



It's been an exciting few months at Father Hudson's Care. In September Tim Bradford was awarded the Bene Merenti medal at a celebratory Mass in St Philomena's Chapel, and we welcomed Jo Watters as the new Head of Community Projects. Jo will support the existing projects and

work with others to develop new undertakings. She is also involved in a partnership researching the need to develop a new homelessness project in Birmingham.

The Archbishop asked us to become the single point of contact for offers of help for Syrian refugees and for the many destitute refugees and asylum seekers living in our diocese. We are working closely with Caritas

Archdiocese of Birmingham on this and on a new project to provide accommodation for destitute asylum seekers and refugees. The life-giving generosity of the Archdiocese, the lay Columban missionaries and others radiates Christ's love at a time when so much of the news is about the ending of life.

We launched our new-look website in October – thanks to William, Helen and the team for all their work on this. Please do look at this and at our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Now, as the year draws to a close we say thank you for the continued dedication of our supporters. It is your generosity which enables our work to take place and we derive great hope from knowing that you are so generous.

Andy Quinn, Chief Executive



St Vincent's House open for business!

It has been a busy year for the Adult Care Team. St Vincent's House, the new supported living apartments, was completed in July, handed over in August, opened by the Deputy Mayor in September and has now welcomed the first tenant.

It had always been Sarah's dream to move into her own place and to live an independent life. When she heard that the apartments were being built she determined that she would be the first person to take up residence. When they were completed she eagerly took a tour and chose which one was to be her new home.

Unfortunately, she suffered a major stroke which cast doubt on whether her ambition could be achieved. But, not to be deterred, the Adult Care team reserved a two-bedroomed flat for her to move into whenever she was ready to leave hospital.

Working closely with the hospital, physiotherapists and other health professionals, the team worked out a 24-hour package of care that would enable her to move in with as much support as she needs. On 19 October Sarah's dream finally came true when she was handed the keys to her new home. She is delighted to have achieved her goal and to have a place of her own.

Six of the apartments have now been let, with three more people moving in in the New Year.

Lunch club on the menu thanks to lottery success

Young at Heart in North Staffordshire has received an Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery Fund to open a new lunch club in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. The new club expects to welcome about 40 people per fortnight, ensuring they get a healthy hot meal while giving them the opportunity to meet people and make new friends.

After lunch, diners can stay for an afternoon session aimed at improving health and wellbeing. Activities include exercise, arts and crafts, excursions and

other pursuits. They will also host guest speakers giving information on services and products for older people and advice on staying healthy and active.

School and Parish Fundraiser, Annette Thomas, has joined the new group as a Sessional Worker in addition to her fundraising role.

Matt Ford, project development officer has been interviewed for local radio and newspapers about the grant and the difference it will make, and the need to recruit more volunteers to all Young at Heart groups.



Thirty years of Hope

On Saturday 24 October, Bishop David McGough led a Mass at St Patrick's Church in Wolverhampton to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Hope Community Project.

Past and present staff, volunteers and friends and family of those involved in the project joined in. Sue Allen, the Project Manager, was part of the choir and led a beautiful solo.

After Mass the celebrations

continued with food and singing from local people. They also presented a specially produced film about the project.

Hope began in 1985, when nuns of the Infant Jesus Sisters moved to the Heath Town Estate and began visiting people in their homes. This has grown into the Hope Community Project where a team of staff and volunteers deliver services for young people, families, older people, asylum seekers and



refugees.

Hope also recently secured Lottery and Trust funding to ensure their vital services continue and develop.



Donors' generosity to bring Christmas cheer

Companies, parishes and individuals have kindly donated Christmas presents to be given out to children in need. Novo Nordisk (pictured), Reed Employment and John Sisk are among the firms who have donated gifts.

The presents will be given out to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people identified by the Family Support Service, New Routes Fostering and our community projects. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has given toys, gifts and money to help people in need at Christmas.

Fundraising efforts to help vulnerable adults

Disabled adults are set to benefit from the fundraising efforts of two of our key appeals. The 112th annual fundraising ball and the Walk a Mile appeal are both raising vital funds to improve St Catherine's Day Service.

The Day Service provides activities such as exercise, music-making, arts and crafts, volunteering and life skills to people with complex care needs. It also offers specialist services including hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and more. The staff do a brilliant job, but the building is in desperate need of attention.

Money raised will enable us to:

- Bring the hydrotherapy pool back into use
- Improve the sensory garden and create a dedicated multi-sensory area indoors
- Provide accessible IT equipment
- Improve personal care facilities.

Sensory rooms and gardens benefit

disabled people by stimulating the senses, broadening their experience of the environment, or simply by offering a place to relax. The hydrotherapy pool reduces pain and relaxes muscles as the warm water offers buoyancy, greater mobility and a sense of freedom. It is also welcome respite from the wheelchairs that so many at the Day Service use.

Accessible equipment can offer the life-changing experience of communicating through assistive technology. And improved personal care facilities will improve dignity and wellbeing.

Through the Walk a Mile appeal senior schools raise funds for us in any way they choose, from sponsored walks and non-uniform days to bake sales. School fundraising is one of our most vital sources of income and we are grateful to the schools that take part for their support.



The Ball will take place on 20 February 2016 at the Motorcycle Museum near Birmingham. There will be a three-course meal, raffle, tombola, live music from The Marmites and a DJ. So put on your glad rags and come and enjoy an evening out while raising money for a cause that's close to all our hearts. Tickets are £37 or £32 for under 30s and are available from Ginny in the fundraising team on 01675 434015 or by emailing fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk.

Contact us: 01675 434000

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