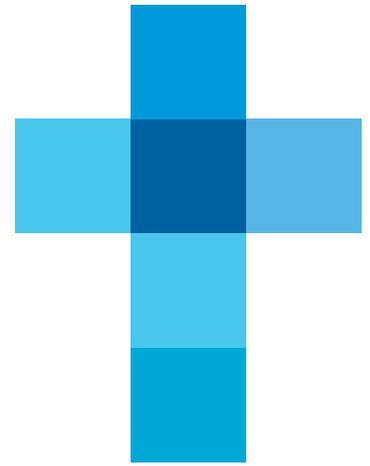


# Catholic Care news



## Welcome from Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care

Welcome to our winter 2016 newsletter which is, as ever, full of news from the Charity over the past few months. Inside you can read all about our Oscars evening, the people we care for enjoying their summer, what people say about our services and, yes, read how the Charity has joined social media with its own Facebook page.



## Bishop David Konstant and Father Michael O'Reilly RIP

October saw the sad passing of two members of clergy who had been an integral part of the life at Catholic Care.

Bishop David Konstant, who was Chair of Trustees from 1985 to 2004 passed away on the 9th October 2016. Father Michael O'Reilly, who held the role of Assistant Administrator in the 1970s and was a Trustee from 1982 - 1994, passed away on the 12th October 2016.

Stuart Hanlon, former Director of Catholic Care, described Father O'Reilly as a "fantastic chaplain and a really lovely man". Both funerals were attended by Stuart Hanlon and Mgr. John Murphy, both former Directors of Catholic Care who represented the Charity.



## Christmas Appeal

**Please help us to build a society for the common good by giving generously to our Christmas Appeal. Your donation, large or small, will make a difference to those in need all year round.**

As you and your family, friends and colleagues gather round each other this Christmas, please take a moment to remember the many people in our communities who do not have a place to call home or a family to be with, are struggling financially, are living alone or experiencing social isolation.

Together last year we achieved so much:

- Financial donations of over £3,000 for the hardship fund
- Baby clothes and essentials for Gianna
- 175 toy deliveries
- 60 food hampers
- Food for the homeless throughout Leeds

- Food, toys and baby essentials for refugees

If you would like to donate you can do so by posting a cheque made payable to "Catholic Care" to 11 North Grange Road, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 2BR or you can donate online at [www.catholic-care.org.uk](http://www.catholic-care.org.uk)

**Thank you for continuing to remember those who have nowhere to go and no one to care for them at Christmas.**



A service you can believe in

Catholic Care

## Oscars Evening

**On Friday 14th October Catholic Care held their second Oscars evening; a celebration of staff and volunteer achievements, recognition of all the good works and a night simply to say Thank You.**

The evening started in the chapel at Hinsley Hall where Mgr. Donal Lucey celebrated Mass accompanied by some lively singing. Then it was all change to the Edmond Sykes room for continuation of the celebrations.

The evening was hosted by Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, and Richard Strudwick, a former Catholic Care boy who has many fond memories of his time in care, often joking that his father was a priest and his mother a nun. Richard had everyone laughing and made the evening very special.

There were many awards on the night including: for those achieving qualifications; 100% attendance of which there were 52 winners representing over 1/3 of Catholic Care staff; long service of which there 3 people recognised for 25 years service; volunteer award recognising those who give freely of their time and energies and service awards.

“Deanery Debbie”, as she is known to her friends, was the winner of the volunteer award saying:

“The most valuable lesson I’ve learned is one of community, seeing what a difference reaching out can make ....”

There was something a little different this year with the presentation of the Matthew Kearns Award. This was for someone in the School and Family Social Work Service who had demonstrated outstanding social work, showing understanding, support and empathy. The beautiful glass sculpture was awarded to Eileen Holland in particular for her bereavement work.

The penultimate award of the evening was for Employee of the Year. Here staff were asked to nominate their colleagues who they thought had gone beyond the call of duty. A total of 13 nominations were received from across the spectrum of services.

It proved impossible to select a winner this year and Joanne Cunningham and Matthew Kearns and, yes, read awarded Employee of the Year.

Joanne’s nomination included – “.....has dedicated her life to Catholic Care. She works tirelessly with a smile on her face”.

Matthew’s nomination included – “I feel very proud and privileged to have Matthew on our schools team and I believe he is a great ambassador for Catholic Care.”

How could we choose between two such excellent people? Both rightly deserved the joint award of Employee of the Year.

The final award was a fun award recognising two members of staff who went above and BELOW the call of duty, when Deborah O’Brien and Michelle Stead from Craven House went down the manhole to unblock the drain. Yes there was photographic evidence to prove it!

**Congratulations to all our winners.**

*Sue Rix, Trustee, commented at the end of the evening; “Sometimes we forget to say thank you but tonight helped us to get it right for the amazing teams that make Catholic Care what it is and continues to be as it seeks to fulfil its mission.”*



## What People Say:

**At Catholic Care we value all feedback from the people we care for and support, their families and friends and the professionals we work with. Here’s a selection of what people say:**

### **About our schools and family service:**

“We benefit greatly from the support that Catholic Care provides, to pupils, staff and parents. It is a highly valued service that we feel is essential given today’s social issues that are impacting on our children.” (Headteacher)

### **About our children’s home:**

“I am conducting some work with two young people living in your Leeds home. One of the questions I asked “Eddie” was when has the care system worked well for him and what was it like. “Eddie” has had several placements and he stated that this is the best he has had. We know young people often believe the grass is greener so he must really be enjoying it with you guys.” – Youth Justice Officer, Leeds Local Authority

### **About our adult learning disability homes:**

We spoke with one family member and were told, “I feel very lucky to have Craven House. It’s a lovely place and the staff do a remarkable job.” – CQC inspection report

### **About our learning disability outreach service:**

“I wish to thank you once again for making the necessary arrangements which allowed me to have that wonderful respite and to help “Poppy” on the first steps of living more independently”. (a parent)



## Summer Holidays

Those long lazy days of hot summer sunshine feel a long time ago now as the days are short and the temperature drops. To cheer everyone up, the people we care for and support in our adult service would like to share with all those reading our newsletter their summer 2016 memories:

David, Tracy and Michael enjoyed a week away in the Lanzarote sunshine. When asked what they had enjoyed the answer was a resounding everything!

Tom, Jason, David and Paul chose to spend a week at a cabin in Sherwood Forest. The weather was beautiful and whilst there they explored the home of Robin Hood and trails around the area including beautiful Creswell Crags. The guys also enjoyed a visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park and a small gauge steam train ride. A particular favourite for Tom and Jason was a dip in the hot tub. The thoroughly enjoyable week was rounded off by a BBQ feast at the cabin.

Heather and her friends enjoyed the highlife at Ribby Hall.

George and Robert enjoyed a week in a luxury house at the lovely little seaside town of Amble on the Northumberland coast. Highlights included a great day out at Alnwick Castle to visit Harry Potter, a trip to Holy Island and lunch on top of Hadrian's Wall. A real favourite was eating steak and jacket potatoes for tea on the beach. George asked to do a holiday like this again.

Theresa enjoyed her holiday at the old seaside favourite – Blackpool. There was never a dull moment with plenty of sea air during the day and fabulous entertainment at the hotel in the evening which she really enjoyed.

Four residents from Westhaven went to Wigton in Cumbria for their holidays. Rides on a steam train to Ravenglass and a boat trip on the lake were enjoyed along with a dip in the hot tub, a real favourite.

When Neil was asked what he wanted to do for his holidays he said he fancied a train journey. Well if you're going to spoil yourself you need to do it right. So Neil went all aboard first class on a steam train to the seaside town of Scarborough. Once there the first priority was to get an ice cream then fish and chips for lunch. All this was followed by afternoon tea on the train ride home.

Despite the absence of sunshine Neil had a fab day out.

**What a fantastic summer which was enjoyed by all.**



## Celebration of 25 Years

**August saw Heather celebrate 25 years of living in a Catholic Care home for adults with a learning disability in Baildon.**

Heather beams with delight as she is really enjoying her time in Baildon and can't believe how quickly it has gone which just goes to prove the saying that time flies when you are enjoying yourself. Heather is a very social person, always chatty when visitors call, and enjoys going out to functions and social events on a regular basis. She works at the local charity shop during the week and her weekends are busy with bowling on a Saturday and attending Church on a Sunday, where again she enjoys the social events.

Heather celebrated her 25 years with a party on 28th August for family and friends where she was presented with flowers and cake followed by a weeks holiday at Ribby Hall with her close friends from Baildon who live with her.

**Heather is now looking forward to the next 25 years.**

## Catholic Care enters the world of social media

Yes! On 1st November 2016 the Catholic Care Facebook page went live. This is a great way to share the great work we do and engage with a wider and in particular a younger audience. There is a great time line detailing the history of the Charity and we already have posts about our "Oscars" Staff Awards Evening and the CSAN Parliamentary Reception.



## 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 disadvantaged and vulnerable, regardless of their faith.

## Poetry for World Mental Health Day

Catholic Care marked National Poetry Day on 6th October 2016 and World Mental Health Day on 10th October 2016, with a poem which is relevant to each and everyone of us.

### Dignity

What does it mean?

To be asked and respected  
and even be seen?

Do you know who I am, how I feel  
or my name?

Do you see me as vulnerable,  
old, or in emotional pain?

I have a voice, a mind and a soul  
Do YOU care what I think, can YOU help  
me be whole?

I am able to think, choose and desire  
Whatever I do, I aim to aspire  
Be it large or small goals they ARE  
important to me

So, don't be afraid to ask, you see,  
WITH your support, your care and  
your smile

I will feel valued, cared for with  
a happy lifestyle.

Just suppose, it was you sitting here,  
How would you feel – would you feel fear?  
Would you want people kind, caring  
and true?

People around to make time for you?

**D**on't assume I don't understand, please.

**I**nclude ME, in decisions being planned.

**G**reet me, acknowledge me, and know  
my name.

**N**urture and care is all I need NOT blame.

**I** need a person whom I trust and respect,  
then I will know that I am blessed.

**T**hank

**Y**ou

### Prayer

O God, to whom no one is a  
stranger, and from whose help  
no one is ever distant, look with  
compassion on refugees and  
exiles, on segregated persons  
and lost children. Restore them,  
we pray, to a homeland, and  
give us a kind heart for the  
needy and for the strangers.  
Amen

## What a Celebration!

It was wonderful to be involved in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations at Leeds Trinity University on Wednesday 2nd November.

Ann and Rachel arrived bright and early, not quite knowing what to expect and were greeted by smiling students, keen to help and direct.

The stall was set up with Christmas Cards, beautiful hand knitted baby cardigans and Catholic Care pens and stress balls. There were so many people who wanted to celebrate the anniversary: current students, former students and people from the local community. We had some wonderful conversations, ranging from the services we provide to memories of the University and Catholic Care.

We even had a short visit to our stall from Bishop Marcus who had earlier celebrated Mass in the university's chapel.

The day finished with us lighting candles for the work of Catholic Care and the people we serve.

**Thank you to Leeds Trinity University for inviting us to share in your special day.**



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