

## Catholic Care

# news



## The Good Shepherd Celebration 2019

Once again this year almost 700 children, young people and staff from schools across the Diocese gathered in St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds for the Good Shepherd Celebration, presided over by Bishop Marcus, on Friday 24th May 2019. As is tradition the celebration started with the Procession of the Banners before Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care) welcomed all present to the Cathedral.

This year the Liturgy was presented by the Catholic Primary Schools of Holy Family & St Michael's and St Joseph's, both from Pontefract. They also formed the choirs with the support from the Diocesan Music Department. The schools took as their theme the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity which they re-phrased as unity and sang and said prayers to reflect on this.

During the presentation of the donations Bishop Marcus received the monies collected by the schools as part of the Good Shepherd Appeal which is held during Lent each year.

The children have the opportunity to talk to the Bishop excitedly and with great enthusiasm about the various ways they have raised their funds and he is always amazed by their ingenuity. This year the most popular fund raisers were food related with bun sales and toast sales and of course the teachers favourite of a sponsored silence. There were a number of new ideas this year including a trail of coins around the playground, penalty shoot outs, pump painting, back to front day (where children wear their clothes back to front), ambitions day (the children come dressed to school as what they would like to be when they grow up) and a virtual pilgrimage to Walsingham.

As part of their Golden Jubilee St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, Bradford, dressed up as famous people or in different fashions through the decades.

The Bishop's favourite idea this year was a Mothers day raffle which he thought was a lovely idea, while Carol's was the "Welly Walk" undertaken by the early year's children.

Everyone did fantastically well raising £45,500. This money is invaluable to Catholic Care and enables the charity to help many people in real need living in the community.

The singing throughout was beautiful and the celebration ended with a rousing version of "Christ be our Light"

**THANK YOU EVERYONE**

## Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Catholic Care Newsletter



Summer is always a busy time for us at Catholic Care with many of the people we care for and support living life to the full on their summer holidays or enjoying special days out.

We are busy in the community as well with our Young Carers Group excitedly awaiting their first residential trip, and our Holiday Hunger Project supporting children, particularly those entitled to free school meals, and their families during the long difficult summer break.

Preparations are in full swing and as you can read some have already been enjoying their summer get a ways.

**Thank you as always for your continued support, helping us to help others.**



## A New Home for the Gianna Project

### Catholic Care's Gianna Project supports mothers and their babies in difficult circumstances.

It was established in 2011 and since that time has supported more than 550 families with items from its baby bank and much needed practical and emotional support from our team of dedicated senior social workers. Many families that access the Gianna Project are experiencing very challenging circumstances, sometimes fleeing violence and newly arrived in the UK, they are in need of support and understanding. The team, including Eileen Holland O'Malley who has been with the project from its inception, were delighted to welcome the Catholic Care Trustees during their April tour to the project's new base in Bradford, at the Carlisle Business Centre, where they will be able

to keep stock for the baby bank and see families in the friendly meeting space.

The guests enjoyed meeting some of the families that have benefitted from Gianna services who came along with their babies to join the celebration.

Bishop Marcus led a short and moving service of blessing for the Project in its new premises. The scripture reading was taken from John's Gospel "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" which is totally apt for the Gianna Project. After the visit Bishop Marcus himself said how much he had been moved by this project.



### "Pottering around"

Some of the people we care for and support in Catholic Care's supported living home for adults with a learning disability in Bingley recently decided to try pottery painting.

Supported by staff the groups visited Salt Pots in Saltaire and Haworth Pottery for this new experience. They really enjoyed choosing which piece of pottery they wanted and then decorated them beautifully. We have some real budding artists.

This is a bowl that Carol painted and now uses it for her cereal in a morning. A great time was had by everyone.



### Trustees on Tour - Tuesday 2nd April 2019 A BIG SMILE DAY!

Our spring tour involved 3 stops and introduced the Trustees to 3 different and outstandingly successful community based ventures.

Our coffee time visit was to Yeadon to SS Peter and Paul's Dementia Friendly Parish group which meets every week. The Parish hall was a buzz of light-hearted chat as every table filled up and members gathered to catch up and exchange news. The happy volunteers, who we really couldn't do without, gave everyone a beautiful welcome and served drinks and treats. Everyone we spoke to was so happy to be there. When the game of Boccia Bowling was announced there was no shortage of participants or spectators! Rachel's (Catholic Care Dementia Friends Champion) enthusiasm was infectious and we left the competition in full swing! Our next stop was Bradford to visit the Gianna Project's new base for mums and babies. It was such a pleasure to see the project safely housed after many years in limbo with its last home a huge storage container.

Another buzz met us as we entered St William's Church Hall to join a full house of over 40 smiley faced diners tucking into traditional Yorkshire grub!!

Thanks to Michelle (Catholic Care cook in charge) and her fantastic young at heart volunteer waitresses, a hearty Yorkshire lunch is enjoyed every week by parishioners and friends from many Bradford parishes. The raffle is very popular as is the quiz which was eagerly completed with much sharing and laughter.

The Trustees offer many thanks to Carol, our Director and tour guide. Sue Rix, Trustee



At Catholic Care we focus on a person's ability and not their disability and encourage them to live life to the full as far as they are able.

## Our Wish Tree

**Catholic Care's residential home for adults with a learning disability in Leeds provides an excellent service which is highly regulated by CQC (Care Quality Commission).**

In its inspection last year the home received an overall rating of Good and was classed as Outstanding in the area of how it responds to the needs of the residents. Such a closely regulated service naturally results in lots of paperwork. However, at this home, in addition to regulatory requirements, the residents identify something special they would like to do in the year ahead, their wish. These wishes are hung on a tree in the activity room, the Wish Tree.

Robert and Caroline had a wish to ascend Pen-Y-Gent. Accompanied by Steve (Deputy Manager) and all prepared they had a weekend away in the hamlet of Rathmell near Settle, staying in a wonderful old cottage. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious and visibility very poor so the Pen-y-Gent ascent was off the cards.

This did not deter the adventure and the intrepid three had a day in Keswick visiting the Stone Circle and a wander down to the lake. Caroline and Robert had a fantastic long weekend. The wish is still hanging on the tree.

Paul and Caroline (again) had identified the same wish this year which was to visit the Doncaster Dome for a day of splashing around in the pool and using the wave machine and slides. They were supported by Jordan and Gesa (a young volunteer from Germany) who planned a really good day out for both of them. What a day, travelling by train and having lunch out as well as the excitement of the pool. They both had a super time and want to do it again.



## Take That Live!

**A huge concert arena may be a very daunting place for someone with learning difficulties, but undeterred, our 3 intrepid people from Catholic Care's supported living home in Keighley did the next best thing – and what a night they had.**

Take That were playing in Cardiff on Saturday 8th June and so large is the demand to see this super group that the concert was broadcast live to 10 countries across the world. And so it was that David, Sarah and Tracey joined the capacity crowd in Cardiff through the live broadcast at the Vue Cinema in Halifax.



They all loved it and were up dancing to all the greatest hits. A great night was had by all, so much so, that they have booked to see West Life in July.

## We're all going on a summer holiday!

**Summer has arrived, by date if not by the seasonal weather, and at Catholic Care we are busy supporting the people we care for to enjoy their holidays.**

On 6th May the three people we care for and support in our supported living home for adults with a learning disability in Skipton set off on their mini adventure to Butlins, Skegness.

They were so excited, the weather was not great but they did not allow this to dampen their spirits. Kaiwan excelled in his dancing skills, and once on the stage he stole the show. Kathryn managed to beat Matt (Catholic Care's Senior Support Worker) in a game of pool. It was since discovered that her Dad would bring her to the working mens club in Skipton on a regular basis where she learned to be a fab player. David was a bit more reserved and probably enjoyed his days and evenings dining out. It was difficult to control his laughter at times. They all excelled in bowling and found it very amusing when staff would miss the skittles.

Once again, they had fantastic accommodation. On their return the staff team commented "we as a team know in our heart of hearts they would go back again tomorrow given the chance."



## Silver Anniversary for Friday Friends

“Great oaks from little acorns grow”, this was written in one of the congratulations cards sent to the Friday Friends’ Team and indeed this statement could not be more apt, as what started out in 1994 as a cup of tea and a biscuit with friends has, 25 years later become a strong community group welcoming all.

Huddersfield Irish Centre was very kind in allowing us to use its function room for the event. Afternoon Tea was provided for all the guests with copious amounts of tea and coffee. Guests included original committee members, past and present volunteers, together with Catholic Care staff, Community champions, local Councillors & Madam Mayor Cllr Gwen Lowe.

A speech was given by Tom Foley one of the original committee members for the project and Madam Mayor gave an impromptu speech to complete the formalities. A huge thank you must go to One Community Foundation – JL Brierley Fund who funded the celebration. A huge thanks to Margaret who organised all the catering, including making the cake and of course, our team of wonderful helpers who we absolutely could not function on a weekly basis without.



## Making Memories in the Sun

**Holidays or time away are so important to us all, a time to rest and re-charge our batteries or to experience something new.**

For the young people we care for holidays, or even days out, are often something they have never experienced and we hope that when they leave our care they have built up a bank of happy memories to take with them.

Very early on the morning of 16th February, three of our young people very excitedly boarded a plane to Tenerife for an adventure of a life time.

Once they had checked into their hotel a visit to the beach was first on the agenda followed by an afternoon in the pool at the hotel. This set the pattern of their days in the sun. They also spent a day out at sea on a catamaran and were able to see dolphins and whales which was a great experience for everyone.

All too soon it was the end of the holiday and the young people told staff that this was the best holiday they had ever had, and thanked them for taking them.

**Happy memories made in the sun for them all.**



## World Down Syndrome Day

**Every year World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on 21 March. This beautiful prayer celebrates the lives of all those special people who have Down Syndrome.**

### Down Syndrome Creed

My face may be different  
But my feelings the same,  
I laugh and I cry  
And take pride in my gains.  
I was sent here among you  
To teach you to love,  
As God in the Heavens  
Looks down from above.  
To Him I'm no different  
His love knows no bounds.  
It's those here among you  
in cities and towns,

That judge me by standards  
That man has imparted.

But the Family he's chosen  
Will help me get started.

For I am one of his children  
So special and few

That came here to learn  
The same lesson as you.

That love is acceptance  
It must come from the heart

We all have the same purpose  
But not the same start.

The Lord gave me life  
To live and embrace

And I'll do it as you do  
But at my own pace.

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