

Recently I was privileged to attend the 100th birthday party of Margaret, a resident in our St Joseph's Care Home here in Coleshill. Last week I attended her funeral. Her Mass was celebrated by one of our resident priests, Fr Sean, who had anointed her. Her nephew and niece had said to me it was the best decision the family had ever made, seven years ago, in arranging for her to come and live here. They added that she would not have reached a hundred years had she not come. I thanked them for choosing St Joseph's.

I thank all donors today for choosing to support our work. Your decision to



use your money in this way ensures that those we care for live more fully and, on occasion, die gracefully.

**Andy Quinn, Chief Executive**

## Asylum Guides aim to prevent crises

Brushstrokes, our partnership project based in Smethwick, has joined forces with Refugee Action and six other charities across the country to support early action for asylum seekers. Early action entails stopping people who are seeking asylum from falling into crisis, instead of picking up the pieces afterwards. One of Brushstrokes' approaches is *Asylum Guides*, providing asylum seekers with legal information about the process and helping them feel more confident in navigating the asylum system.

## Smiles all round at St Joseph's, Coleshill

People living at St Joseph's care home in Coleshill love having visits from their families, especially grandchildren and great-grandchildren. So caring staff decided to broaden the opportunities for them to interact with children by inviting a group from the nearby Child 1st Nursery to come and visit.

Every Monday, the Terrace Café is transformed into a playroom as

children come to play. They bring toys and instruments and happily spend a couple of hours playing games, doing jigsaws and interacting with the older people. Young and old make music together and impromptu singalongs and dancing regularly break out.

One member of staff from the home said, "Our residents love it. Each week there are smiles all round."

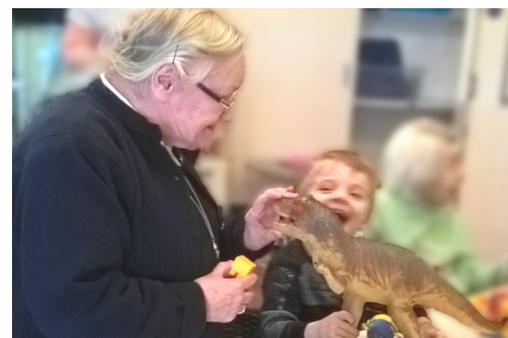
The visits benefit the children and residents. The nursery staff say that two usually very shy girls blossom in the company of the residents. Similarly, one lady known at St Joseph's for always being on the go, happily sits down and plays with the children for an hour.

For another resident it brings back fond memories from her career in a



primary school. One lady initially felt unsure as she didn't have much experience of being around children, but soon felt happier and more confident interacting with them. Now, she looks forward to the visits.

The children visit the same people for eight weeks, before it becomes the turn of another group. The visits are just one of many activities provided by St Joseph's to give the people living there a happy and fulfilled life.



## Sainsbury's supports people with disabilities

Managers from Sainsbury's Hams Hall depot visited St Catherine's Day Service in March to hand over £400 in vouchers towards the cost of new equipment for the sensory room.

Keeley Shaw, assistant manager at the Day Service, gave Paul Woods, Philippa Bayliss and Roger Wallace a guided tour of the facilities and the opportunity to meet staff and clients.

Keeley said, "We try to give everyone a meaningful day and facilitate that for them. The sensory room is an important part of this. We are very grateful for this donation – it really will make a difference."

Sainsbury's Hams Hall has also supported Father Hudson's in other ways, by donating essential items for our projects from their stock.



## Embrace leaves a legacy of friendship

After two years, the Embrace project is coming to a close, leaving a legacy of friendship in Worcester.

Since it began, the pilot project has set up activities enabling parishioners to reach out to older people. One of the first up and running was a friendship group. This is now self-managing and the people involved have also organised a walking group and gardening project.

Embrace also started a pen pal scheme, linking three primary schools with local care homes. The children and older people regularly write to each other and also meet in person from time to time.

In 2018, the community development

co-ordinator, Chris Watkins, organised a treasure hunt that enabled people to get involved in their local area. And earlier this year, Embrace joined the Talk to Me Worcester campaign, encouraging people to come up with ways to help their neighbours.

Christy Acton, deputy community projects manager, said, "Embrace's aim was to try new ways of empowering parishioners to reach out to elderly, vulnerable residents in the area. We have learned a great deal over the last two years."

These lessons will be combined with the experience of partner projects in Leeds, London and Salford to form a toolkit available for parishes across



the country.

The friendship group and pen pal scheme will continue beyond April. Father Hudson's is pleased to have been part of a project that can support others nationally, while making a tangible difference to people in our diocese.

## Government inspectors praise caring team

The Domiciliary Care service supports people to achieve their goals and live an independent life of their choosing. Staff support clients to work towards what makes them happy. This could be going to football, cooking, keeping their house clean or volunteering.

Last year, clients became volunteer personal shoppers at Coleshill's honesty shop, took holidays and went on day trips, and learned about keeping safe with talks from the fire and police services. All the while, staff were on hand to support if anyone needed help.

Service manager Andrew Penny said, "The engagement between staff and tenants is second to none. The tenants are like family to each other. They do things together and work together to make things happen as a group. If one person wants to go out for a meal, go on a trip out or take a holiday, they invite each other along."

The service recently converted a house into flats to support three people in the community. Andrew and his team hope to give them the courage, skills and confidence to live a fulfilled and independent life.



The Domiciliary Care team are celebrating their 'Good' rating after their latest inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which particularly praised the kind, compassionate and respectful care provided.

## Tabor House continues to transform lives

The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, praised Birmingham night shelter, Tabor House, during a recent visit to the city.

Sharon Fear, Sharon McCall and Jo Watters were introduced to President Higgins at a reception at the Headquarters of Birmingham Irish Association. They told him about how Tabor House transforms the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

He praised their hard work, thanking them for all they do to help people turn their lives around.

Since opening in 2017,



Tabor House has supported ten people to move into their own accommodation. Yet more have been supported to move in with family or into shared living arrangements. It recently received its twelfth bed, and is full each night.

## Ball-goers show they care



The 115th Annual Fundraising Ball was a great success, drawing crowds from across the diocese. After a delicious dinner, guests danced to the Marmites and took part in the tombola, raffle and silent auction. Early indications

suggest that a tidy sum was raised for Father Hudson's work.

Thank you to the volunteer committee and to all who donated prizes, helped promote the event and who came along on the night.