

Hallam News

October 2015

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FREE

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I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME



Offering Hope to People in Prison

Many prisoners (as many as one in four) in a Youth Offenders' Institution are held in conditions bordering on solitary confinement, spending 23 hours out of 24 confined to their cells according to the Howard League for Prison Reform.

This is widespread in our prisons as reported by HM Chief Inspector in his report on Rochester YOI in February this year, and by the Prison Reform Trust in their report 'Strangeways 25 years On' in March. Against this background, prayer groups become very difficult to organise, and prisoners struggle on their own. Roman Catholic Prison Chaplains are begging for Bibles and other catechetical resources to support the prisoners in their care in their journey of faith, a faith reawakened by their time inside and away from home.

"Thank you for the Bible. It is beautiful and has helped me with my faith. It has been a long journey and it has put me on the track to rightness, faith, hope and goodness." Mark, HMP Isle of Wight.

Catholic Truth Society Prison Appeal 2015

The Catholic Truth Society launched its Prison Appeal 2015 at Easter this year with an Appeal to Members and Supporters of CTS. So far £12,000 has been raised of the target of £30,000 by Christmas 2015. Visit [http://www.ctsbooks.org/filedepository/appeals/prison%20appeal%20\(i%20interactive\).pdf](http://www.ctsbooks.org/filedepository/appeals/prison%20appeal%20(i%20interactive).pdf) for donations to the CTS Prison Appeal 2015 via the CTS website. Visit <http://campaign.just-giving.com/charity/catholictruthsociety/prisonappeal> for the leaflet which tells you more about the appeal and other ways of donating to the CTS Prison Appeal 2015.



A number of Catholic Agencies offer support to prisoners and their families. Caritas is one of them. Caritas works for the most vulnerable people of society across England and Wales, providing support for families and children, the elderly, the homeless, refugees, the disabled and prisoners.

The SVP offers support to people in prison.

Pact is a national charity which supports people affected by imprisonment. Pact offers practical and emotional support to prisoners' children and their families and to prisoners themselves.

Below is Brian's account of the help he received from Pact and the effect it had on him.

For many people coming out of prison can be a lonely and frightening experience. Without the adequate assistance of family or friends, many fall back into old patterns and end up replicating a cycle of crime and imprisonment over and over.

For the occasion of Prisoners' Sunday, 11 October, Pact has interviewed Brian, a past beneficiary of Basic Caring Communities, a resettlement project made of four volunteers who put their faith into action to help an ex offender after release.

Brian, how did you get to know about Basic Caring Communities when you were in prison?

It was two weeks before my release, the chaplain came up to me and asked if I would be interested in having someone to meet out in the community. I took grip on the offer because I was a single man, with no family, nobody that would come meet me at the gate. It seemed a good option for me.

How was your experience with Basic Caring Communities?

If I have to be honest, the first couple of weeks it was the incentives rewarded to me that enticed me to go to the meetings. But after the second week I started to look forward to go to the meetings because of the people. It was nice to be able to speak to 'normal' persons who were out of the system and away from anything else that was going on. I was in supported housing with likeminded people who went through drugs and alcohol like me. It was good to be able to get out from that.

Obviously I would gravitate more towards the two gentlemen of the group because of the football, more things in common to talk about, but the two ladies were also really nice and supportive.

How long did they support you for?

They supported me for the full 12 weeks. And I must tell you that two of them now, after two years, are still really good friends of mine, and one of them I see on a regular basis once or twice a week.

Do you feel that you were prepared to be out in the world on your own after those 12 weeks?

Not exactly, you have to understand that it takes much longer to be able to stand on one's feet after prison, but having that initial support helped me to change my way of thinking and reacting.

How do you think it would have been without the support of the Basic Caring Communities group?

I would be back in prison. The environment you live in becomes a problem for people like me, there were many issues coming up. Many times I felt like I was hitting the bottom. It was a Pact volunteer, a good friend of mine that would come and see me every week and keep me from giving everything up again. It would have only been a question of time before I'd be back on the streets, robbing, doing everything I used to do and start the process again.

At this time, after two years, I've not engaged in any crime, I've abstained from drugs and alcohol. I'm in college doing counselling course, doing English GCSE; I am also working with Pact, I just got a new position with them, so all is really good. Last month I also was received into the Catholic Church. This journey of Faith is something which the people at Pact have been a key factor in; I am immensely grateful.



Brian

What would you like to say to other people like you who are considering joining a Basic Caring Communities group?

I'd tell them that they must remember not to put too many expectations upon the volunteer and be ready to do their part. Pact gives you a safe and friendly group of people that you can contact and you can phone on a daily basis and, although all these things seem small in their ways, they do help you. Many times the environment you're in is the ultimate cause that brings you to achieving failure, so having someone separate from that was for me a huge and important help and so it will be for others.

If you want to learn more about the work of Pact and the opportunities to put your faith into action and volunteer in Basic Caring Communities or in other projects, please visit <http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>.

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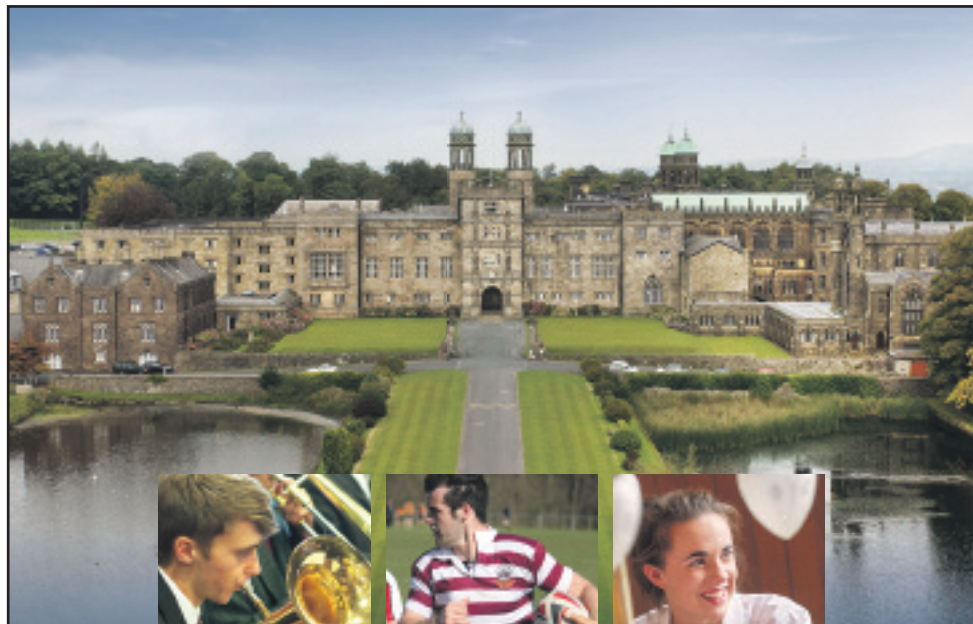
What's on in October

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| <p>1 Deadline for articles for next issue of the <i>Hallam News</i>.</p> <p>3 Hallam Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission Autumn Conference, 9.30am-12.30pm at Hallam Pastoral Centre, with Bishop Ralph and speakers on 'Reaching out to our neighbours of other faiths'. To book contact Helen Donlan at helen.donlan@btinternet.com or 0114 2665474.</p> <p>7 Hallam Ascent Group meet at the Assisi Hall, St Francis of Assisi, 277 Sandygate Road, Sheffield, S10 5SD, 1.45-3.45pm, for a talk given by Dominic Baster, 'Why I became a Catholic'. For more details telephone 0114 2306797 or 0114 2304633, ascent@jngreen.plus.com, or visit the website: http://hallamascent.weebly.com.</p> <p>10 'Rock n Roll' Night in aid of the SVP Furniture Store, Sheffield, with The Cadillacs, 7pm at De La Salle Association Club, Beauchief, with pie and pea supper (vegetarian option available). Tickets £10, telephone 0114 270 3994 or 0114 274 8764.</p> <p>13 Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refresh</p> | <p>14 Irish Tea Dance at the new venue, Philadelphia Club, Martin Street, Upperthorpe, Sheffield, S6 3DP, 1-3pm with live music. For more details please contact Gerry on 0114 2618788 or 07544979686.</p> <p>14 Chesterfield Bereavement Support Group Drop-in/coffee morning, 10.30am-12noon, The Annunciation Centre, Chesterfield.</p> <p>17 Diocesan Mission and Unity Autumn Event at Blessed Trinity, Wickersley, 10am-12.30pm, topic 'Christians of South Yorkshire - keep calm and carry on'. For more details call Roy Dyson, 07711182324.</p> <p>19 Ordinariate Mass, 11am at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hackenthorpe, S12 4HJ, setting 'John Merbecke', followed by lunch if required at the Phoenix Inn, Ridgeway, S12 3XF.</p> <p>27 Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield.</p> |
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DE LA SALLE ASSOCIATION RAMBLING CLUB

Meet at 10.30am on Sunday, 18 October at the free car park on Riverside Way, S44 6GA, grid ref 461706, for a 5 mile walk via Peter Fidler Commemorative Stone, Carr Vale Nature Reserve, Sutton Scarsdale Hall, New Bolsover Model Colliery Village. This is an easy walk through open countryside with good views and few stiles.

Leader Jim Webb, tel: 0114 2367223, mobile: 0772 0057070. The November walk is another 5 mile route on Sunday, 15th. Meet at the car park at the entrance to Rother Valley Park on Rother Valley Way at 10.30am for a flat walk with no stiles. Leaders Viv and Frank Bussey, tel: 0114 2481195, mobile: 0796 0615174.



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Saturday October 10th (Prep: ages 3-13)

Saturday November 7th (Senior: ages 13-18)

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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. It is Diocesan policy NOT to publish photographs of individual children accompanied by their name.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Month

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

4 Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe.
 11 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bentley.
 18 Blessed Trinity, Wickersley.
 25 St Thomas More, Sheffield.

Details of more events on page 9

DIOCESE OF HALLAM

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Led by: Rt Rev Ralph Heskett

Monday 7th March to Monday 14th March

TANGNEY TOURS





Pilgrimage will include visits to all major religious sites. Flights from Manchester with Easyjet
 Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Sea of Galilee.
 2 nights accommodation - Jerusalem
 3 nights accommodation - Bethlehem
 2 nights accommodation - Galilee

PRICE: £1,300 per person based on 2 people sharing (price based on minimum 40 passengers)
 Price includes full board accommodation, entrance fees, portage and tips to driver and courier. Full services of English speaking guide. Headsets and bottles of water supplied daily. Extra charges:

Single Rooms	£255.00
Travel Insurance	£60.00

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING FORM:
 Joe McNally - Tel: 0114 236 4076
 OR Call Didina at Tangney Tours






www.tangney-tours.com Tel: 01733 68 66 66 Fax: 01733 68 68 66



Diocese of Hallam Pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Bishop Ralph – 7 to 14 March 2016

Bishop Ralph plans to lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land early next year. The Pilgrimage will depart from Manchester to Tel Aviv on 7 March and return on 14 March.

The pilgrims will spend two nights in Jerusalem, 3 nights in Bethlehem and 2 nights in Tiberias. The pilgrimage will follow closely the footsteps of the Master and will include visits to the Basilica of the Nativity, the Shepherds' Fields, the Pools of Bethesda, St Anne's Church, the Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount of Olives, Dominus Flevit and the Garden of Gethsemane. We would also hope to visit and share Masses with local Christians. Pilgrims will have daily Mass and we hope to again be able to arrange Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

There is full board accommodation throughout the pilgrimage. The all-inclusive cost of the above is £1300 per person.

For those considering travelling, early booking is advised to avoid surcharges. Visiting the Holy Land is more than a personal Pilgrimage. Your presence there gives hope, comfort and support to our Brothers and Sisters who suffer daily for their faith. Do consider joining the Pilgrimage.

Those wishing to have further information with regard to this pilgrimage or those who wish to travel as pilgrims should contact the organiser Joe McNally; by e-mail: joegmcnally@btinternet.com or by telephone: 0114 236 4076 or mobile: 07891072858.

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FAITH IN THE FAMILY EVENTS



This spring the Diocesan Assembly Committee held two events aimed at helping and supporting families and family life.

In April, Caroline Dollard, from the National Marriage and Family Life Project, gave the keynote talk at the first event at Ecclesfield School, Sheffield.

Caroline referred to Pope Francis' commitment to the family shown by his establishing of the present Synod in Rome. She said that there is a chasm between the Church's perception of family and the everyday reality. It can sometimes seem that the Church sees a family ideal which is unachievable and this can be discouraging for lay people. We need to recognise that family life is usually far from ideal but that, regardless of this, the work of the Lord Jesus is going on within the family; in fact Jesus and the family cannot be separated. We should not be afraid of a less than perfect reality within our families but should look to find God in our everyday lives because there is no doubt that God is there and that what we may see as messy and far from ideal is, in fact, us playing our part in God's plan. Parents are, after all, the first and best teachers of faith in God. Within families we should strive to speak the Christian language of love for each other and love for scripture and liturgy. This is done more by example than by any type of formal teaching. 'Peace be with you' is learned more by a kiss or embrace than by hearing the words. Children often do not need words to grasp religious ideas or big questions.



Scripture is the Word of God and is the source of life and spirituality for the family which should be 'church' at home. Church is not just a building but a group of people who gather together in the presence of the Lord Jesus. There can be no better example of this meaning of Church than the family where acts of selfless love regularly occur but in an unselfconscious way. God told Moses to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Often when we enter a home we take our shoes off. We may do this to protect carpets but it should also mark our recognition that a home is holy ground just as much as the ground Moses stood on.

Problems will arise within families and make us feel that God is a long way from us or absent altogether. God, however, has promised to be present in all situations including unsafe and uncaring ones.

The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales is working to explore and bridge the gap between the Church's representation of the ideal family and the reality. It has listened to the views

of families across the UK and has developed a framework based on this listening. This framework is centred on Christ and the Gospel and seeks to identify needs and opportunities at every stage of life within the family from tiny child to grand parent. The fundamental view underpinning this framework is that the family, whether nuclear or extended, is the place when the human person is nurtured to full maturity. The framework does not see perfection but instead sees God's grace at work in families in a steady and reassuring way.

On 9 May Jilian Wilce from Plymouth Diocese was the speaker at the second event at McCauley School in Doncaster. She continued to develop the theme of holiness in everyday family life.

We imagine that somewhere is the perfect family who always get it right and who are truly holy. They all love each other perfectly, pray together every day and never have a cross word. We, however, may feel that our family life falls short of this ideal and is inadequate in terms of holiness. We try hard and feel that one day we might achieve true holiness but not for some time yet. We should not feel like this - our homes are holy now, not at some time in the future. Holiness is not about saying prayers and going to Church, it exists in the untidiness of everyday family life. We are being holy when we clean the loo, look after a relative, get up night after night to comfort an upset child, deal with yet another load of washing, mend a dripping tap, stand watching children's sport or give help when we could do with some help ourselves. Holiness exists in these daily family tasks because they reflect love and God is present in our love. God does not just come to us in the smooth quiet things but in the rough and smelly things as well.

Being holy is recognising that God is with us every moment of our existence especially in the messiness and conflicts of our family life. If we cannot see holiness in this it is because of a limited understanding of what holiness means. God is present in all creation and God comes to us in every part of our real lives and not just when we are praying or in church. All the things we do are the pieces of mosaic that make up the floor of the Kingdom of God.

Relationships within the family reflect God's relationship with us. God is the potter and we are the clay. We may feel that we are unlikely clay because our home life can seem rough, colourless and jagged round the edges but it actually contains something of tremendous value. We need to recognise and affirm that our homes are the domestic church of Jesus Christ.



A major concern to many Catholic parents is that their children have left the Church and their grand children are never going to experience Jesus. These parents feel they have failed to pass the faith on to the next generation; but what is faith? Jesus saw it as trust in him and love of him and of neighbour. He invited his disciples to follow him and be like him. Grown up children may not go to church but their parents have still passed on the faith in that their children are good, charitable and loving people even though they do not practice formal religion. Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love. The essence of family life must be communication and joy. In this context joy is not all about having a laugh but about the contentment that comes from normal, messy family life.

At both events, those who attended



discussed in small groups how the values of Gospel are expressed in everyday family life. These discussions emphasised the importance of demonstrating Christian values of love for God and neighbour within families so that children see these values as part of life. The display of Christian symbols, such as crucifixes, was seen as important. Parents need to make time to be with children. The pressures on young people to reject religion are very real and hard to deal with. Older family members should respond by being steadfast in their own faith whilst doing what they can to help young people cope with these challenges. They should also respond by prayer and by maintaining relationships with family members who have ceased to practice the faith. After a time away it can be difficult to return to Church and families must make clear that they are supportive and the door is always open. We are the children of a loving and merciful God and it is never too late. The second event concluded with a short liturgy in which each person blessed the person next to them by making the sign of the cross of each of their hands with holy water whilst saying; "May God bless the work of your hands, the love of your heart, your hope and your faith. Amen." Find further information and materials regarding Faith in the Family at www.catholicfamily.org.uk.



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God in Friend and Stranger Fr Don Stoker

The lounge bar at the Scarborough Arms was almost empty and I must have been deep in conversation for I hadn't seen him come in. There he stood, all 6' 4" of him, a hooded figure with a long flowing robe, towering over the barman who he seemed to be questioning. Open-mouthed, my first impression was 'the return of the Mummy' but as he turned around to exit his gentle expression spurred me to ask him what he was looking for. In a few words he explained he was one of a group of six Muslims engaged on a peace pilgrimage, walking from place to place, meeting people and trying to spread the message that Islam was a religion of peace. With only a support vehicle to carry their luggage they were relying on people's good will to find shelter and somewhere to unroll their sleeping bags each night. Intrigued, I jotted his name 'Suleiman' ('like the wise son of King David', he laughed) and his mobile number on a beer mat and told him I would ring him back if I found somewhere for the next night.

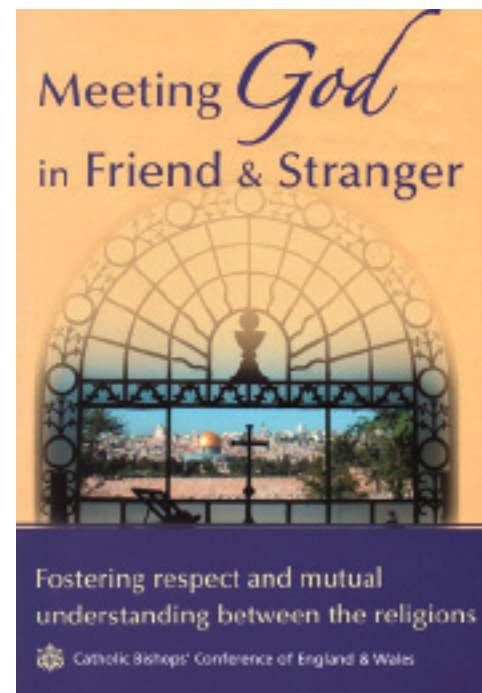
Well, the local Methodists turned up trumps and I was able to visit and meet all six pilgrims the following afternoon in the cosy space of the vestry, and it was a visit that did not disappoint. The first lesson was one of welcome. They all rose from their places on the carpet to greet me and introduce themselves. Then they found me

a chair and quickly served me tea and a plate with biscuits, nuts and lychees which they showed me how to peel. Before I could produce the box of chocolates I had bought on the way, they beat me to it and presented me with their box together with a copy of 'The Quran made easy'. I was truly the honoured guest.

Next to sink in was the seriousness of their project. Pilgrimage for me conjures up well organised trips in summer weather to places such as Lourdes and Rome, where devotions and prayers are sensibly balanced by good food and comfortable hotels. But here were these men all in their woolly caps and an overcoat to cover their pyjama-like shalwar kameez, braving the winter weather not for a week but for the four darkest months of the year. All had come from the same mosque in Birmingham. They had all left family, friends and work. Suleiman, the big African from Gambia, was a chaplain in the Children's Hospital. Yusuf, a real 'brummie', was a civil engineer with his own company: he reckoned the four month trip was costing him about £10,000 in lost earnings. Another who turned out to be 79 years old left me wondering how he coped with sleeping on the floor. They all burst out laughing when I asked if there was a 'snorer' in the group: there was evidently more than one.

Somebody must have been keeping an

eye on the time for after a while we halted and I sat quietly while they took up positions for one of their five daily prayers: 'God is the greatest'. I had noticed earlier during the conversation how several were running beads through their fingers and when I asked them how they prayed they told of the litany of the Ninety-nine Beautiful Names of God. Another time someone produced a bottle of 'holy water' from Mecca. Next day as I joined them for a couple of hours on their walk to Rotherham, I was struck again by their dedication as we began by praying for all the people we would meet, those who would welcome us and those who might be hostile (not unlikely in the light of the recent scandals involving Pakistani men). There was also a childlike simplicity in the way the group accepted reminders about good behaviour while walking, 'waiting for the little green man', giving way to oncoming pedestrians. Making my way back home after saying goodbye it struck me that these men of a different faith to mine were effective channels of peace. My Methodist friends had welcomed them as genuine pilgrims, they had been given free coffee and met local people in Tickhill parish rooms before starting their walk, a Catholic parish priest had offered them his parish hall for the next night ... They were certainly sending out positive vibes. As for me,



I was still faced with preparing my homily on the awkward readings for the Third Sunday: what to say about 'those who have wives should live as though they had none ... those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own ...' And what about those first disciples in the Gospel who go off leaving their poor father in the boat? How counter-cultural, how impractical in this day and age! And yet, not impossible: for I had just met some people who had done it.

For further information about Interfaith in our diocese, please contact Deacon Andrew Crowley at stpatlan-etop@gmail.com.

RUNNING FOR ST VINCENT'S FURNITURE STORE



Following last year's hiccup the Sheffield Half Marathon was revamped for 2015. There were new organisers, a new course and a brand new wave of excitement and enthusiasm.

Fr Andrew Browne, Vicky Gould and Marie Grant had all completed the 'Marathon that never was' last year. They had done so in aid of St Vincent's Furniture Store and had all agreed to take on the challenge again this year. Unfortunately due to ill health, Vicky had to withdraw, however Fr Andrew and Marie braved the new, hilly course and both finished with very good times.

The fantastic amount of £1173 was raised in sponsorship money for the Furniture Store and this money has already gone towards buying ten single and five double beds for families in need.

The Management Committee, Staff, Volunteers and the Clients at St Vincent's Furniture Store are indebted to Fr Andrew, Vicky and Marie and they have all promised to run again in 2016.

Fr Andrew has invited anyone who is interested in taking part in the Marathon next year to join them. If you are interested and would like to run for this very good cause please contact the Store on 0114 2703990.

Pictured above, Fr Andrew, Vicky and Marie hand over the 'Big Cheque' to the Furniture Store, with Ralph Dickins, Fundraiser, Sheilagh Preston, Management Committee Member, John Vear, Treasurer, Mike O'Callaghan, Chair and Lorraine Healy, Manager.

Real Life Heroes at St Marie's School

Year 2H were delighted when Lorraine from St Vincent's Furniture Store dropped in to tell them all about the work that goes on at the Store.

The visit coincided with a project that the class have been doing on Heroes and as part of their work the children have been investigating 'Real Life Heroes'.

Lorraine told the children all about what happens at the Furniture Store and how they help local people. She also explained why St Vincent is the patron saint of the Charity, telling them, "St Vincent came from France, he had three brothers and two sisters. His own family were very poor and he was a little ashamed of them. When he was twelve, which isn't much older than you are now, he went to a place called Dax, where he went to school.

"He went to University to study to be a priest, however he was doing this for all the wrong reasons. Vincent had seen and knew priests and he thought that they were rich, and he wanted to be rich.

"Eventually Vincent got fed up of chasing money and riches and he went to a village where he looked after the poor. For the first time in his life he was happy and everyone in the village loved him. He decided to dedicate the rest of his life to helping the poor and lonely and this is the reason why the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Furniture Store have him as their Patron Saint, because we help the poorest and loneliest people in our society."

The children really enjoyed the afternoon (pictured below) and Lorraine commented, "They were all so eager to ask questions and chipped in with comments. It is so inspiring to see children wanting to know about St Vincent's Furniture Store and also lovely to see them enjoying school life so much. Thank you so much to Miss Healy and her class for inviting me to tell them about our work and also for looking on us as one of their very own Real Life Heroes".



I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me

Having sadly watched the refugee and asylum seekers crisis unfold across Europe, a group from the Mother of God Parish in Sheffield have decided that they do not want to sit silently by without trying to help in some way.

Delia Kay, Helen Desforges and Pat Battams take up the story:

"We have discovered a group of people in Kent called 'Seeking Sanctuary' who are sending clothes, soap, towels etc to the migrants currently stranded in Calais. They are working closely with 'Secours Catholique' based in Calais and are asking for donations of things, not money, that will improve the living conditions for the migrants based in the camp at Calais called 'The Jungle'. Unfortunately, they cannot collect donations from around the country, so they have suggested that people living further away from Kent can order things like jeans and trainers online for delivery direct to their warehouse in Kent. They can then be sent by van across the Channel for Secours Catholique to distribute."

If you would like to send a new pair of jeans or trainers, they need 32 and 34 inch waist jeans and the following address is where they are to be delivered: 95, College Rd, Deal, Kent, CT14 6BU. If you would like to find out more about 'Seeking Sanctuary' their website address is: www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com.

To help asylum seekers locally, get in touch with Assist in Sheffield, tel: 2754960. They are based on Chapel Walk, Sheffield, opposite the back entrance to M&S.

Finally, maybe you could write a letter to Cardinal Vincent Nichols and ask that as leader of the Catholic Church in our country, he responds more assertively to the whole migrant crisis unfolding in Europe. Pope Francis has said, "A change of attitude towards migrants and refugees is needed on the part of everyone, moving away from attitudes of defensiveness and fear, indifference and marginalisation – all typical of a throwaway culture – towards attitudes based on a culture of encounter".

CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



The Holy Family parish of Arbourthorne, Sheffield recently celebrated twenty five years of the Presentation Sisters working in the parish. The parish community was re-

newed and revitalised by the arrival of the sisters and their vital work continues to this day with the hard work of Sr Eileen Keating. The Silver Anniversary of their arrival

was celebrated by a Mexican priest, and a congregation of Zimbabweans, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Polish, Croatians, Irish and English. The celebration continued with a picnic in the

parish garden. One parishioner, Peter Keating, told Sr Eileen, "Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters, will be proud to see your work in our parish."

Peak Rail Trip



Fr David Stafford tells us, "The Sheffield Ordinariate Group based at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Hackenthorpe is a small but dynamic group. "Each month we meet for Mass followed by an enjoyable social lunch at the Phoenix Inn, Ridgeway. In August the Group spent a day out in Derbyshire, meeting at Rowsley Station to board the Peak Steam Railway that leisurely made its way through the beautiful countryside to Matlock. We stopped at the Cool River Café where

we received delicious food and wonderful service before taking the train back to Rowsley. The sun shone all day long and the day was enjoyed by everyone. Some of our Anglican friends joined us for this special occasion and are always welcome to all our services and events." For further details please contact Fr David Stafford, telephone 0114 2480993. Full details can be found on the Ordinariate website www.ordinariate.org.uk, click on 'Where to find us' then 'Sheffield'.

World Youth Day Krakow, Poland

July 25th-1st August 2016

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A Fond Farewell to a Headteacher

July 2015 saw the retirement of Mr Patrick Nelis, Headteacher of St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield after twenty-four years of service. To mark the occasion the school and parish held a special thanksgiving Mass for him, made even more significant with the presence of

the Bishop. St Theresa's Church was full of pupils and staff, both past and present, governors, parents and parishioners; all wanting to share in celebrating the dedication Mr Nelis has shown to the school and parish. Pat first came to St Theresa's as Deputy Head-

teacher in 1987 and became Headteacher in 1990. During his time as head he made many developments and changes, improving the education and opportunities of the children the school serves. The academic achievements of the school have risen considerably under Mr

Nelis' leadership. When testing of Y6 pupils was introduced in 1996 results were low. For example, 36% of the pupils were successful in achieving a level 4 in maths; the national average for a Y6 pupil. In 2015, 97% achieved this level; a figure that has consistently been

reached over the last 5 years. The school has been ranked in the top 30 of primary schools in Sheffield since 2009 for its academic achievements and the progress made by the pupils. Mr Nelis always showed real commitment to this school and its surrounding area.

He worked collaboratively with other local heads to improve the opportunities for young people from the locality, first through Education Action Zone and now Sheffield South East Learning Partnership, successfully raising the profile of the area and improving standards for its pupils. For many years he had been chair of the Sheffield Family of Catholic Schools Headteacher meet-



Mr Patrick Nelis is presented with a Papal Blessing by Bishop Ralph.



Mr Patrick Nelis with his wife, Nuala, and their son, with the Papal Blessing and long term service parchment

ings, again showing to all just how important collaboration is. He has always been willing to share ideas and listen to the needs of others, helping where possible. Through his 24 years Mr Nelis influenced the lives of many children. He has watched many of them become parents themselves and return to the school with their offspring. He has built quite a reputation for looking

after the babies in their prams while the parents see their children to class, often being referred to as 'daddy day care'. When the pupils were asked what they would remember him for there were many varied answers – all polite – ranging from his love of maths, particularly fractions, to the introduction of lollipops and maltesers as prizes. One boy simply stated 'he's like having

an extra Dad.' At the end of Mass Bishop Ralph presented Mr Nelis with a Papal Blessing. He was also presented with a parchment from the Local Authority, recognising his long term service to education. Mr Nelis was said to have been very humbled by the whole occasion, saying that he had been very lucky to have worked with so many wonderful people.



Les and Peggy Bennett received a blessing from Fr Andrew Browne on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

DIAMOND WEDDING BLESSING ~ LES AND PEGGY BENNETT



Les and Peggy with their four daughters enjoying the celebrations together

On Saturday, 22 August, 60 years since marrying at St Mary's Church, High Green, parishioners Les and Peggy Bennett of Mortomley Lane, High Green, returned to the altar for a blessing conducted by parish priest, Fr Andrew Browne. During the blessing, when asked by Fr Andrew what they thought made a happy marriage, Les replied that their family was particularly important to them. This theme was reinforced later as the Diamond Wedding celebrations continued at a gathering at

Tankersley Manor, when daughter, Jill, said during her speech to toast the couple, "We are so proud of you and of all you've achieved together. We owe you so much for giving us such a happy childhood and for supporting us through everything we've done. We know you are always interested in absolutely everything we and our families do and we can share all our highs and lows with you and get help and advice from you both. "Thank you for all the fun and laughter you've brought into our lives over the years and still do -

throughout our lives you've been an inspiration to us and if we can all achieve marriages like yours we will be very proud." The celebrations were attended by their four daughters and sons-in-law and twelve grandchildren, as well as other close family. Les, who grew up in Chapelton, and Peggy, born and brought up in High Green, married in 1955 and moved to Sheffield Lane Top for most of their married life, returning to their roots in High Green 10 years ago, where they are familiar faces at St Mary's Church.

St Mary's, Worksop

A parishioner, Sheila Massey, tells us how the community of St Mary's, Worksop celebrated their 175th Anniversary.

The first Mass was celebrated in the newly built Church on 26 March, 1840. It was a gift to the people of Worksop from the Duke of Norfolk, at that time Lord of the Manor, to provide a place of worship for the Catholic congregation of the town, and it continues in use today. Fittingly, the Church has recently undergone a £500,000 restoration and refurbishment programme and it was rededicated at a special Mass in November last year. The interior of the Church is now a breathtakingly beautiful setting for the celebration of the sacraments, and repairs to the exterior will ensure the building is sound for many years to come. To mark the anniversary a number of events have been held, starting with an Anniversary Mass on Tuesday, 9 June, celebrated by Bishop Ralph. The Mass was attended by representatives of Bassetlaw Council and other invited



Summer Carnival at St Mary's



Worksop steel band 'Steelpantastic'

guests, including past priests who have served in the parish. Everyone attending the Mass was presented with a keepsake gift of a 'cross in my pocket' worked by the parish craft group, accompanied by a specially written prayer.

A joyous outdoor celebration was held on Sunday, 19 July when the sights, sounds, colour and taste of a tropical island were transposed to the lawns of St Mary's Convent in the form of a Summer Carnival. Worksop steel band, 'Steelpantastic', played a lively repertoire of music throughout the afternoon. Tropical food and drink, brightly coloured decorations and a variety of stalls and games all contributed to an atmosphere of true celebration, and the sun shone.

The annual 'afternoon tea' event was upgraded to a 175 year celebration barbeque held in the grounds of St Mary's on Sunday, 9 August. With excellent food and drink, this was another opportunity for parishioners to get together and celebrate this important anniversary.

St Mary's Church was a glorious feast of scent and colour for the Festival of Flowers, held on 14 - 16 August. The theme of the Festival was 'The Mysteries of the Rosary', and it was particularly gratifying to be able to extend an invitation to other local churches to participate in the event. Amazing floral displays were contributed by the Priory Church, St Anne's, and the Crossing Church, as well as by members of our own congregation. Visitors came in numbers, not only to enjoy the wonderful floral arrangements but also to see the newly restored church. As the photographs show, it was a truly uplifting and joyous celebration.

To mark the 175 years, a new full-colour booklet, *A Guide to St Mary's Church*, has been published. Following a brief history of the church, the Guide takes the reader on a tour of the exterior and interior of the church, pointing out features of interest and an interpretation of each of the stained glass windows.

Further events are planned before the end of this special year, including a Folk Night and a special Mass for those married at St Mary's. Specially engraved pens are also on sale.

The 175th Anniversary year has been marked with a variety of events, each a celebration in its own way of the presence of Catholic worship in Worksop and the very great gift bequeathed by the Duke of Norfolk in the building of St Mary's.



The third Sorrowful Mystery - the crown of thorns is placed upon the head of Jesus



The third Glorious Mystery - 'in driving wind and flame the Holy Spirit comes'



The second Joyful Mystery - the Visitation



The second Mystery of Light - the Wedding at Cana

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The four just men pictured are among many people at St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable who are learning new skills. The magnificent work that they produce together in the skills workshop is highlighted by banners and signs that are made for individuals and companies throughout the city. The ones shown in the picture were however for our own use and advertise St Wilf's residential

apartments being built adjacent to the day centre. Anyone interested in helping St Wilfrid's and ordering signs or banners should contact Dominic Maloney on 0114 2555720, who will give you a favourable quote. Remember there is only one St Wilfrid's Centre. Pictured above, left to right Alan, Chris, Mohammed and volunteer, Brian.

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Singing in the Rain at St Wilfrid's

Despite a torrential downpour at lunchtime during their sports day, the clients, staff and volunteers of St Wilfrid's Centre were not deterred. It really turned out to be a fantastic event which included 'fun for all' games, which concluded with a penalty shoot out. Barbecue lunch was then served by the Centre's cook, Pamela Corkell, and the catering team who provided a barbecue fit for kings and queens, finished off with a delicious ice cream cone. However, during the serving of the barbecue the heavens opened, but this failed to dampen spirits and around eighty people gathered under the gazebos that had been erected at the games day at the Umix Centre. An impromptu version of 'Singing in the Rain' was started by Pam, complete with bright yellow umbrella, and the chorus resounded to all around. In the afternoon a rounders match between clients was arranged by Project Worker, Angela Satur and the 'Blues' went on to beat the 'Reds' in bright sunshine.



Best Team in the Land

The Chelsea Team Manager, Jose Mourinho, recently described his team as the best team in the land, but that was before he had heard of the staff team from St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable in Sheffield. The team that facilitate the remarkable St Wilf's were recently rewarded with a staff team day in Nottinghamshire. The posh day out included a trip to the impressive Southwell Minster and, although it rained on their parade, it didn't spoil a truly enjoyable day out. Team Coach and Director, Kevin Bradley said the team thoroughly deserved a good day out for all the brilliant work that they do. They really are the 'Special One's'!



We Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside!

Thursday, 13 August saw a group of fifty clients and staff from St Wilfrid's Centre take a coach trip to the seaside resort of Bridlington. The weather held out, and they enjoyed games on the beach, fish and chips on the seafront, and some intrepid souls even went on the funfair rides! Pictured in the foreground are a group who decided to take to the seas on the 'Yorkshire Belle' pleasure boat, spending an hour cruising up to Flamborough Head and seeing the sights of the coastline. For some, the opportunity to sail on a boat is rare, and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



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Preparation for Confirmation



Twenty young people from St Mary's and St Joseph's churches in Worksop are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on 28 October.

As part of their preparations they have made a giant rosary, decorating each bead individually. The Rosary was displayed in St Mary's Church.

The display was enhanced by flowers, which the candidates for Confirmation provided. The flowers represent the different mysteries of the Rosary.

Our prayers go with all the candidates as they approach their Confirmation.

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY IN SHEFFIELD SEVENTH ANNUAL SHEFFIELD PILGRIMAGE SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

This year the pilgrimage goes to churches and projects working to alleviate poverty in South Sheffield. It starts at St James' Church, Norton at 9.30 am and then takes a circular route through Jordanthorpe, Batemoor, Low Edges, Greenhill, Meadowhead, Graves Park and back to Norton. Visits will include the Terminus Project and the Grace Food Bank.

It is an easy and safe walk with no steep gradients – an enjoyable walk with friendly company and an opportunity to learn how Christians are working locally to make our city a better and fairer place.

To join the pilgrimage, please contact Sarah Baker on sarahbaker17@live.co.uk or on 07949682050 for a registration form and fuller details.

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Or book a weekend course online by visiting www.me.org.uk/weekends/

The next one in Hallam will be November 21st and 22nd 2015

Booking is essential for both courses

LIVING THEOLOGY IN YORKSHIRE, 2015



Bar Convent

During the summer, 'Living Theology' weekends have been held at the Bar Convent in York, in Ammerdown near Bath, and in Liverpool, Llandudno and Glasgow. These Jesuit-inspired summer-schools of Christian faith in the Catholic tradition are open to all, Catholic or not, lay or not. The weekends are friendly gatherings of people sharing experiences, and learning from excellent teachers on a variety of subjects. They provide opportunities for people to deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith and to learn new and helpful ways of looking at the whole Christian tradition; they also include times for prayer, and the Eucharist.

So what happened at York this year? You may know that the Bar Convent is presently undergoing major renova-

tions, but nevertheless the Sisters' hospitality was second-to-none. While their Café was open to the public as usual we, the 'living theologians', had the exclusive use of three meeting rooms, refreshments and lunches included, and could also use the chapel for prayer and the gardens for relaxation. There were twenty-eight people registered: some from the north-east commuted from home; some from further afield – including Derby, London, Oxford and Edinburgh – found accommodation locally.

Our lecturers were superb. Fr Gerry Hughes SJ, formerly Master of Campion Hall, Oxford, gave three lively and thought-provoking plenary talks. In 'Authority in an Intercultural Society', he explored how different cultural and religious groups might minimize divisions by focusing on what it means to live 'a fulfilled human life'. In two other talks he addressed the question 'Why did Jesus die?' both from historical details indicated in the gospels and from theological issues arising from ideas of redemption, sacrifice and the Passover meal.

Bill Tompkins and Sr Helen Costigane SHCJ each gave two short courses over the weekend, and participants chose which to attend. Bill is an engaging speaker who has lectured at Leeds University and Leeds Trinity University; his topics were 'Religious Language' and 'Liberation Theology's view of Christ'. His views are especially insightful and challenging because he spent many years working in South America, where Liberation Theology started. Helen, a lecturer at Heythrop College specialising in Canon Law and Pastoral Theology, considered 'Conscience and Authority' and 'How relevant is Canon Law today?' Her outgoing and energetic style meant no-one left thinking that Canon Law is dull!

Many of the participants at this year's weekend at the Bar Convent were 'returners' who had enjoyed Living Theology weekends in previous years, some were coming for the first time, but everyone found something of value in the experience. Comments included "exceeded my expectation", "excellent content and delivery" and "amazing scholarship and knowledge presented



Bill Tompkins

in a comprehensible and informative way". A sixth-former said, "It is a good preparation for university" and commented favourably on the existence of the student discount! A secondary teacher remarked how attending Living Theology could benefit anyone who teaches RE in a school. So, if you are aged from 17 to 70+ you may well find Living Theology interesting and useful: why don't you consider joining us next year? See the website www.livingtheology.org.uk for all the Living Theology weekends, or contact Jo Caramello, 01845-526593 to be included on the mailing list for York.



Sr Helen Costigane SHCJ



Fr Gerry J Hughes SJ



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THE CATENIANS

A Cruise on the Wyre Lady

Members of the Doncaster Circle of the Catenian Association and their wives and families took to the River Don at Sprotbrough on 3rd August, taking a cruise on the riverboat 'Wyre Lady'. As the vessel cruised towards Doncaster the trippers enjoyed views of several herons, anglers and railway viaducts. On reaching the perimeter of Doncaster Prison the vessel turned and headed to Conisbrough for a view of the castle. When back on dry land at

Sprotbrough the party retired to the Boat Inn for an excellent meal. A brief Circle meeting was held to enrol new member, Peter Pennington of St Joseph and St Nicholas parish, Moorends. Peter was following in the footsteps of his father, Richard Stanley Pennington, who was a long-standing member of Doncaster Circle, taking on the role of President from 1942-45. Our photograph shows the party after disembarking from the 'Wyre Lady'.

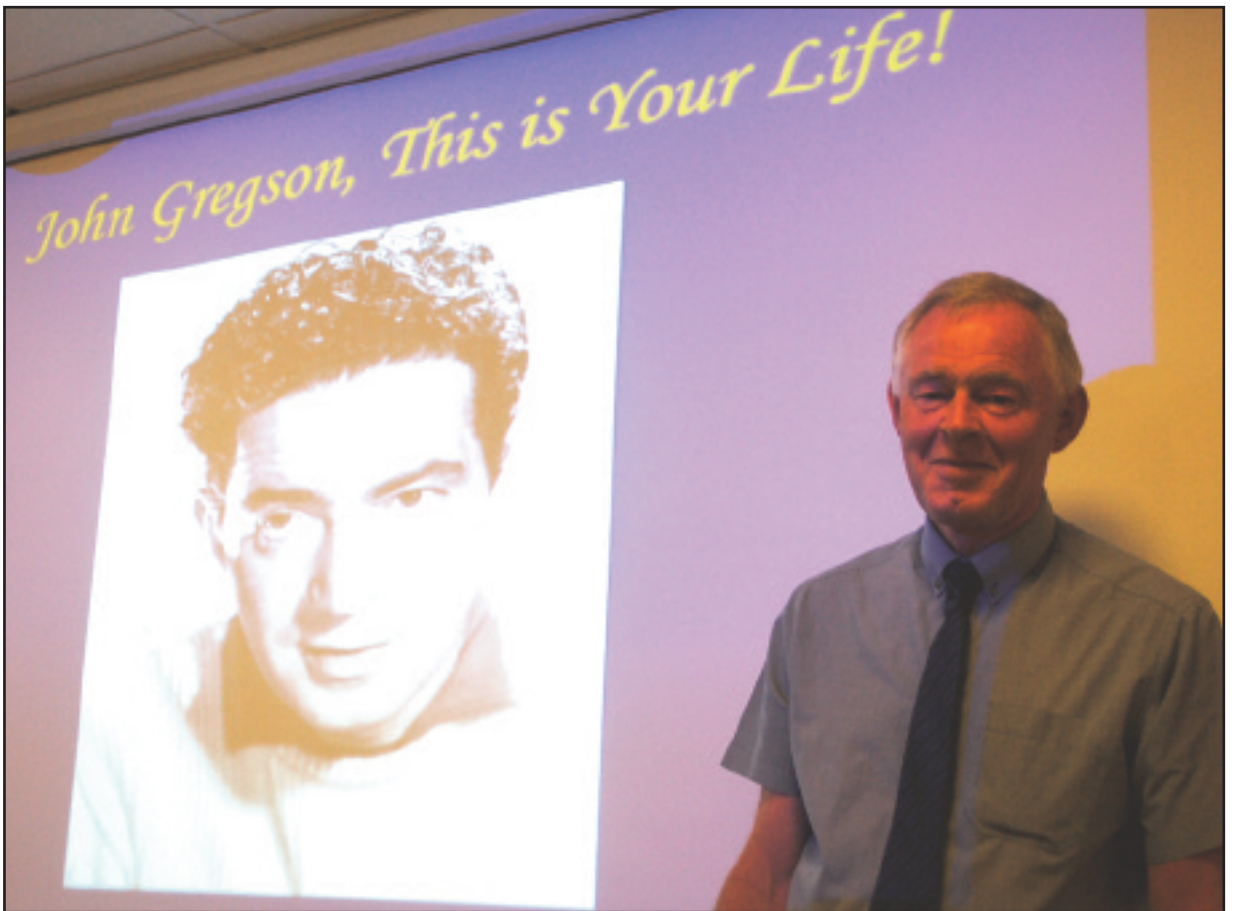


Summer Evening Entertainment

August is usually a quiet time for the Catenian Association but Barnsley 205 bucked that trend this year with an evening of food and entertainment.

Firstly Anne Dunphy and her husband Jim were there to give a certificate of appreciation to Past President, Peter Brannan for a donation of £200 he paid to Mission Together from his presidential charities fund. Deacon Derek Walton is the nominated head of Mission Together in the Diocese but he would be the first to agree that Anne is the driving force behind the fact that, though one of the smallest dioceses in the country, Hallam is one of the largest financial contributors to the great work of the charity, helping them fulfil their mission of Children Helping Children. It is Anne who co-ordinates the volunteers, who go into schools, as well as ensuring all contributions are efficiently sent to Mission Together.

Second turn up was John Gregson who gave an interesting and amusing talk about his father, John Gregson the actor. JG II explained how proud he was of a father who sank the Graff Spee, hid thousands of whisky bottles (Whisky Galore) and took part in both the London to Brighton Car Rally (Genevieve) and



D-Day (The Longest Day)! The early death of John Gregson in 1975 at the young age of 55 cut short a glittering career of which there was surely more to come. What did come through to the audience though was the strength of the faith of the Gregson family. Overall a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Pictured above left, Anne Dunphy presents Peter Brannan with a certificate of appreciation and above, John Gregson talking about the career of his Father, John Gregson.



Moorends Parish Pilgrimage to York

On 22 July eleven pilgrims from St Joseph and St Nicholas, Moorends set off from Thorne and Moorends for York with leader, Fr Gus O'Reilly.

The first stop was the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow in The Shambles, where Fr Gus celebrated Mass. After coffee the group set off for the Bar Convent which is the oldest 'living' convent in Britain – in continuous use since it was founded in 1686. There was a warm welcome and the pilgrims spent time in prayer in the beautiful chapel, before enjoying an interesting talk by Sister Mary about the history of the convent. The café also provided an excellent lunch.

If you've never visited the convent it is worth a visit – a new interactive visitor

centre opened in August. Some of the group popped into St Wilfrid's church en route to the final stop – York Minster, where the use of the Zouche Chapel was allowed for prayer. The group then enjoyed the grandeur of one of Europe's largest churches before setting off for home.

Sincere thanks to Fr Gus for volunteering to lead the pilgrimage which was a spiritually enriching experience. Everyone was very grateful to the custodians of the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow, the Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus at Bar Convent and the Chapter of York Minster for welcoming the group.

The photograph on the left shows the pilgrims in the ornate chapel at the Bar Convent.



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CAFOD Hallam Prepares for Harvest Appeal



Churches in our diocese are getting ready to raise funds for CAFOD's Harvest Appeal.

This year's appeal is focused on supporting people affected by hunger in the world's poorest country. The annual parish fundraising campaign is focused on working with communities in Niger, where CAFOD is helping people to adapt as temperatures rise and dry seasons become longer.

CAFOD's partners deliver work, tools and training for farmers to enable them to buy and grow food during droughts, and show parents how to keep their babies healthy if food runs dangerously low.

CAFOD is encouraging parishioners to hold 'Give and Grow' sales of food they have produced themselves to raise money for the appeal.

Angela Powell, CAFOD co-ordinator in the Hallam diocese, said, "When we can simply pop to the supermarket to buy food rather than have to rely on the food that we ourselves have grown, it's easy for most of us to take it for granted that we'll have enough to eat. Yet many people around the world go hungry if there is a drought or crops fail and so it's vital that we help children to survive food shortages and go on and live their lives to the full. It's vital that we help people of all ages to survive food shortages and so we'd like to thank all the parishioners who are organising fundraisers at their churches. Their support will help to bring hope to so many people."

More information about CAFOD's Harvest appeal can be found at cafod.org.uk/harvest.

St Alban's Look to the Future



Left to right: Fr Richard Gomersall, Mgr Desmond Sexton, Fr Desmond Edozie and Fr Gus O'Reilly

On 3 August a meeting was held in St Alban's Church, Denaby Main to explore new ways of parish working, promoting volunteering opportunities and developing partnerships.

The meeting was attended by sixty five parishioners who discussed the future development and challenges facing the

parish with Fr Desmond Edozie, newly appointed Parish Priest, Mgr Desmond Sexton, Vicar General, Fr Gus O'Reilly, Dean of Doncaster Deanery and Fr Richard Gomersall, Priest supporting St Alban's Parish.

Father Edozie took up his appointment as Parish Priest at St Alban's on 8 August.

HALLAM DIOCESAN CHOIR

A few years ago the Hallam Diocesan Choir was formed. The Choir rehearsed a few times a year to prepare music in order to enhance the Liturgy at major events, notably the Chrism Mass, Padley Sunday and the Installation of a new Bishop.

Recently the Choir, taken from parishes around the Diocese who have a Choir/Music Group, has held monthly practices to increase the repertoire and prepare for other liturgical events, eg Christmas. Music has been chosen from all periods in the history of music, ie Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern. The monthly practices usually take place at the Hallam Pastoral Centre on a Saturday morning.

The Choir would welcome new members, especially altos, tenors and basses – even sopranos!

Please contact Hugh Finnigan, Cathedral Organist, if you wish to know more; home telephone 0114 2341232, email hughfinnigan@googlemail.com.

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The Hidden Gem to Share its Heritage with People in Sheffield and Beyond

St Marie's Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese of Hallam, is often described as a hidden gem and an oasis of peace within the heart of the busy Sheffield city centre. It was designed in the Victorian Gothic style by local architect Matthew Hadfield, and was influenced by several 14th-century Yorkshire and Lincolnshire churches. When it opened in 1850, it was the only place of Catholic worship in Sheffield, although it would not become a Cathedral until 1980. In 2012, it went through a major reordering, which allowed the renovation and restoration of much of its interior, including the original gilding and paint schemes. Nowadays, St Marie's is the core of a large and diverse faith community and, due to its impressive architecture and fascinating history, it frequently draws in heritage visitors and groups both from schools and other organisations. Consequently, it is no surprise that St Marie's has recently been awarded a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to conserve its heritage and share

its stories and treasures with everyone who lives in, works in and visits Sheffield. Running until the end of 2017, the Heritage Lottery Fund project counts on the guidance of John Williams, Project Manager, and Laura Claveria, Heritage Engagement and Learning Officer, as well as the invaluable contribution of a large group of committed and enthusiastic volunteers.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is the UK's largest dedicated funder of heritage projects. It aims to conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations, and to help more people take an active part in and make decisions about their heritage. It also helps people to learn about, experience and enjoy their own and other people's heritage. As a result, learning, interpretation, participation and conservation have formed an important framework for developing St Marie's project.

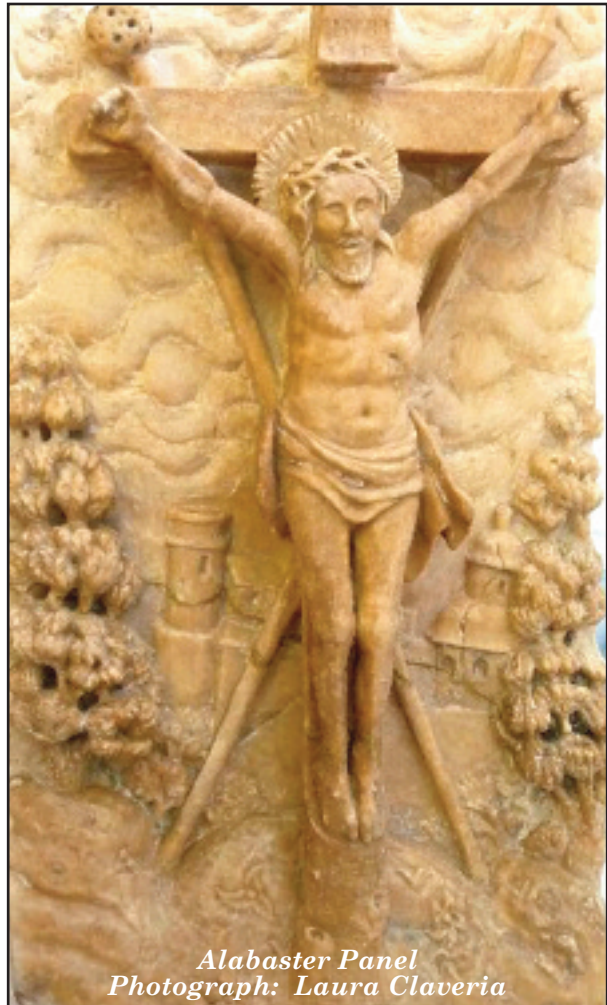
In particular, St Marie's project aims to increase awareness and knowledge of the heritage of the Cathe-



Detail of Victorian tilework
Photograph: Bob Rae

dral and the stories of people associated with it. It also focuses on the conservation and restoration of a number of nationally important historic features. These include a rare, unaltered Lewis organ dating from 1875 and a set of 15th century Nottingham alabaster panels, few of which remained in England following the Reformation. The project will also help to preserve large areas of highly decorated, narrative Victorian wall tiles, which have been described by the Tile and Architectural Ceramics Society as the 'ceramic star of South Yorkshire' and 'unrivalled in Britain'. In addition, St Marie's is developing engaging and appropriate interpretation both onsite and online, and is broadening the number of volunteers by increasing volunteer and skills development opportunities. Furthermore, the project seeks to engage a wide range of people with the Cathedral's heritage through visiting, learning and taking part in activities and events.

As a way of engaging and inspiring the public and showcasing the work of the project so far, the Cathedral has planned an exciting programme of free activities and events for this autumn - from guided tours, organ and bell ringing demonstrations and musical events to community exhibitions, talks and family fun workshops. Moreover, St Marie's offers school sessions for all Key Stages and private tours on request. For up to date information on these and other upcoming events visit St Marie's website www.stmariecathedral.org, or follow them on Facebook, What's on at St Marie's Cathedral Sheffield and Twitter @whatsonSMCSheff.



Alabaster Panel
Photograph: Laura Claveria



The Lewis Organ
Photograph: Margaret O'Malley

Celebrating our Schools

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