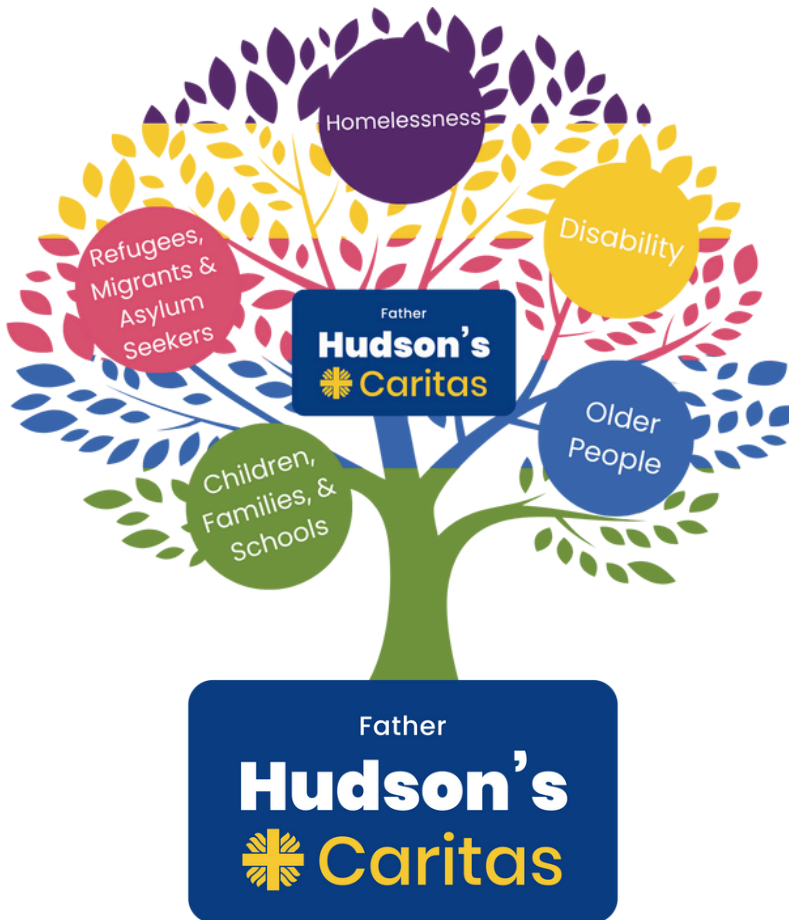


Annual Review

2024–2025



Collaborative, Inclusive, Compassionate



Fionnuala Hegarty,
Chair of Board of
Trustees

Welcome from our Chair

I am delighted to introduce our 2024–2025 Annual Review. This has been another busy and eventful year. Our (now not so new) CEO has just completed her first year and we are in the process of welcoming two new trustees. Our partnership with various departments of the Archdiocese is thriving. It was a joy to be involved in and to host the launch of the Year of the Jubilee with the Diocesan Education Service in January 2025. We continue to build cooperative relationships with groups and parishes in order to offer support where they want to develop social action projects for the benefit of vulnerable

individuals and communities. The need is ever greater and FHC is immensely appreciative of the financial, practical and moral support of our partners and donors. Staff in all departments and projects work constantly to access funding and to ensure the best quality provision for all whom we serve.

The financial, political and global landscape in which we work is increasingly complex and often hostile to our work to care for those in need or on the margins of society. The task facing us is daunting, but we face the future with courage and determination as “Pilgrims of Hope”. We look forward to sharing the journey with you.

A Message from our CEO

This is the first review under our new name of 'Caritas' and my first year as Chief Executive Officer for the organisation. This year we have successfully delivered 29 services supporting 25,335 individuals across our 5 themes of children and families, disability, older people, homelessness and refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Our dedicated 330 staff and 227 volunteers embed our values including compassion, respect, working with people's strengths and challenging injustice.

We celebrate our growing collaboration with the Diocesan Education Service and schools. We were inspired to be part of the live launch of the Jubilee of Hope for schools in the new year and the commitment to prayer, social action and



Joanne
Watters, CEO

Father Hudson's Caritas fundraising. Throughout the year, schools have learnt about our services for those who are vulnerable, marginalised and in need and have been inspired for social action. Activities have included donations of 104,000 toiletries/food items and raising funds of £75,000. We are very grateful to our supporters, partners and donors, without whom we could not have made the impact we have in 2024–2025. Father Hudson's Caritas is pleased to launch our refreshed vision, mission and strategy for 2025 and beyond and to continue our commitment to respond to need, helping all people lead fulfilled lives through the inspiration of Catholic Social Teaching.

Name change

We have been providing support to those in need since 1902. Over the years we have adapted and developed to ensure we are reaching out and supporting those most in need.

In October 2024 we changed our name to **Father Hudson's Caritas**. Caritas means love, charity, care, concern for others. The term is universal and used across the world by similar organisations driven by a Catholic ethos. We are proud of our ethos, we reach out and support people of all faiths and none and are embedded by our values of being inclusive, welcoming of all and challenging injustice. Having Caritas in our name better reflects our place nationally and internationally, ensuring we are visible both regionally as the social care agency of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and internationally as a Caritas organisation.

Vision, Mission and Values



Our Vision is a world where everyone matters. Where all people and communities thrive and have a genuine sense of belonging



Our Mission is to respond to need, helping all people to lead fulfilled lives through our range of services and partnerships. Our inspiration is the example of Jesus in the Gospel and the Catholic Social Teaching that flows from this.



Our Values guide how we care for and support people we work with. Our values are: Compassionate; Challenge Injustice; Inclusive; Respectful; Collaborative; Work with People's strengths and seek Excellence.



Supporting local charities

One of the ways we live our values and aim to achieve our mission is through supporting smaller charities and projects to grow and thrive. Father Hudson's Caritas is committed to three local charities where we employ staff on their behalf, providing HR, payroll, governance and policy support.



Hope Community Project

Hope aims to seek out, reach and support the most isolated, vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Wolverhampton.



Maryvale Community Project

Maryvale provides social activities for older people and adults with learning disabilities in Kingstanding, Birmingham.



St Chad's Sanctuary

St Chad's Sanctuary is a place of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees, which aims to relieve poverty and improve their lives.

Homelessness



Tabor Living and **Fatima House** provide a safe home and support for people who have experienced homelessness or are vulnerable. We work with our tenants and guests to develop their skills and confidence to live independently.

Fatima House



Fatima House is a collaborative project with the Columban Missionaries, a local parish, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The project provides accommodation for up to 9 women in need of protection, including those who are destitute asylum seekers in Birmingham.

Active volunteers, managed by the Columban Missionaries, are available each day. As well as providing a home and small income, women can access wellbeing activities, socialise in the communal areas, develop IT skills and keep in touch with family and friends in the IT suite.

One woman who found settling into the house particularly challenging went on to be a key contact for new residents as she showed them around the local area and supported them to find the nearest GP practice and other services.

These are just a couple of examples of countless small moments of **compassion, generosity** and **sisterhood** demonstrated at Fatima House.

A relationship with the project does not end when residents move on. Many women come back regularly for further support, this might be pastoral support or advice on how to access help with health costs and travel cards, or to explore options for education. This ongoing relationship with previous residents means that volunteers are able to share in the joys and sadness in their lives.

On another occasion one resident was unwell and was so showered with freshly-cooked meals and hot drinks that she had to tell the other women that they were over-feeding her!



Tabor Living provides accommodation and support to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We have 9 staff and over 60 volunteers who use a strengths-based approach with guests.

Tabor Supporters Tabor only continues through the commitment and support of individuals, corporate organisations and other groups. Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses who have donated funds, time and in-kind support, including M. Lambe Construction, Gallaghers plc, HSBC, Noel Sweeney Foundation and Friel Homes.

Tabor Living supported 58 guests out of homelessness and into independent living, one of these was Sam.



Sam's journey to stability

When Sam first arrived at Tabor, he was facing a tough situation. He had been living in shared accommodation, but when he

secured employment, the change in his circumstances meant he was no longer eligible to stay—and he was asked to leave.

Suddenly at risk of homelessness, Sam turned to Tabor for support. From day one, the team offered not just a place to stay, but the encouragement and stability he needed to keep moving forward.

Thanks to the safe environment and tailored support at Tabor, Sam was able to continue working without interruption. With guidance from staff, he began exploring long-term housing options and planning a better future.

That hard work paid off. Sam has now successfully secured a house—for both himself and his younger brother. What began as a moment of crisis became a story of resilience, responsibility, and positive change.

At Tabor, we're proud to stand alongside residents like Sam as they build brighter futures—one step at a time.

As an overseas student I really craved a sense of home and belonging here in Birmingham, because so much of this country is foreign to me. I started to build a friendship group through university, but it wasn't until I started volunteering with organisations like Tabor that I actually felt like I belonged here.

I really value how every time I walk through the door, the environment created by the residents, other volunteers, and staff instantly brings me joy. It's incredible to feel like I'm making a difference and positively impacting the lives of others – sometimes you don't realise how powerful a cheerful face, a home cooked meal, or laughter can be. It's been a great place to engage in conversation and learn from diverse perspectives that quintessentially make Birmingham what it is.

Brynn, Tabor volunteer



Volunteering here is genuinely one of the best choices I've made in my life

Children and Families



Origins helps a person find out about their family of origin and supports them with the emotional impact. **New Routes** **Fostering** recruits, trains and supports foster carers to provide a secure, happy environment for children in need. Our **Family Support Service** gives whole family support through times of difficulty.

Origins: Support after adoption and care

The Origins service provides support for those who have been impacted by childhood separation from their family of origin through adoption or by being in care.

Our adoption support service for adults affected by adoption has been the most sought after service within the Origins Service, although we welcome any enquiries from those formerly in our children's homes.

In most cases where Father Hudson's was the adoption agency, we have very detailed records and these enable us to help people to develop a very good understanding of their background and the reasons for their adoption. We also offer an adoption tracing service that anyone adopted in England and Wales can use to trace relatives.

Most of our work has involved helping people separated by adoption to get in touch with their relatives, regardless of whether our agency arranged the adoption. This past year we have successfully reunited people despite them living in places like America, Finland, Spain and Australia, although all the adoptions took place in England many decades ago.



Last year, we were able to help more people than ever as we applied for government funding so that those adopted before 1976 were able to have a fully funded service.

Anne's story

Anne is in her 80s and was adopted as an infant. With the help of genealogical DNA test results analysis, we were able to identify her birth father. Although he was deceased, we put her in touch with his other daughter who responded very positively and provided a photo of their father. We heard that Anne had been hugging the photo in delight as she finally knew who her father was.



Family Support

Family Support Service in Schools is embedded in 17 Catholic schools in Birmingham, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke on Trent and Banbury. This year we have supported 181 families long term and had 686 meetings with families to offer drop in support as needed.

The support we offer continues through the summer holidays. In 2024 we enjoyed days out to Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Trentham Gardens with children and families. This year our team fundraised for summer holiday activities by completing a half marathon and 'walking a mile in their shoes' by completing a park run wearing weights.



Victoria's story

Victoria was new to the school and teachers were worried about her well-being and behaviour, and therefore referred her to Family Support.

The school wanted Family Support to:

- Build relationships with the family
- Understand her experiences at home
- Explore past events and barriers
- Break down the barriers Victoria was facing

Building trust and relationships

The Family Support Worker spent time getting to know both parents and Victoria, and understand their past experiences.

The Family Support Worker also met with Victoria in school weekly to build her resilience, self-esteem, confidence and to improve her emotional well-being. This also gave her a voice and a safe space.

In this journey we were able to work with the families' strengths and identify needs that the child had and ensure that these were addressed. The family have gone from feeling helpless, judged and stuck to feeling empowered, listened to and fully equipped to support Victoria, enabling her to thrive, grow and achieve.

Our little unit is loving life and it's down to the help your team provided. So thank you for helping me find my voice and being the best version of me I can be. We will miss you all.





New Routes Fostering is a not for profit fostering agency. We provide support to our Foster Carers to enable children and young people to grow and thrive. We do this by recruiting, training, and supporting Foster Carers who can open their hearts and their homes to children and young people unable to live with their birth families.



Chet and Marie's story

Chet and Marie were approved as foster carers in October 2024 and are currently providing a home to two brothers aged 8 and 9. Here's their story, as told by Chet...

Why did you become foster carers?

We became foster carers because we wanted to make a difference to children's lives and help children who face challenges in life. On reflection of my own childhood experiences, both Marie and I felt the need to provide a safe and loving environment for children, despite our busy jobs.

How do you balance fostering with your professional roles?

We balance fostering and work through careful planning, good communication, and using wraparound care when needed. We also make sure to prioritise quality time as a family to maintain stability for the two children, who were placed with us just after approval. It is a juggling act, however providing stability and memories for the children is what fostering is all about and what they deserve.

What do you enjoy most about fostering?

The best part of fostering is seeing the positive changes in children, watching them gain confidence and master new skills. It's incredibly rewarding to know you've made a difference in their lives. Over time, the children do settle and daily routines become more manageable. You feel a sense of achievement for developing children into the best version of themselves.

What advice would you give to those who are considering fostering?

Go into fostering with an open heart and realistic expectations. It can be challenging, but the rewards are worth it. Build a strong support network and celebrate the small victories along the way. Try not to let the initial worry put you off, be brave and go for it! If you are in a position to change someone's life, just grab that opportunity. The rewards far outweigh the challenges. You won't regret it!

Scan to find out more about becoming a foster carer



Seeing a child grow in confidence or achieve a new skill like swimming or riding a scooter, or even putting vegetables on their plate without them shouting at us brings a joy that is hard to match.



Schools

A thank you to all schools for their support this year!



Our Team has continued to build relationships with schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham, helping to raise awareness about our projects and services and encourage schools to fundraise for us. This year we spoke in detail about our work with older people and how, day to day, the children could think of ways they could help older people in their own lives.



The Good Shepherd Appeal runs throughout Lent and to celebrate with our schools we hold Good Shepherd Masses across the Diocese. These are a lovely way to thank our children for all the hard work they put into fundraising and all the clever ideas they come up with.



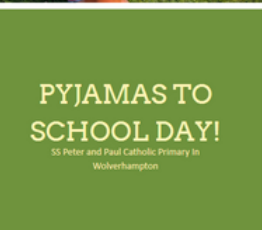
SOAK THE TEACHER!

St Thomas More Catholic First School in Redditch



TALENT SHOW!

St Mary's Catholic Primary, Evesham



PYJAMAS TO SCHOOL DAY!

SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary in Wolverhampton



SPONSORED RUN!

St Wulstan's Catholic Primary, Newcastle-Under-Lyme



LAUNCH OF OUR FATHER HUDSON'S AMBASSADOR ROLE

This year we have been building new and stronger relationships with our secondary schools. We have begun to recruit ambassadors who will work within their school to educate their peers about the work we do and organise their own fundraising events.

This role is fully supported by our schools team here at Father Hudson's Caritas. There's also the opportunity for successful applicants to represent the charity and school at public events and parishes.

Catholic Social Teaching - We are guided by Catholic Social Teaching and its seven principles. The principles (see below) help us think about how we should interact with others, and form the foundation of the choices we make. Our schools team is available to visit schools throughout the year to encourage students to make a difference through social action.

Dignity of the Human Person

Family & Community

Dignity of Work

Rights & Responsibilities

Solidarity & the Common Good

Option for the poor & vulnerable

Stewardship of Gods Creation

Caritas Development

Emily Pugh joined Father Hudson's as our Caritas Lead, to encourage social action in parishes and schools.

Parishes

Over recent months, we have visited parishes across the Archdiocese to explore how we can grow and support social action in our communities.

Two encouraging parish-based initiatives are:

- A Stay and Play group at Holy Trinity, Wolverhampton
- The Warm Welcome space at The Abbey, Erdington

These are beautiful examples of faith in action—meeting people where they are, with warmth and compassion.

At St Vincent's, Nechells, the youth group led a fantastic social action project, creating Advent Calendars filled with thoughtful items for residents at Tabor Living.

At the St Vincent de Paul Annual District Meeting, Emily spoke about the strong and natural link between the work of the SVP and wider Catholic social action.

Welcoming Churches—Disability

We're pleased to announce that the Inclusion and Disability Welcoming Church Group has been relaunched. The group is actively developing an audit tool, policy, and guidance to help Churches become more inclusive and welcoming to people with disabilities.

Schools

Pupils across Catholic schools have been taking meaningful steps to support others, reflecting Gospel values through action and compassion:

Pupils from **St James**

Catholic Primary School,

Rednal and **Guardian Angels Catholic**

Primary School, Shard End recently visited

Tabor Living. Their fundraising efforts

successfully raised enough money to buy

a bed. **St John the Baptist Catholic Primary**

School, Solihull focused on homelessness,

collecting Easter eggs for Tabor Living and

writing to local businesses to encourage food donations for the homeless.

St John Fisher Catholic

Primary School, West Heath

turned their attention to disability inclusion.

Pupils assessed how accessible their local area is

for people with disabilities and are now preparing

to complete a collaborative project with

individuals at a local day service, strengthening

understanding and community ties.



St Wilfrid's Catholic

Primary School, Castle Bromwich

directed their efforts towards supporting asylum seekers and refugees. Pupils collected bags, pencils, and notebooks to support individuals and families who have arrived in the country with very little.

St Edward's Catholic

Primary School, Coleshill

focused on older people. As a school they have committed to groups of children visiting the care home weekly. These visits have been fruitful to both the residents and the children who have enjoyed spending time together.

Bishop Challoner

Catholic College, Kings

Heath – their social action group wanted to focus on children and families who may struggle through the summer holiday period. They created a leaflet of activities that are free to do around Birmingham city centre and Kings Heath.

Homelessness



Disability

Refugees and Asylum Seekers



Older people

Children and families





Older People

In **St Joseph's Care Home** we care for older people and those with dementia, offering a range of engaging activities and responsive care. Our **Young at Heart** project builds communities and reduces loneliness for over 50s in North Staffordshire, through lunch clubs and social activities.

St Joseph's Care Home

www.stjosephscarehome.co.uk

St Joseph's Care Home is a 59 bed care home, caring for older people. We have four wings, with three of these home to people with varying degrees and types of dementia. We provide nurturing, compassionate care with activities in the care home and trips to local garden centres and places of interest. We offer our residents a home for life and welcome family and friends into the home for birthday parties and celebrations



Jane's story

Jane came to St Joseph's after a fall at home in January 2025 meant she could no longer live independently with the support of family and carers.

In March she celebrated her 100th birthday, with an afternoon tea at St Joseph's and with her family at a favourite Italian restaurant.

Jane has led a fascinating life, having been educated at a Quaker school which she thinks was marvellous as boys and girls were treated equally! When World War II started she didn't want to work in a factory so signed up and became a radar operator. During the war she met the man who became her husband, who whisked her off to the 'murky Midlands'. They got married in Castle Bromwich Church, and had a son and a daughter. Jane now has seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.



Jane said the below about coming to St Joseph's,

*They treat me extremely well.
Everybody's very kind. We all have a
good laugh. They always say you might
as well be kind as be miserable and
that's what I've tried to live by.*

Hear Jane's story in her own words by scanning the QR code.





Young at Heart

A Father Hudson's Caritas Project



Based in North Staffordshire, the Young at Heart group supports isolated and older people by providing social activities including lunch clubs, music clubs, friendship based clubs and groups focused on dementia inclusion. We work in partnership with the Beth Johnson Foundation and MHA. We also offer a befriending service for people who find it difficult to access our groups in the community.

Our year in figures:

- Recruited 35 new volunteers and now have over 75 active regular volunteers.
- We support around 350 individuals per month offering 550-650 interventions.
- We currently have over 600 older people registered with our 15 Young at Heart groups, and have seen our biggest year of growth.
- We have taken 14 trips out to various places.

Overall we have had a really positive year

Partnerships:

We have concentrated on Partnership work with groups this year and currently partner with Dougie Mac, the Alice Charity and Stoke-on-Trent Libraries in direct group work. We have begun Intergenerational work and hope to grow this over the coming year.



Sheila's story

Sheila, an accomplished artist and valued member of the Clayton Young at Heart Social Group, has always had a creative spark. But it wasn't until retirement that she truly embraced her passion for art. Working primarily with acrylics and pastels, Sheila creates vibrant and expressive pieces that reflect her love for colour, and detail. Her talent has seen her sell a range of artwork, including original paintings, cards and prints. Sheila's story is a reminder that it's never too late to pursue what inspires you.

Sheila's art is at the top of the page



Diana and Graham, Young at Heart volunteers

Diana and Graham have been volunteering with Father Hudson's Young at Heart project for over five years.

Their warmth, humour, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our members. With backgrounds in nursing, taxi driving, and GP practice management, they bring empathy, organisation, and people skills to every group they support.

Together, they run the Happy Abbey Social Group, organising breakfasts, trips, games, parties and even fundraising through homemade marmalade. They also lead the Young at Heart Guitar Group, handling everything from admin and refreshments to leading music sessions.

Diana and Graham have made such a difference to so many people, and we honestly couldn't be more thankful. The Young at Heart project is blessed to have them—they bring kindness and community spirit to everything they do! Thank You!



Disability

Our Disability services, **St Catherine's Bungalows, Coleshill Day Services** and **Domiciliary Care and Supported Living** provide support, based on an individual's needs while maximising their choices and enjoyment of life.

St Catherine's Bungalows

Our bungalows are home to 16 people with complex care and support needs. We encourage our residents to join in with varied opportunities, go with them on holiday and short breaks, and have active social lives. We welcome residents' families being involved in care planning for their loved ones where possible.



Holidays are a big part of our residents lives where they get opportunities to relax and enjoy activities – Aisha and Hannah enjoyed a short break at Elveden Forest Center Parcs. They had accessible accommodation with hoists and profiling beds and all the activities are accessible meaning they could take full advantage of everything on offer. While there they enjoyed swimming and meeting the owls!



Aisha has been living with us since June 2019, and Hannah since December 2015. We provide 24 hour care and support to them both. We help our residents to maximise choice and attend their favourite activities. Hannah got to see Taylor Swift in concert! Our staff are trained to support Hannah in using eye gaze technology to make choices which she can't communicate verbally.



Hannah and Aisha's families have comfort in knowing their daughters are cared for. Our dedicated staff support Hannah and Aisha to engage in meaningful activities of their choice, ensuring they have a fulfilled life.

Scan to see Hannah use her eye gaze technology



The families of our residents also support us by raising money towards renovations. Aisha's brother, Qaz, fundraised for a new sensory room in her Bungalow, by completing an ultra marathon. Aisha is especially loving playing in the ball pit, with the theme of the room being 'Under the Sea'.



Coleshill Day Services

23 people attend the day service on a daily basis from Warwickshire, Birmingham and Solihull. The activities we provide are designed to maximise our clients potential to join in with daily living tasks, make new friends and have fun. At our centre we have a sensory room, hydrotherapy pool and kitchen. We also go into the community for activities like ice skating, visiting the cinema or trying to score a strike at the bowling alley. Our service provides a valuable and much needed respite for families and carers.



Z's story

Z is 46 years old and lives at home with his family. He attended other day services before Covid but during lockdowns he became isolated which had a profound effect on his mental health.

Following support from his loved ones and visiting local day services he found us. One of the things he benefits from at Coleshill Day Services is a person centred care package.

At Coleshill Day Services:

- Z is able to communicate with staff using a modern communication aid.
- Z attends 3 days a week.
- Z now has the confidence to speak openly about his feelings.
- Staff have worked hard to get to know Z and have encouraged him to take part in activities.
- Z has fitted in well and enjoys meeting other people.

Our Sensory Garden

Thanks to the generous support of the businesses and groups listed below our sensory garden was transformed into a safe, beautiful space for our clients.

- Balfour Beatty Vinci
- HS2
- Twin Rivers WI
- Gallagher
- Merstone School
- CBRE
- Coleshill businesses
- vms
- Mr Matthews
- Tarmac
- GWS
- Day Services and FHC maintenance team



Domiciliary Care and Supported Living

We offer supported tenancies and support people in their own homes to lead an independent life.



Meg and Andrew

Meg's story

I spent a lot of time as a child with my grandmother who originated from Ireland and honoured her Catholic values. I also went to a Catholic school so Catholic values were always very precious to me and my family. I began to struggle with my mental health when I was a teenager.



Meg and Janine

A family friend, Janine, who works within the supported living department, introduced me to Father Hudson's Caritas. I gave them a call and spoke to Andrew, who is the registered manager of supported living. I asked if there was an opportunity for me to live in supported accommodation and told Andrew all about my journey and experiences.

I met with Andrew every Friday and from these conversations I knew that Father Hudson's was the place I wanted to be. I had never experienced a professional person that spent time to listen and invest in me. After these sessions I used to walk out of the meetings feeling really positive.

In January 2023, I signed a tenancy agreement with Father Hudson's Caritas.

I cannot thank Andrew, the team, the tenants and FHC enough for all their support and giving me back my confidence and self belief. I know that I have a supportive network that will get me through any difficulties. I have been at Father Hudson's for over two years now, and have a beautiful flat, my neighbours have become my good friends, and I have a voluntary job at the Birmingham Dogs Home.

So, my message for everyone is it does not matter how difficult or how challenging life can be, always have hope and faith and never give up because there is always light at the end of a dark tunnel.



Meg at Birmingham Dogs Home (left), and with supported living tenants and staff at our Summer Fayre (right)



Supporting Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers



Our **Brushstrokes Community Project**, **Sophia House** and **Nicolas Barré House** 'welcome the stranger' and support people to feel safe and secure as they settle into life in the UK.



Brushstrokes Community Project is based in Smethwick and offers a holistic advice and support service to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants across Sandwell, Dudley, West Birmingham and surrounding areas.



Chiamaka's story

Chiamaka is a Nigerian mother who came to the UK in 2023 with her child of a British citizen. With a lack of family support and without recourse to public funds, she was

very vulnerable. When she sought advice at Brushstrokes, she was living in accommodation which was conditional on her doing unpaid childcare.

While Brushstrokes' immigration team worked on regularising her immigration status, the Brushstrokes' housing team did all they could to relieve her destitution and housing crisis.

Chiamaka found the Brushstrokes community allotment a haven of peace during this challenging time. She worked on the allotment, spending a few hours at the site every week. She quickly learnt about domestic agriculture in the UK and also introduced us to agriculture in Nigeria which led to us cultivating yams, callaloo, sweetcorn and pumpkins.

Chiamaka recently had a positive decision on her application to remain in the UK. With the help of Brushstrokes' employment team, she quickly found a job as a chef in a care home and she and her daughter finally moved into their own accommodation.



I have loved working on the allotment, it gave me somewhere to go and something to do when I was lonely. It made me feel useful.



Brushstrokes received the 2024 Community Environment Award from the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). This was in recognition of their Community Allotment project. Staff, volunteers and supporters have helped the allotment thrive. They have grown fresh food which can be used for Brushstrokes foodbank or café, developed practical skills and given people a chance to get outside and enjoy nature with others.

Sophia House

Sophia House is a partnership with the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and St Brigid's parish in Birmingham. It provides safe and supportive accommodation for up to 4 female refugees or migrants.



Iryna's story

Iryna is from Ukraine and came to the UK in search of a fresh start and better opportunities.

Before moving into Sophia House she was living in a House of Multiple Occupation where she had no support or sense of community. Iryna felt isolated, unsupported and culturally disconnected.

Once Iryna was in Sophia House we helped her to:

- Activate her Universal Credit
- Complete a Housing Costs application
- Develop an integration plan including healthcare, ESOL, housing and employment.
- Explore options to access private rented accommodation in future.

Iryna has learnt English at Brushstrokes and feels happy and safe at Sophia House. She really enjoyed maintaining the lovely garden at Sophia House.

Nicolas Barré House

Nicolas Barré House is a partnership between Brushstrokes Community Project and St John Henry Newman parish in Willenhall. It opened in October 2023 to provide affordable accommodation for up to 5 single male refugees, with the house being fully occupied by March 2024.



Ali's story

Ali arrived in the UK from Afghanistan and applied for asylum. He received refugee status and was given 28 days notice to leave his asylum accommodation.

Luckily, he was able to move into Nicolas Barré House shortly afterwards.

While in Nicolas Barré House we helped Ali to:

- Complete an online Housing application and he can now bid on properties
- Set up a bank account, and register with a GP and dentist.

Ali also passed his English language test with Oxford Ltd. He is now working and settled in the area, knows how to use public transport and has developed budgeting and life skills.

Thank you Brushstrokes, for all you have done

Our HR Team

- **Professional Growth:** We offer robust learning and development programmes, including leadership training and apprenticeships, to help our staff advance in their careers.
- **Employee Engagement:** Our employee survey ensures that employee feedback is heard and acted upon, leading to continuous improvements in staff benefits and workplace satisfaction.
- **Community Connections:** We maintain strong relationships with educational institutions through career fairs and providing valuable work experience opportunities.
- **Supportive Environment:** Our internal recruitment events and comprehensive benefits that we offer to employees demonstrate our commitment to employee well-being.



Volunteers

**227 volunteers across
Brushstrokes, Young at
Heart and Tabor Living**



Bayar Ghafoori was recognised as one of 50 volunteers across the West Midlands as part of the 50 for WM50 awards. Thousands of volunteers across the West Midlands were nominated and we are very proud that Bayar was chosen and honoured. She attended a celebration event in June and received a certificate.



Young at Heart achieved the Gold Standard for Volunteering from VAST (Voluntary Action Stoke-on-Trent), which was a great achievement and has enabled us to improve the way we work with volunteers.



At Tabor Living we said goodbye to one of our long-standing volunteers, Mgr. Tim as he was appointed a Bishop. Sharon, our volunteer coordinator, said,

Tim had volunteered at Tabor Living for almost 7 years and brought with him a wonderful combination of friendship and laughter framed in common sense, which will be greatly missed.



Support Us

Like most other charities we have had a challenging year. We have been affected by the rise in employer National Insurance contributions, increased energy costs and a reduction in the availability of trust and grant funding. In addition, we have seen a large increase in poverty, something that has in some way affected all five main themes of our work.

The support of our donors and supporters has helped enormously and we are constantly looking at a range of different income streams to allow us to meet the needs of families and individuals across the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Do something
amazing today



Join our Lottery

We launched our Lottery in partnership with Unity, a long established charity partner. By supporting our Lottery you are helping to make a real difference to everyone we support.

For just £1 per week, you can be in with the chance of winning up to £25,000 every Friday!



Become a regular giver

Giving every month spreads the cost of giving across the year, while still making an impact. For just £10 a month you could be contributing to:

- 40 hot meals at Brushstrokes
- 25 toiletry packs at Tabor Living
- Support 10 lunch clubs at Young at Heart



Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope

On 3rd July we launched the Jubilee Walk—a self-directed pilgrimage around Birmingham city centre, visiting places that either offer hope or take hope away. The walk encourages deep reflection and conversation on the realities of our city. It was launched with Year 12 students from various secondary schools, who engaged positively in powerful discussions about social action, faith, and justice. This pilgrimage is for everyone who would like to take part during the Summer months.

For more information visit: <https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/caritas/>



Challenge yourself or remember a loved one

Karishma ran the Big Half marathon in London in 2024, raising £2,500 in memory of her uncle Dipak. He was cared for at Coleshill Day Services, and her family continue to show their appreciation for the care he received from Father Hudson's Caritas through volunteering and fundraising for us. Thank you Karishma!

If you would like to fundraise for us please contact
fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk

Contact Us

Father Hudson's Caritas
St George's House
Gerards Way
Coleshill
B46 3FG

www.fatherhudsons.org.uk
enquiries@fatherhudsons.org.uk
01675 434000

Support Us



Donate - we welcome donations. Please use the attached form or donate online on our website.



Volunteer - email [**volunteers@fatherhudsons.org.uk**](mailto:volunteers@fatherhudsons.org.uk) to find out about current opportunities or visit our website to see our current volunteer roles.



Fundraise - if you would like to fundraise for us by taking part in a challenge or event please get in touch on [**fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk**](mailto:fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk)



Follow us on social media and share our posts to help us reach more people.

Social media



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Sign up to our newsletter to receive regular updates.



Reaching out to provide social care in the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham

Registered in England and Wales, No. 1653388.
Registered Charity No. 512992.

Make a regular donation

Father Hudson's Caritas

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:

Father Hudson's Caritas
St George's House
Gerards Way
Coleshill
Birmingham
B46 3FG

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

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Branch Sort Code

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Name and Full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
Postcode	



Reference Number

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Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Father Hudson's Caritas Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Father Hudson's Caritas and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

Date

I would like to give

£

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly

On the 15th of the necessary month(s)

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Father Hudson's Caritas will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Father Hudson's Caritas to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of request
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Father Hudson's Caritas or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Father Hudson's Caritas asks you to
- You can cancel a direct debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Can you help?

Contact details

Please fill in whether you are making a one-off or a regular donation

Full Name				
Address			Postcode	
Telephone				
Email				

Make a one-off donation

I wish to give	£	to support the work of Father Hudson's Caritas														
☐	I enclose a Cheque/Postal order/CAF voucher made payable to Father Hudson's Caritas , or															
☐	Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Maestro/CAF card:															
Card Number																
Valid from					/					Expiry date					/	
Signature									Date							

We would love to keep you informed about our work, please tick on how you wish to be notified.

☐

Please keep me informed by email

☐

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Your data is safe with us. We will not share your data with any other organisation for marketing purposes. For more information on data protection, read our privacy policy on our website, www.fatherhudsons.org.uk, or email dpo@fatherhudsons.org.uk.

Gift Aid allows many supporters to boost their donations by 25p for every £1 they donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by Father Hudson's Caritas from the tax supporters pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed for HM Revenue and Customs to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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By ticking this box I confirm that:

- I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat all donations I make or have made to Father Hudson's Caritas for the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.
- I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify Father Hudson's Caritas if you want to cancel this declaration, if you change your name or home address, or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains