

Hallam News

OCTOBER 2014

No. 298

FREE

Our Diocese Mourns Fr Brian Davies

The funeral of Fr Brian Davies was held on 26 August at St Michael and All Angels, Wombwell, where Monsignor John Ryan spoke of the man with whom he had worked for a number of years.

Brian Davies was not your stereotypical priest. He was not one for the Gamarelli well-cut suit, with the diamond cufflinks and high clerical collar. In fact he didn't look much like what you expect a priest to look like. With his close-cropped hair and stocky build you might have expected to see Doc Martins on his feet and a bulldog

tattoo peeping through his shirt. He would not thank you for a gin and tonic; he did not spend his Mondays at the golf club; and his Black Country accent, which despite years in exile he never lost, was always a surprise to hear in these parts. In short he was not what most people, even in South Yorkshire, expect their priests to be like. But if he didn't look or sound the part, he most certainly lived it. He would do anything for people; and there was no distinction between folk. If you had a genuine need Brian would try and do something to help. He was a man from the

working class who never lost his identity; a man of the ordinary people.

Brian was born and brought up in Bloxwich, in the Black Country, north of Birmingham. He didn't follow an expected path to the priesthood. Brian had a happy upbringing, with hard working parents and sister, but not a religious one. He left school at sixteen and began a series of jobs, beginning as a painter and decorator, working for neighbours. His parents attended the local Catholic Church in Bloxwich and Brian began to join them. He embraced the Catholic faith.

He thought about the priesthood. He considered a life as a religious. He had a series of jobs, as a machine operator, making "Keep Left" signs, as manager of Rumbelows, and all the while he helped in his local parish.

Eventually he took the step, applied to the Archbishop of Birmingham and was sent to Campion House, Osterley. He then went on to Oscott, the major seminary in Birmingham and was ordained in his parish Church of St Peter in Bloxwich on June 29th, the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul in 1982. His first appointment was very happy with a

kindly parish priest, Fr O'Shea. Then in 1985 came a letter from the Archbishop, Maurice Couve de Murville, informing Brian of a new appointment – to St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield.

He had to look in his atlas to find out where Sheffield was. When he arrived in Sheffield Brian got on well with his fellow priests and the people of Sheffield. Eventually Brian decided that his future was in South Yorkshire and he was incardinated into the Diocese of Hallam.

Brian moved from St Marie's to the Manor, Sheffield, St Theresa's



Fr Brian Davies



FR BRIAN AND THE ROAD TO EMMAUS
~ READ MGR JOHN RYAN'S FULL EULOGY

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parish, first as assistant to Fr Pat O'Connor and then he took over the parish. Brian was a man for the Manor. They were his sort of people. Then he came to Wombwell, where he also settled well. Gradually his sphere of influence extended,

and took in the parishes of Goldthorpe and Hoyland and he forged them into the single parochial entity of Corpus Christi. Brian willingly took on each task. Brian was committed to his parishioners. He cooked for the parish and also

worked very hard for the needy. Brian's holidays were always with parishioners to Lourdes or to Spain. How appropriate that his final journey was to Lourdes where he celebrated Mass a fortnight before he died. May he rest in peace.

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What's on in October

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| <p>1 Deadline for articles for next issue of the <i>Hallam News</i>.</p> <p>1 Hallam Ascent Group meet at St Francis of Assisi Church, Sandygate Road, Sheffield, S10 5SD, 1.45-3.45pm for 'Exploring the Beauty of the Rosary' with Fr Michael Beattie SJ. For more details tel: 0114 2306797 or 0114 2304633, email: ascent@jngreen.plus.com, website: hallamascent.weebly.com.</p> <p>3 First Friday Mass followed by social evening at St Vincent's Catholic Men's Society Club, Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BA, 7.30pm.</p> <p>8 Irish Tea Dance with live music at Mother of God parish centre, Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, S7 1DX, 1-3.30pm. Everyone welcome. For more details contact Gerry from the Sheffield Irish Association, tel: 0114 2618788, mobile 07544979686.</p> <p>8 Chesterfield Bereavement</p> | <p>Support Group Drop-in/coffee morning, 10.30am-12noon, The Annunciation Centre, Chesterfield.</p> <p>10 Social evening with live music from Reverb at St Vincent's Catholic Men's Society Club, Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BA, 8pm.</p> <p>11 Latin Mass (1962 Rite) at St Marie's Cathedral, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, 10am.</p> <p>14 Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield.</p> <p>28 Irish Night with The Shamrocks Band at St Vincent's Catholic Men's Society Club, Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BA, 8.30pm.</p> <p>28 Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield.</p> |
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CONSENT FORMS

In order to comply with National and Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines all photographs of children sent to the Hallam News for publication must be accompanied by the official Diocesan consent form.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Month

This month the diocesan rota for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is as follows:

- 5 St Thomas More, Sheffield.
- 12 St Oswald, Sheffield.
- 19 St Joseph, Wath-upon-Dearene.
- 26 Sacred Heart, Sheffield.

LET'S TALK ABOUT MARRIAGE

Wednesday 15 October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm
 Mother of God Parish Centre
 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, S7 1FL

Concerned about the state of marriage or relationship today?

Come and have a conversation led by Charles and Jane Perryman, Marriage Care

Let's talk about what the Church says about marriage and how it makes a difference in our day to day lives

ALL WELCOME - NO BOOKING NEEDED

ONE SHEFFIELD MANY CULTURES FESTIVAL POSTPONED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been necessary to postpone the One Sheffield Many Cultures Festival due to be held this October. It will now be held on 16th May, 2015 at 12 noon in Barkers Pool, Sheffield.

Just Launched

Going away?
Find the local Mass Times...

www.catholicdirectory.org

Hallam Diocesan
 Justice and Peace Commission

Saturday 8 November 2014
 9am for 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Hallam Pastoral Centre
 St Charles Street, Sheffield S9 3WU

Climate Change: What Can We Do?

Speakers from CAFOD,
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Admission free

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For the love of One Climate, One World

Young leaders are using their energy to help everyone cope with climate change



Young people from All Saints Catholic High School, Notre Dame Catholic High School, McAuley Catholic High School and the In Reality Team are working together locally to share skills and talents and help CAFOD to tackle poverty and injustice around the world.

At a recent visit to CAFOD's headquarters, they heard how climate change affects the livelihoods of the poorest communities around the world and how it threatens to undermine future development.

Some of them are already preparing to participate in the local launch of CAFOD's new campaign, 'For the love of ... One Climate, One World', to be hosted by The McAuley School, Doncaster on Friday, 17 October from 6.30pm onwards.

The evening will raise awareness about climate change and persuade local MPs and policymakers to help everyone to access affordable and cleaner energy. The young people will share their passion and practical ideas to help conserve our God given environment and precious resources for the future.

Special guests will include our new Bishop Ralph Heskett and CAFOD partners from Peru, who will speak from firsthand experience about the effects of the climate on their environment and how they are adapting to change.

All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be offered, so, in the interest of good stewardship, we kindly ask you to let us know if you are coming. Please contact the CAFOD office on 0114 2687817, email hallam@cafod.org.uk or visit www.cafod.org.uk/CAFOD-in-your-area/Hallam.



*For the love of trees, bees, mountains and children;
an island, the oceans, your grandchildren,
the underground; for the love of all humanity,
it's time to take action on climate change.*

CAFOD is part of The Climate Coalition, over 100 organisations with millions of supporters across the UK working together for climate action.

"Creation is a wonderful gift that God has given us so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude."

Pope Francis

HARVEST FAST DAY: Friday, 3 October

This Harvest Fast Day will you make a place at your table by giving a gift to CAFOD to ensure more people can enjoy food and financial security for the future?

Centenarians Celebrate



On Wednesday, 20 August the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bentley, Doncaster celebrated the 100th birthday of Eddie McGough, who was born on 17 August, 1914. Another parishioner, Minnie Liddle celebrated her 100th birthday on 12 December, 2013. The parish held a special Mass, celebrated with Fr Gus O'Reilly. Everyone enjoyed a buffet afterwards in the Jubilee Hall. Two centenarians in one small parish must be a record!



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Mary Butler

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Sheffield Kerala Catholic Community celebrate the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle and St Alphonsa at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Sheffield.

Sheffield Kerala Catholic Community Celebrate



Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield SIXTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

on Saturday, 18 October

This year the theme is "What is a Good Society?" Church Action on Poverty is supporting this project of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

The route begins at St Wilfrid's Centre; visiting churches and projects on the way into town, finishing in the city centre at Victoria Hall Methodist Church. We shall hear about the work being done alongside people experiencing various forms of poverty and we shall be reflecting on what makes a good society with a presentation from National Church Action on Poverty.

The Pilgrimage will start at 9.15am at St Wilfrid's Centre, 524 Queens Rd, Sheffield, S2 4DT and will include visits to Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care, the Wilson Carlile Centre (Church Army) and the Archer Project, as well as prayer stops at places of significance along the way.

If you wish to join us, please register by contacting Sarah Baker on 07949682050 or sarahbaker17@live.co.uk for fuller details and a registration form.

CATENIAN FUNDRAISER

Andrew Hartley, a parishioner at Sacred Heart, Hillsborough and a past president of Barnsley Catenians, has been finishing his duties by passing on a cheque for £1000 for the work of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Andrew has also sent £300 to aid an African school where his daughter was doing a short placement. Our photograph on the left shows Mary and Mike Jones receiving the £1000 cheque on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, left to right, Barbara Hartley, Mike Jones, Mary Jones and Andrew Hartley.



SPEAKER'S SCHOOL COUNCIL AWARDS

In June the School Council at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield became runners up in the Speaker's School Council Awards 2013.

Linda Keane, a member of staff explained. "This is a competition that is run by the Speaker at the House of Lords and is entered by hundreds of schools across the country! It is a way that school councils can tell people about the great projects they get involved in. St Catherine's School Council entered with a project they have been working on all year – our School Council newspaper 'The School Councillor'.

"This is put together every term for all the pupils in our school. Our School Councillors report on events that have been happening in school like school trips, fundraising and we also have What's Hot, What's Not pages, puzzles and quizzes, Guess the Mystery Member of Staff and book and film reviews. It's a great way to talk about the things that interest all pupils in school. Anyone can add pages by sending their page to their school council rep who then adds it to the newspaper. It's a fun paper and everyone looks forward to getting their copy!

"We are very proud to have been runners up for the award and have received a plaque to put up in our school. On Friday, 19 July Mr David Blunkett came into school to present our School Council with the plaque. The children were really excited to meet him and think it's great that he took the time from his busy schedule to come and present them with the award. He was very impressed with the work the children have done this year and encouraged them to continue their fantastic work next year.

It was a fantastic ending to a great year for our School Council ... well



done to all the children!" Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough, is pictured with Abas and Zac, two members of the School Council.

Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

As many of you know, Whirlow Grange Conference Centre has now closed. However, Whirlow Spirituality Centre will remain open for at least the next three years.

About the Spirituality Centre

Our aim is to provide a safe space for people to connect with God, themselves and others on the same journey. We offer Whirlow Spirituality Centre and Chapel as a sanctuary along with resources and people to support those searching, exploring and journeying on the road to who they are meant to be in God

Set in beautiful grounds and on the edge of the Peak District National Park, Whirlow Spirituality Centre is still very accessible via public transport from Sheffield City Centre.

We offer the opportunity to slow down, reflect, relax, learn and play. The Chapel of the Holy Spirit provides a beautiful context for prayer and reflection.

Rev Philip Roderick, Diocese of Sheffield Bishop's Advisor in Spirituality and Chaplain to Whirlow Spirituality Centre, commented, "For practical reasons as the Spirituality Centre goes through a period of transition, some of the remaining events for 2014 have been moved to other locations. The work of the Spirituality Centre is very much alive and kicking and we hope you will continue to support us at our new venues as we take time to reflect and discern what the programme for 2015 will look like. The main house site has been sold and will be redeveloped in the coming months, subject to planning permission being granted.

"We give thanks to God for the new partnership between All Saints Church, Ecclesall and Whirlow Grange

Ltd, the charity which owned and ran Whirlow Grange and whose aims include facilitating Christian education. Between them the partnership owns the Chapel, the Spirituality Centre and the ground immediately around it, including the car park. Also the monthly Simple Quiet Day will still happen on the third Tuesday of each month from October onwards. We are hoping for and planning towards appropriate events taking place here as they have done over many years."

The Spirituality Centre will be available for any group to book for suitable uses through the Parish Office at All Saints Church, Ecclesall, Sheffield. For more information please contact Lesa Thompson, telephone: 0114 2687763 or by email halls@ecclesall.parishchurch.org.uk.

Simple Quiet Days

These days are intended to provide people with the space to "be" before God; to relax, reflect and pray and so to renew their spiritual resources.

The Centre has a Simple Quiet Day planned at **St Peter's, Warmsworth, on 1 October from 9.45am-3.45pm.**

The cost of the day is £10. Please contact Jill Sharp on stpeter-warmsworth@gmail.com or telephone 01303 858377 to book.

There is also a **Simple Quiet Day at Whirlow Grange on 21 October.** There will be an opportunity, for those who are interested, to do a bit of gardening at Whirlow on this day. If you would like to do some gardening please bring suitable clothing/gloves and tools. Gardening is entirely optional and if you would just like to come and take time out as normal on this Simple Quiet Day, you will be very welcome, telephone 01142353704 to book. The cost of the day is £10.



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"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"

Pope Francis



SCHOLARSHIP EXAMS 2015

17th January (11+ /13+ Academic/St Francis Xavier Award)

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Welcome from St Wilfrid's

St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable were recently very privileged to receive a first visit from Bishop Ralph Heskett, Bishop of Hallam. The photograph below shows Bishop

Ralph being presented with a Sunderland clock made at the Centre by Director, Kevin Bradley, who said, "We hope to convert Bishop Ralph to a local club in the very near future."



Sale in Aid of St Wilfrid's

Everyone at St Wilfrid's was delighted to welcome Bernadette Shepherd from St Vincent's Parish to the Centre recently. Bernadette presented a cheque for £620, proceeds of a Table Top Sale she held in aid of St Wilfrid's. Bernadette had spent a day volunteering at the Centre late last year and was very keen to do more to help the homeless and vulnerable people who attend. She is pictured below (on the right) with a couple of clients presenting the cheque to St Wilfrid's Welfare Manager, Louise Finnigan.



With a Lidl Help From Our Friends!

St Wilfrid's offer a big thank you to Lidl, Chesterfield Road who have for the past two years been donating surplus food products to the Centre for the homeless and vulnerable on Queens Road. This has truly been a great benefit to the Centre, particularly in these difficult times. Managers from the store recently came on a tour of the Centre and have pledged their continued support.

ART EXHIBITION IN JOHN LEWIS

During September, to the delight of St Wilfrid's Centre Art Group, an exhibition of their artwork was displayed in John Lewis, Sheffield. It was on show in the 'Place to Eat' within the store.

The group produced individual works of art on the theme of 'The Best Thing I Ever Learnt'. Pictured below are members of the Art Group with tutor Rachel and volunteer Doreen.



OLD MEMORIES OF ST MARIE'S PLEASE

Deacon Bill Burleigh is midway through writing Part Two of his History of St Marie's Cathedral and Parish. This volume will cover 1850 - 1950.

Deacon Bill has reached the 1920s, 1930s and the Second World War. He looking to interview anyone who has memories or pictures from these times, maybe through the stories your parents or grandparents told. Deacon Bill is happy to come and talk with you and listen to your memories. He thanks those who have already contributed and looks forward to drawing together many sets of memories to tell the story of the cathedral parish as it was back then when Catholic life in the city was so different from today.

Also, if anyone has any copies of the St Marie's monthly parish magazine that was produced until the 1950s, he'd love to look at them. Deacon Bill is on 0114 2462367 or bill.burleigh1@btinternet.com.

De la Salle Association Rambling Club

The De La Salle Association Rambling Club have organised one walk for this month which will take place on Sunday 12 October.

Meet at 10.30am at the junction of Common Lane and Ringinglow Road (grid ref 310841) for a 5.5 mile walk with excellent, panoramic views.

The route is via Ringinglow, Limb Valley, Whirlow Bridge, Ecclesall Woods, Whirlow Farm, Castle Dyke and returning to Ringinglow. There will be a lunch stop at Ecclesall Woodland Discovery Centre.

It will be easy walking with very few stiles and a short climb near the end of the walk.

The leaders are Glen and Jim Webb, telephone 0114 2367223, mobile 0772 0057070.



DEANERY MASS WITH BISHOP RALPH



Bishop Ralph recently celebrated a Deanery Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Rotherham. Students and staff from St. Bernard's Catholic High School, Rotherham helped with the logistical plans for the evening. Bishop Ralph was photographed with students, who are part of a group from the school which will be travelling to Lesotho, South Africa next year to help with a school maintenance project there.

Bishop Ralph Visits St Vincent's Furniture Store

On Friday, 15 August Bishop Ralph made the first of what the team at St Vincent's Furniture Store hope will be many visits to the Furniture Store. Bishop Ralph viewed a presentation and was given a tour of the Store. Volunteers and members of staff met and chatted to Bishop Ralph over sandwiches and cake.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Catholic Men's Society continue with their fundraising efforts sponsoring a Rock n Roll night with The Cadillac's, at the Catholic Men's Society Club Rooms, Solly Street, Sheffield on Friday, 24 October. The evening will start at 7 pm with the Francis Cassidy Irish Dancers followed by a Pie n Pea Supper. Tickets £8.50. The proceeds will be for St Vincent's Furniture Store charity, helping vulnerable people out of homelessness in providing donated furniture and household items to over 2500 clients each year.

HEALING MASS



Our Lady of Lourdes, Hackenthorpe, welcomed the Liverpool Advent Healing Ministry Team for the third year of very kindly travelling to Sheffield to minister to those in need of healing. Preparation for this evening included five holy hours of prayer each Monday evening leading up to the event. During a celebration of Mass, Fr Peter Morgan gave an inspiring homily helping people to open their hearts to God's healing love. After the Mass, Fr Bob and Fr David ministered to those seeking healing from sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For many this naturally led to them coming forward to pray with lay people and priests who work together as members of the Healing Team.

Prayers were offered and gentle and encouraging words were shared with people themselves, or people dear to them. Many were helped that night. Later over refreshments there was a chance to chat and share. The Parish Priest at Hackenthorpe, Fr Paul O'Hara, commented, "The church was full and all the people who came for prayer received many blessings, which was noted by others who could see the look of joy on their faces. Simple things like not being able to sleep through worry of illness were healed and they were able to now enjoy restful, healing periods of sleep. And of course many people's faith was renewed and strengthened through the healing and Sacrament of Reconciliation."

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Thanksgiving Mass for Bishop John

A pictorial record of the celebration of Mass on Friday, 5 September at St Marie's Cathedral to give thanks for Bishop John's 17 years of service in the Diocese of Hallam

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Thanksgiving Mass for Bishop John



St Vincent's CMS Catholic Club
Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BA

Friday 3rd October 2014:
Social Evening & Bingo at 8.30 p.m.

Friday 10th October 2014:
Live Music evening with Reverb at 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday 28th October 2014:
Irish Night with The Shamrock Band at 8.30 p.m.

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Photographs on pages 8 and 9 courtesy of Bob Rae

MARRIAGE 5

The next instalment of the Articles on Marriage presented by Charles and Jane Perryman considers Marriage as a Covenant

In the previous articles we have written, we have described some of the ways that married couples deepen their love for and their commitment to their spouse. We have talked of how couples should be respectful and make requests of their partner not demands; of how we need to value each other; and for the need to listen to one another and to forgive one another. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council back in 1965 described marriage as, "The intimate partnership of married life and love (that) has been established by the Creator and qualified by His laws, ... is rooted in the conjugal covenant of irrevocable personal consent". The key word in this description is "covenant". Marriage is a covenant type of relationship. What does that mean to us in terms of our everyday lives together?

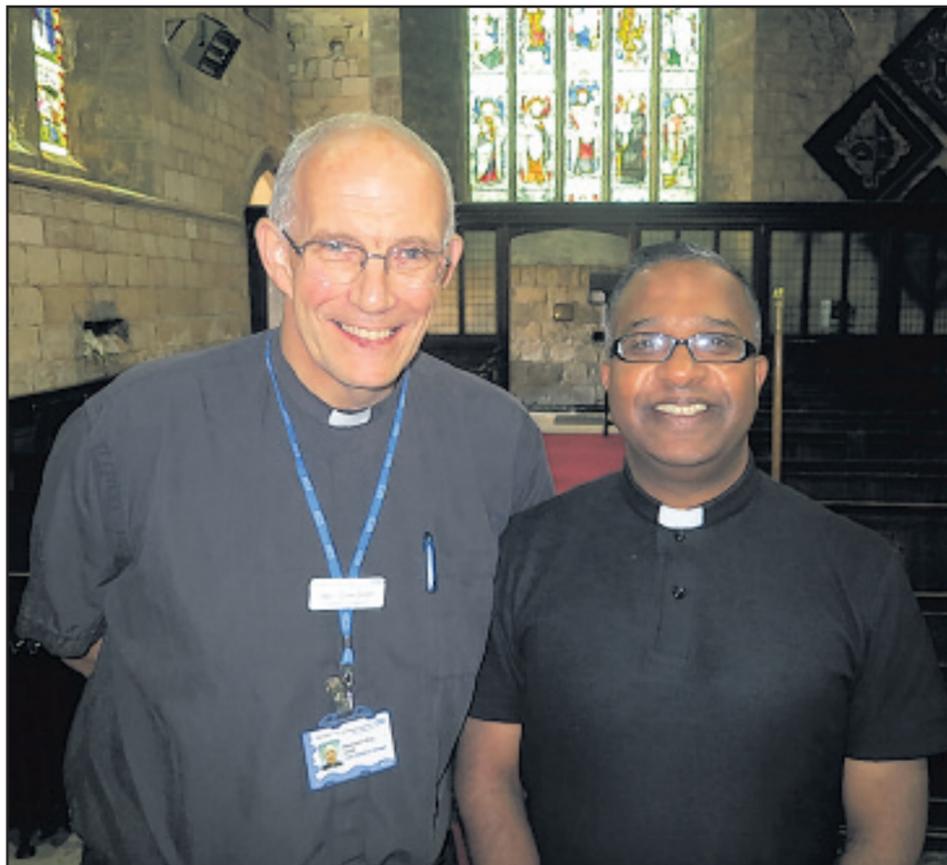
In the Old Testament, when God made the Covenant with the Israelites on Sinai it was a relationship, an alliance, an agreement which, for the Israelites, encompassed the whole of their lives. The positive aspect of the covenant relationship embodied in the love of man and woman is expressed very powerfully in the Song of Songs where the desire for unity and intimacy is described in a series of vivid love poems. Throughout biblical history, God remained faithful to this covenant in the face of repeated backsliding by the Israelites. The history of the Old Testament is that of God sending Prophet after Prophet to remind the Israelites of the covenant and to call them back to the true worship of their God. This is seen most vividly in the life of the prophet Hosea. That is the negative side. In the end the Israelites tried to fulfil their covenant obligations through keeping to the letter of the Law.

It was this legalism that Jesus challenged time after time. In the new covenant based on Christ's self-sacrificing love the example of marriage is used by St Paul to illustrate the intimate love between Christ and His Church. When we see married couples being faithful to each other throughout their lives; when we see them deepening their intimacy through listening to

each other, forgiving each other when hurts arise, bringing new life into the world and trying consistently to co-operate with Christ living with them, then we get a glimpse of what the love of Christ for His Church is like. To take one of these characteristics, what do we mean by being faithful to one another throughout our lives? This is not just about not having an extra-marital sexual relationship. We are called to be faithful by nurturing our marriages continually so that our intimacy grows day by day. There are lots of pressures on married couples that tend to pull them apart. Faithfulness entails ensuring that our marriage relationship comes first in our order of priorities. It means being loyal to one another – not criticising our spouse in front of others. It means that when we recognise that our relationship is drifting we take action to bring it back to centre-stage. Above all it means not indulging in activities in order to get recognition or satisfaction when they are in short supply in our own relationships.

If you can get past the often obscure ecclesiastical language, the teaching documents of the church provide great insight into the beauty of marriage. What they don't do, is to tell us how we go about living up to the great ideals that they set before us. The work of some social psychologists over the last 25 years or so have helped to develop a clear explanation of how and why some relationships thrive and some don't and what we can do about it. It is our opinion that these ideas are entirely consistent with an understanding of marriage as a covenant.

We have been asked to lead what we are calling a "conversation" about marriage at the Mother of God Parish Hall, Abbeydale Road, Sheffield S7 1DX at 7.30 pm on 15 October (please see page 2 for details). What we hope to do is to develop a few of the ideas we have written about in order to stimulate some discussion in small groups about how these ideas play out in our lives. We hope that many of you reading this will come along and join in the conversation.





St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

An interesting and rewarding opportunity has arisen to become a development officer for the Hallam SVP Society.

The part time position entails working with the Central Council in recruiting volunteers for the Society and establishing new conferences in parishes at present without an SVP presence.

Previous experience in the voluntary sector will be of benefit but is not essential. Good communication skills and an ability to work according to the principles of the society is desirable. Training will be given.

This is a part time position with a negotiable salary and a mileage allowance is provided.

In the first instance please write giving details of previous experience and suitability, to the below named. A Job description will be sent on receipt of an application.

Applications please to Mr P.G. Walsh, 116, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster, DN 4 0DS.

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2014

Simplicity at the Heart of Church Growth

The results of a national Catholic evangelisation project give a unique insight into what is attracting people to the Catholic Faith.

Beauty and art, using Catholic signs and symbols; use of everyday language and offering opportunities for a one-to-one with someone of faith, are just some of the simple and effective means and methods of evangelisation that have been identified through the work of the 'Crossing the Threshold' project. An initiative of the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, chaired by Bishop Kieran Conry, the project was set up to explore ways that ministry and outreach to non churchgoing Catholics could be developed.

Bishop Conry explained,

"We know from our work that many people would like to reconnect with their Catholic practice, but sometimes they perceive that even trivial obstacles prevent them from taking this step. A recurrent concern among Mass going Catholics is how to reach out to them - family members and friends - who seem distant from the life of the Church and faith. This project tries to positively identify simple and practical ways that we can help, and it has received a significant amount of interest."

The Bishops' Conference Home Mission Desk has been working with diocesan and parish teams to explore what kind of outreach activities appeal to those who have little or no contact with parish life. Five teams engaged in a breadth of activities.

All the participating parishes reported that Mass attendance had increased. All the teams saw people return to the practice of their faith; it helped to create a culture of evangelisation in the parish and parishioners' confidence to evangelise increased.

The 'Crossing the Threshold' project has also included: the creation of a national core group for this area of ministry; the organisation of a diocesan leaders' day; a national resource tour covering six locations; the offering of new materials about the Sacrament of Reconciliation; the creation of new multi-media resources. The full complement of materials is gradually being published online at: www.cbcew.org.uk/home-mission.

Chaplains Reflect



On 1 July there was a Day of Reflection for Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals Chaplaincy staff and volunteers at St Mary and St Martin's Priory Church, Blyth.

The day was led by Rev Philip Roderick, Advisor to the Bishop of Sheffield

on Spirituality and Community Leader at the Diocese of Sheffield.

Pictured on the left are Rev Clive Smith, Trust Chaplaincy Manager (left), and Fr Joseph Aylookunnel, Chaplain, and above, members of the group who attended the day.

LOOKING AHEAD - St Marie's Cathedral Concert Series



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Thank You for Sponsoring Us for Multiple Sclerosis!!



Mark Wiseman & Helen Layton
Cycling from Aylesford to Paris

Leaving the Friars, Aylesford

Arriving in Paris

If you could spare anything, however small, we would be so grateful!

All money goes to the Multiple Sclerosis Society

To everyone that contributed to the London to Paris bike ride, thank you!

We received an overwhelming response from people who donated, shared stories and prayed for our safety and success. The letters that many people sent us, along with their donations, gave us an insight into the pain, suffering and struggle people go through in their lives when faced with MS on a daily basis. These stories were so moving and gave the team a greater sense of determination as we faced strong winds, torrential rain and numerous hills.

We faced so many more challenges than we had envisaged. The hills and the amount of time on a saddle were a struggle at times along with battling the elements and map reading! We also felt overwhelmed at times by people's generosity as the money came in thicker and faster on the approach to the Eiffel Tower.

On three occasions, when Mark and I had cycled up a particularly difficult hill and were tired, we were met by a statue of Our Lady. This was just miraculous as it happened 3 times and we were the only ones to have noticed her. What a blessing.

But we made it and our journey could not have been complete without you. We could not have done this without you and thank you so very much for the part you played in this journey. We have raised over £1600 for the MS Society so far. We pray that the money raised will help the MS Society to continue providing those with MS, with the services and support they so desperately need. **THANKYOU!!!**

To donate please go to www.justgiving.org and search for "Helen Layton" or send cheques to: Helen Layton, CathCom Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7BN





Hallam Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission
 Newsletter – September 2014 (Issue 8/2014)



CAFOD – Gaza Campaign

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/Gaza-campaign>

Add your voice to those of our sisters and brothers in Gaza and Israel and call on Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond for renewed efforts towards a just and lasting peace.

More than 1,900 people have been killed and more than 10,000 injured, many of them children. More than 425,000 people have been forced from their homes. Water, electricity and sewage systems are barely able to function.

We can't continue to watch this cycle of violence in Gaza and Israel.

The UK government must do all it can to secure a lasting ceasefire and push for long-term measures to end the suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis.

Please email or write to Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond now, to call on our government to act urgently to stop the violence – now and in the long-term.

Sample email/letter:

I am writing to you out of deep concern at the situation that we are currently witnessing in Gaza. I deplore the violence against civilians on all sides.

The scale of human tragedy is immense and as each day passes more innocent civilians are being killed, injured and forced from their homes. This adds yet more pressure on a region which has already seen decades of suffering.

The UK government can and should do more to stop the violence and build a lasting peace.

I am calling on you to:

- *push for a lasting and comprehensive ceasefire by all parties and humanitarian access to the Gaza strip.*
- *work with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to agree long-term measures to end the suffering and deal with the root causes of the conflict, including an end to the occupation of Palestinian territory, to the building of settlements and to the closure of Gaza.*

Alongside people across the country, I am praying for a just and lasting peace in this region and am sure that this is your goal too. I implore you to do all you can to push for restraint on all sides and protection of the lives of women, men and children.



"For the love of it" - a new CAFOD campaign
Friday 17 October
 Event in McAuley School Doncaster, with MPs Caroline Flint, Ed Milliband and a speaker from Peru.
<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/climate-action>

Climate Change Conference
Saturday 8 November 2014
 9.30am to 12.30pm at Hallam Pastoral Centre, St Charles St, S9 3WU
 More details to follow.
Hallam Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission

Peace is humanity, respect, open dialogue

I Shall Not Hate narrates Izzeldin Abueleish's experience of growing up in the Gaza strip, from his childhood in the Jabalia Refugee Camp until the fateful day in 2009 when three of his beloved daughters and a niece were blown up by Israeli fire on his home.

"This catastrophe of the deaths of my daughters and niece has strengthened my thinking, deepened my belief about how to bridge the divide. I understand down to my bones that violence is futile. It is a waste of time, lives, and resources, and has been proven only to beget more violence. It does not work. It just perpetuates a vicious cycle. There's only one way to bridge the divide, to live together, to realise the goals of two peoples: we have to find the light to guide us to our goal. I'm not talking about the light of religious faith here, but light as a symbol of truth. The light that allows you to see, to clear away the fog – to find wisdom. To find the light of truth, you have to talk to, listen to, and respect each other. Instead of wasting energy on hatred, use it to open your eyes and see what's really going on. Surely, if we can see the truth, we can live side by side."

"I believe in coexistence, not endless cycles of revenge and retribution."

- 1 Peace is humanity; peace is respect; peace is open dialogue. Peace is not the absence of anything because that just puts it in a negative light. Let's be positive about what peace is – rather than what it is not.
- 2 The absence of war does not mean there is peace. Is a person who is ill at peace? Is a person filled with confusion and doubt (and fear) at peace? Do all countries that do not engage in outright war live in peace?
- 3 Hate is blindness and leads to irrational thinking and behaviour. It is a chronic, severe and destructive sickness.
- 4 Hatred may be reversible if we allow it.
- 5 Anger is not the same as hate.
- 6 Anger can be productive. Feel the anger, acknowledge it, but let it be accompanied by change. Let it propel you toward necessary action for the betterment of yourself and others.
- 7 We do not merely accept what is happening around us. We all have the potential to be agents of change.
- 8 I have every faith in women and their potential. Women, by their very nature, bring people together. It is time for women to take the lead. We need to give them every opportunity to be educated and have the chance to act on what they know is best for all humanity.
- 9 When your core values align with your heart, they become non-negotiable. If this is your guide, you can make decisions with the utmost integrity.
- 10 If you always base your judgements on truth, you will earn respect and trust.
- 11 To be seen by others as trustworthy, is one of the greatest gifts you can receive.
- 12 Judging people based on another's assessment of them does not leave you open enough to consider other possibilities.
- 13 By exploiting other's weakness, you are missing the opportunity to see the great contributions they are capable of making.
- 14 Our children's dreams can continue to be manifested through the success of others when we put the opportunities in place for them.
- 15 Trust children's opinions. They are the most likely to speak the truth and far less likely to have a personal agenda.
- 16 Good ideas become great ones when shared with others.
- 17 It is not enough to sow the seeds of wisdom; we are called to action if we are to reap a bountiful harvest.
- 18 Whatever you do, if it is done with a sincere heart and for the betterment of others, things are more likely to fall into place (and) happen as you envision it.

Conflict is normal in human relationships and conflict is a meter for change. John Lederach	I always wondered WHY SOMEBODY didn't do something about that. Then I realized ... I am SOMEBODY.	Newsletter Contact person for information: Liam Harron; Tel: 01909 586719 or email lgha@btinternet.com
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Attention Catholic Schools!

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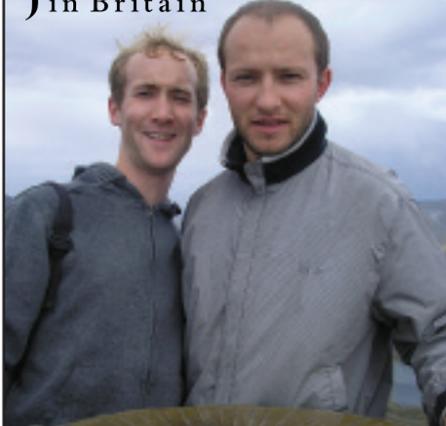
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