

Recently I attended the 'Mayor and Faith' conference called by the new mayor of the West Midlands and focussing on homelessness, hate crime and leadership.

He came to his own and his own received him not. Hope, like all the projects we support, challenges prejudices and offers welcome not judgment. Their achievement is recognised.

kind of leadership we look for at Father Hudson's, that will go the extra mile, that is powerful, that has vision, as demonstrated by Siobhán and Jenny, is what we constantly seek to nurture.

As we approach Christmas, we remember that **the Word became flesh** – word and deed – first the conversation, then the action. In the following newsletter you will read about Tabor House – how after much discussion and planning, finally the House is open.

But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to be children of God – how encouraging it is to read how our Family Support workers cherish and protect the children in their care, and how Origins ensures Father Hudson's always remembers and seeks to support those who were once in our care. The special

Just as Mary and Joseph were supported by the wise men and the shepherds, we thank you for all the support you have given Father Hudson's this year. We do worry where the funds will come from to ensure this work continues, but we are also full of hope.

Andy Quinn, Chief Executive

Hope Community honoured by the Queen

Hope Community has received a prestigious award for its work in a deprived area of Wolverhampton.

In a ceremony attended by the Lord Mayor of Wolverhampton and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Sue Allen, Project Manager, was presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It is the MBE for volunteer groups, given for outstanding work in local communities.

After an opening prayer by Bishop David McGough, Lord Mayor Cllr Elias Masih Mattu praised the dedication of Sue and the volunteers. He said, "The special work of voluntary organisations brings change in the community of Heath Town."

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Stephen Goldstein presented the award, saying

that Hope is an example of extraordinary people doing extraordinary work. Drawing inspiration from people living in the area, he said they have "created a last bastion of hope." He described how many people helped through Hope's work are now supporting others by volunteering. He said, "They give the most valuable thing they have – their time."

He then read a message from Her Majesty which said Hope was being honoured for "addressing loneliness and isolation, and supporting vulnerable people experiencing difficulties and disadvantage in life."

Sr Margaret Walsh, Hope's founder,



presented certificates to volunteers for their work visiting isolated elderly people, running friendship groups and lunch clubs, working with children and young people, teaching English and computer skills, and performing administrative work.

Recognition for Origins

The expert support of the Origins service, under the leadership of Siobhán Clemons has been officially recognised as Ofsted have rated it Outstanding.

Origins supports people separated from their family of origin through adoption or having lived in care. It works with hundreds of people each year, providing access to records, birth record counselling and, where possible, tracing and contacting birth relatives.

It offers personal yet professional support throughout what can be an emotional time.

Discovering one's past can enhance one's personal identity, bring healing and help with moving forward. So, after Father Hudson's stopped being involved in arranging adoptions, it registered as an adoption support agency to continue helping adults affected by adoption.

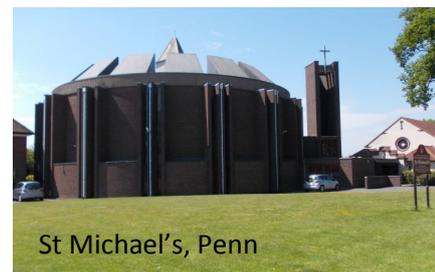


Thank you

Churchgoers across the Archdiocese helped make a difference to people we work with by giving generously at the annual parish collection.

Donations given at the second collection at Mass on 23-24 September will help people from all walks of life who are experiencing difficulties.

Donations could help a disabled person live a fulfilling, independent life, or provide care to older people living with dementia. It could help families experiencing problems, support and train foster carers, or help someone separated from their family to uncover their origins. Or it could be used to provide food, clothing, accommodation and support to destitute or homeless people.



St Michael's, Penn

Old Boys pay tribute

A Father Hudson's Old Boy, Jim Delaney, took part in the Remembrance Day service at Coleshill Parish Church. He laid a wreath on behalf of the Old Boys

in remembrance of their peers who died in wars.

A wreath is laid each year on behalf of Father Hudson's Old Boys to commemorate all who lost their lives.



Safe shelter and a fresh start at Tabor House

“Like its namesake, Mount Tabor, Tabor House is a place of transformation and change, a place where nothing is too big or too hopeless to deal with. And we believe that if we work together, things can change.”

Thus Fr Michael White, Chair of Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham, addressed guests who came to witness the opening of Birmingham’s new homeless shelter.

Tabor House offers homeless people a hot meal, breakfast, shower and safe shelter from the streets. It also helps them make a fresh start and take steps towards finding more permanent accommodation.

Guests stay for three or 28 nights. Mentors offer one-to-one support to those staying for the longer period, helping them access services to turn their lives around. It uses a strength-based approach, focussing on the skills and ambitions of guests, rather than problems or deficits they may have. At the launch, volunteers gave tours of the new facility to West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, homelessness specialists, West Midlands Police, members of the clergy and others. Andy Street said, “The wonderful thing is that residents have support

to rebuild their lives so they can go into permanent accommodation. It’s that positive approach about rebuilding that’s so special.”

Guests are referred by SIFA Fireside and Midland Heart. At the end of their stay, staff and partner organisations aim to ensure guests have somewhere to go.

As well as receiving practical support, guests are treated with respect and friendship as they take steps to gain control over their lives. Fr Michael said, “Often, one thing that is lacking is warmth and respect in their lives. We hope they find that here.”

Tabor House is a partnership between Father Hudson’s Care, the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, Housing Justice, St Vincent de Paul Society, Midland Heart, Birmingham Irish Association, corporate philanthropists, and local homelessness specialists.



Jenny’s hard work recognised

Jenny Ranson, Family Support Worker, has received an award for her work with primary school children in Birmingham.

Jenny was nominated by Liz Coleman, Safeguarding Lead at St Francis Catholic Primary School in Birmingham in recognition of her work in safeguarding and working effectively with other agencies. In the nomination, Liz said Jenny’s “patience in everything, combined with her determination to effect change shows great professionalism.”

When Jenny returned to the school after October half-term, Liz announced the surprise news. Jenny said, “I got back to school and Liz told me I’d won an award and been invited to a ceremony.”

Jenny was invited to a ceremony at

Birmingham City Football Club in November, where she was presented with the ‘Education Safeguarding – Partner Agency Contribution’ award for the north area of the city, in the family support category.

Jenny said, “I didn’t know what to say. I am part of a team at Father Hudson’s and we all do the same job. I don’t think what I do or how I do it is any different from any of the other Family Support Workers. We all work really hard in what we do and what we try to achieve, not just in Birmingham, but across the whole team.

“So I said I’d accept the award on behalf of all my colleagues in Father Hudson’s Family Support Service.”

The Family Support Service provides outreach work to children, young people



and families experiencing difficulties. Through home and school visits, Family Support Workers help the family to identify and address underlying problems, and ensure they receive the support they need. The award is quite an accolade, recognising the important impact the Family Support Workers have on improving the lives of the children and families they work with.

Save the date for Annual Fundraising Ball

You are invited to Father Hudson’s 114th Annual Fundraising Ball on 17 February



2018. It will take place at the National Conference Centre, Birmingham, in the presence of Archbishop Bernard Longley.

2018’s Ball will support New Routes Fostering to start a youth club for looked-after children and young people, offering a chance to have fun with their peers. It will also allow St Vincent’s independent living apartments to build a communal area for tenants to socialise.

With the emphasis on fun and fundraising, there will be lots to enjoy on the night with the silent auction, Jimmy’s Tombola and Pez Anson’s photo booth all

back by popular demand. There is also live music and a charity raffle.

Tickets are just £40 each or £37 for those aged 30 and under.

The nearby Windmill Hotel is offering discounted rooms for Ball guests—a double room for £85 or single for £75, including breakfast and all facilities, if booked by 17 December 2017. E-mail reservations@windmillvillagehotel.co.uk quoting the reference FH114 to book.

For tickets or more information call Ginny on 01675 434015 or e-mail ginnycullen@fatherhudsons.org.uk.