianna: Pregnancy & Parenting Services

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

Children & Young People's Services

Services that make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in our residential care. Specialist care and support for children and young people with a learning disability, particularly those with Autism, both in the home and in respite care, where we aim to provide the tools and advice they need to live full and independent lives.

Mental Health Services

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

The Gianna Project has something special to celebrate

When the Trustees of Catholic Care sanctioned their plans for the Gianna Project in April 2011, little did we know that the journey ahead was going to prove to be such a huge success for the Charity.

The Gianna Project, which was set up to help women across the Diocese with an unplanned pregnancy, has since gone from strength to strength. This was evident when, in December 2014, the Project Co-Ordinator, Eileen Holland received its 100th referral. Mum-to-be, Hirut, whose baby is due in March, has been nominated by the Gianna Project to accept a Moses basket and a cot, which is being kindly donated by a company in Bradford, who supply nursery equipment.

Like many of our referrals, Eileen will continue to support Hirut until her baby reaches its first birthday. This support can vary from accompanying mother and baby to various appointments, signposting mother & baby to their local Children's Centre and ensuring they access the various services available. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our supporters across the Diocese, we are able to assist our families and supply them with clothes, toiletries and a variety of baby items throughout their baby's first 12 months.

With an ever increasing number of professional agencies now making referrals to the Gianna Project, we feel confident that this Project will continue on this very successful journey.

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.

Holy Mary, Mother of Love, holding in your arms, the fruit of your womb, graciously look upon our earth and remove from it all that hardens our hearts and dims our eyes to the preciousness of human life, from the moment of conception to natural death.

Through the example of your tenderness teach us the ways of compassion and love that we may build up the civilisation of love among us and a society that is truly worthy of the human person.

Help us to reject all that contributes to a culture of death, and to work with others of goodwill in promoting the culture of life.

Bring us ever closer to your Son, so that we may know the fullness of life that He offers us and come to know that life more perfectly, with you, and all the angels and saints, in the eternal life of Heaven.

Amen

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