

In October the Trustees of Father Hudson's and the senior management team spent a day together. Now this may not sound that exciting, but it was. Together we prayed, reflected and planned for the future, insofar as you can ever plan; events, new needs and the Holy Spirit can reshape any plan. The Chair reminded us that the vision of Father Hudson's for the last 20 years is vital. That vision sees the organisation as the social care agency of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, reaching out, working with others collaboratively, and responding to local need.

For me this vision is captured in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man's failure and sin was not to see Lazarus lying at his very door. He could have helped him with hardly any effort; he just had to walk to the end of his drive with the remains of his daily feasting.

Befriending project begins January 2017

Father Hudson's Care is pleased to announce the start of a new project in Worcester Deanery to reduce loneliness and isolation among older people.

Embrace is part of a new national initiative and is a partnership with agencies in Leeds Diocese and Salford Diocese, and the St Vincent de Paul Society nationally.

It will offer practical, emotional and spiritual support for older people and their carers. Four initiatives will be set up with volunteers befriending and visiting

vulnerable older people. Volunteers will also run group activities, offering the opportunity to socialise.

Loneliness in older people is a growing problem and the organisations involved in Embrace will share what they learn nationally, to help other services develop in the future.



Young volunteers take part in social action

Father Hudson's Care has teamed up with the Kenelm Trust to give 16- and 17-year-olds the chance to take part in social action, boost their skills and gain new experiences.

The Adrenaline Leadership Programme consists of residential programmes at the Soli Centre, followed by volunteering in their local communities. The experience will help them gain their Gold Duke of

Edinburgh Award and enhance their CV or UCAS application.

On 29 October the first group of volunteers arrived at St Vincent's House and St Catherine's Bungalows to do some gardening to keep the area tidy for those who live there. They helped out at lunch time and went out for a walk with residents.

At Brushstrokes they will put together baby packs and food parcels. They will help at Maryvale's lunch club and Christmas meal, support St Catherine's Day Service's Christmas play and more.

The project runs from October to December and is a great opportunity to engage with the younger generation, helping them see the good work carried out across the Archdiocese and realise they can make a tangible difference in people's lives.



As you read this edition of *Reaching Out* you will see how we are reaching out into the Worcester deanery, working collaboratively with Kenelm Trust at St Catherine's, and putting our Day Centre at the service of the Archdiocese for disabled children and their families. You will also notice how the wonderful Ball Committee is again supporting us through two of our projects.

We rely so much on your support and that of others. For example, the Garfield Weston Foundation has just provided a grant to support the Young at Heart project in North Staffordshire. We still have to raise more for this, but the Foundation's support is such an encouragement.

Your gifts of money, of time through volunteering, or of prayer, underpin what we do.

Thank you.

Andy Quinn, Chief Executive

Annual appeals to support vital work

Parish appeal, 10-11 December

The second collection at Mass will be donated to Father Hudson's Care to help sustain our work with people in need.

On Gaudete Sunday we ask you to remember the help we give to people in need in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Crib appeal

Archbishop Bernard has asked parishes to consider donating their Crib collections to Father Hudson's Origins service, which supports people separated from their birth families through adoption or having lived in care.

As we reflect on the birth of Jesus, let us also remember those mothers and babies who were separated and who long to know more about each other.

If you are unable to donate at church but would like to support our work, you can give online at www.fatherhudsons.org.uk.

We welcome all donations, which are essential in allowing us to continue supporting people in need.

Thank you



Grab your glad rags and join us for a night of fun, raising funds for two good causes

different project, with proceeds making a huge difference to that project. In 2017, the Committee has decided that the proceeds will be split between New Routes Fostering and Young at Heart.

New Routes Fostering recruits, trains and supports foster carers within a 30-mile radius of Birmingham. The small, friendly team finds loving homes for vulnerable children and young people living in care.

Young at Heart groups in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent combat loneliness in older people through social opportunities and activities that boost health and wellbeing.

Splitting the proceeds will mean that people young and old will benefit from the generosity of the Ball supporters.

The Ball Committee is seeking

volunteers to help out. You can get involved by volunteering on the Committee, selling tickets, or by putting up posters and helping spread the word. They are especially looking for people who can organise a group from their parish, workplace or friends. If you would like to help one of the oldest volunteer-led fundraising balls in the country, we would love to hear from you.

Donations of raffle and tombola prizes are also welcome and can be delivered to Father Hudson's offices in Coleshill. And there is the chance for businesses to advertise in the evening's menu or take advantage of sponsorship opportunities.

To book tickets, find out more about volunteering or to discuss advertising opportunities email Ginny Cullen on fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk or call 01675 434015.

On 18 February Father Hudson's Annual Fundraising Ball returns to the National Conference Centre in Solihull for a night of fun, raising funds for two amazing projects.

The Marmites return to rock into the night, following their great popularity at 2016's event. There will be a charity raffle and the popular tombola run by Jimmy Spencer and his team of volunteers. It will be a great night, so make sure you save the date! Tickets cost £39.50 or £35.00 for under 31s and go quickly.

Each year, the Ball raises funds for a



Archbishop joins families for prayers at Day Service

In October, Archbishop Bernard joined families of disabled children for a special Mass at St Catherine's Day Service.

Organised by Sister Gillian Murphy from the Archdiocese of Birmingham, the day brought people together to talk, share experiences and pray. It enabled families to meet people with similar needs and to find out what support is available in the diocese and nationally.

Archbishop Bernard celebrated Mass for those present and spent time talking with the gathered families.

Star volunteers honoured

Three Father Hudson's volunteers were honoured at the first ever Coleshill Star Awards ceremony.

On 7 October, Coleshill Town Hall rolled out the red carpet to celebrate townspeople who volunteer their time for their local community.

Father Hudson's Old Boy and stalwart volunteer Jimmy Spencer received third place in the Leader Award and first place in the Carer Award. The Carer Award recognises Jimmy's help in giving support to people in need.

For more than twelve years, Jimmy has organised and motivated people to support the Annual Ball by donating



prizes and buying tickets. He runs the tombola on the night, with 2016's being one of the



biggest fundraisers in the charity's history.

Jimmy also runs errands around the town, publicising events such as the summer fête and helping at Sacred Heart & St Teresa's church in Coleshill and St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

First place in the Charitable Effort Award went to Jackie Treadwell and Sally Gisborne who also get involved with the annual Ball by collecting items for the tombola and running the tombola on the night. Sally and Jacqueline volunteer for many other charities, including Mary Ann Evans Hospice. The duo also won third place in the overall Coleshill Star Award.