

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

THE MEDAILLE TRUST APPOINTS REP FOR LEEDS DIOCESE

The Medaille Trust (www.medaille.co.uk) is a charity which supports men, women and children who have been freed from human trafficking. It has been operating for eleven years and now provides safe houses throughout the country for the victims of 21st century slavery.



The Trust has recently appointed a new Diocesan Representative for the Leeds Diocese: Liz Andrew. She is starting work locally to raise awareness of the subject of human trafficking and modern slavery and

of the work of the Medaille Trust.

It seems astonishing that slavery is still an urgent current issue but it is Big Business. People trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude are all lucrative and fast growing forms of international crime and it is estimated that a minimum of 21 million people are enslaved throughout the world today.

The experiences of the victims often include violence-physical, psychological, emotional, sexual. They have little or no control over their own lives. They often end up in a foreign country where they do not speak the language and where they have no understanding of their rights. Their passports and travel documents are confiscated by traffickers and they live in fear of being identified as 'illegals' – and therefore deported or imprisoned.

Once the police rescue victims from trafficking, they need to begin the process of putting their shattered lives together. It is here the Medaille Trust comes in.

With 108 beds in eleven houses throughout the country, it is the largest provider of victim support in England and has helped over 1000 victims since

starting in 2006.

As well as providing them with a safe roof over their heads, the Trust offers victims physical and psychological help. It provides practical compassion, supplying:

- First and foremost a refuge and then the nuts and bolts of everyday life such as clothing, toiletries, food.
- Victims of trafficking are often scarred, both physically and psychologically. The Trust provides counselling and therapeutic services and often interpreters and translators.
- Victims need assistance with providing statements to the police so that the criminals who have been involved in trafficking can be brought to justice.
- And victims need assistance in knowing where to go next so the Trust helps them with the often baffling process of repatriation or integration into the UK.

Funding for the Medaille's work comes partly from the Government who provide for just over 6 weeks of accommodation. However, it can often take more than 6 weeks for victims, who are likely still to feel disoriented and bewildered, to try and work out what to do with the rest of their lives. The Trust is keen not simply to abandon them after the six week period but to offer them the time and support they actually need.

The Medaille Board is made up of clergy, religious & laity all with a clear Catholic focus and is pleased at Pope Francis's great interest in the fight against trafficking and his call for action. Many of the safe houses have been made available by the religious and the clergy.

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Liz would be delighted to come along to parish communities and talk some more about the work of the trust. The sorts of things she could do are:

- Speak at Sunday Masses or to midweek parish groups
- Ask people to accept delivery of the Medaille magazine
- Attend events and fairs to promote the work of the Trust and to sell craft items made by potential and recovering victims of trafficking in Nairobi, Kenya
- Develop relationships which flourish in other dioceses with groups such as the Knights of St Columba, Catholic Women's League, Catenians and others.



A Light Shining in a Dark Place of Human Trafficking

Liz would be very grateful for the opportunity to speak, even briefly, to priests and parishioners.

She can be contacted by phone on 07802 848630 or by email at l.andrew@medaille-trust.org.uk

DIOCESAN REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP: 'GRAVE CONCERNS' ABOUT NHS CHARGING

Changes to the provision of NHS treatment have very recently come into effect.

The Diocesan Refugee Support Group have been very concerned about this and asked the facilitator, Lucy Irven, to write to all MP's across the Leeds Diocese to spell out their concerns.

Below we reproduce the text of the letter sent to Government MP's and we would encourage you to write similar letters to your own MP's about this matter. If enough people take part it could have a real impact and get elements of these changes removed. You can download the full text from the website version of this news article.

18 October 2017

Dear <name of MP>

I am writing to raise our grave concerns about the potential impacts of an amendment to the NHS charging regulations which was laid before Parliament on 19 July and is due to take effect next week and to ask for your help with challenging this.

The Diocese of Leeds Refugee Support Group was formed in October 2015 following the dramatic increase in refugee arrivals in the UK as a result of the crisis in Syria and the Middle East. The Pope asked that the Catholic Community take particular care of the migrant population, calling on our generosity and solidarity to recognise and act upon our common humanity in response to the growing crisis.

Since then, the Diocesan Refugee Support Group has been working in various ways to support the refugee population in our area. There are four pre-existing organisations which make up this group – Catholic Care, St Monica's Housing, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Leeds Justice and Peace Commission. In addition, many of the clergy, deacons, religious men and women and parishioners from across the Diocese are involved in providing an enthusiastic and generous response in their local communities. You can see examples of this 'faith in action' in the attached newsletter.

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The NHS Charging regulations, which govern how people access healthcare in England and when they have to pay for it, will be subject to two significant changes.

Firstly, **charges will be introduced for services provided by all community health organisations in England, except GP surgeries.** This includes community mental health, health visiting, community midwifery, and school nurses.

Secondly, the regulations introduce **up-front charging**, which means that every hospital department in England will be **legally required to check every patient's paperwork before treating them.** If a patient cannot prove that they are entitled to free care, they will receive an estimated bill for their treatment and will have to pay it in full before they receive any treatment other than that which is 'urgent' or 'immediately necessary'. We are concerned that these changes have been introduced without evaluation of their impact on health outcomes and health inequalities, and without a full and robust assessment of the long-term costs to the NHS. In particular, we would ask you to consider the following;

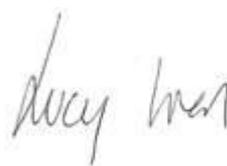
- **Up-front charging and the need to present paperwork** proving eligibility for free care **will increase barriers to healthcare for vulnerable groups** – such as refugees, and people seeking asylum, who are eligible for free care, but will struggle to prove entitlement.
- Additional bureaucracy will mean **patient waiting times** are likely to increase and there is a risk of **racial profiling** being used as a means to identify chargeable patients, leading to an increase in health inequalities.
- **These measures will cost the NHS more money** as the only way to check eligibility for free NHS services which does not contravene equality law is to check everyone. Reviewing every patient's immigration status will be time

- consuming, costly to administer and frustrating for both patients and NHS staff.
- Confusion over who is entitled to free care **will deter patients** from seeking medical advice at an early stage, leading to mounting costs for the NHS as conditions become more complex and difficult to treat and there is a **greater reliance on emergency services.**
- There is a **risk that healthcare, including lifesaving care, will be withheld** from those unable to prove their entitlement to free NHS treatment or able to pay up-front, causing needless human suffering.
- **Refused asylum seekers** will be chargeable, but with no permission to work and often being entirely destitute, they **will have no means of paying.** Once again they will be reliant on the emergency services.
- The extension of charging into community care services, coupled with the likelihood that public health services commissioned through Local Authorities will also be affected by the regulations will **stop patients accessing the preventative care programmes which protect us all**, such as immunisation programmes.

I am writing to ask you to help raise these concerns with the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, Jon Ashworth, and the Leader of the party, encouraging them to look carefully at the regulations and to urge some response.

Thank you for your support and please let us know of any action you are able to take on this matter. We would particularly welcome your news on any progress made that we can share with the parishes.

Yours sincerely



Diocesan Refugee Support Group Facilitator

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REFLECTION

Anything you need more and more of is not working—as the people in addiction recovery love to say. That’s exactly why we always need more of it. The fact that we need more and more, and better and better—of almost everything except love—tells us that we are in a finally unworkable situation. But there is an alternative worldview, one that has been deemed necessary and important by most spiritual masters. It isn’t a win/lose worldview where only a few win and most lose. It’s a win/win worldview, which alone makes community, justice, and peace possible.

E. F. Schumacher said years ago, “Small is beautiful,” and many other wise people have come to know that less stuff invariably leaves room for more soul. In fact, possessions and soul seem to operate in inverse proportion to one another. Only through simplicity can we find deep contentment instead of perpetually striving and living unsatisfied. Simple living is the foundational social justice teaching of Jesus, Francis, Gandhi, and all hermits, mystics, prophets, and seers since time immemorial.

From a meditation by Richard Rohr :Alternative Orthodoxy: Week 2

Enoughness Instead of Never Enough - Friday, February 19, 2016

INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND JUSTICE

At the end of September some people from the Leeds Diocese attended a workshop in Salford Cathedral centre about this.



The idea behind it is that there is value in having a conversation across generations about Faith and Justice to see what they can learn from one another.

We were presented with a method of conversation reflecting on the call to justice and peace in relation to vocation, life choices and commitments. We also explored how older people could accompany young people and young adults more effectively in this area (always remembering that in church circles anyone under 40 is ‘young’).

The method used in the workshop was very effective and did enable some interesting conversations to take place. It wasn’t about formulating any kind of action plan or coming up with a set of recommendations to pass onto others. The emphasis was very much about listening to the perspectives of different generations.

As the process worked so well the Commission agreed at its last meeting that we should hold some similar conversations in our own Diocese. Initially we are working with people to arrange meetings based at Leeds Trinity University, the University of Bradford and Leeds Cathedral.

The meetings will last for 2hours and we will try to ensure that there is an even mix of generations at each meeting. We will publish dates and times once arrangements are in place – ***but if you are interested in coming along to one of these sessions then please email us and we will make sure you know about the arrangements as soon as they are finalised.***

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CAN WE REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE LEEDS DIOCESE?

In July we reported how the Commission had engaged with the University of Leeds for an MSc student on the Sustainability and Consulting course (Mohamed Juma) to evaluate whether the Diocese could do more to reduce its carbon footprint.

Climate change remains one of the biggest challenges to the world today. The challenge is huge because it needs action by everyone in the world – not just governments and big businesses but individuals and small companies and organisations like the Diocese as well.

The challenge for the Diocese is that it has a significant financial deficit so does not have the monetary resources to invest large amounts in 'green' technology just because it is a good thing to do.

Mohamed surveyed a sample of different churches across the diocese. He examined the applicability of a range of carbon reduction technologies: solar panels, wind turbines, and general construction materials – such as draught proofing, insulation levels, double glazing and the use of energy efficient lighting.

There was no 'silver bullet' in what Mohamed found out. Many of the churches he looked at do have roofs that would be very suitable for solar panels, for instance. A number have a large roof at a suitable angle on an East-West orientation (so they get the sun all day). Potentially, some of these roofs could support installations that could generate in the region of 30kW. However, whilst the cost of solar panels has reduced dramatically in the last five years, the amount paid for the electricity generated has fallen by an even larger amount. Hitherto, there have been companies interested in 'renting' roofs – which would have been a cost-neutral way of reducing the diocese's carbon footprint. However, due to the reduction in

the amounts paid for the electricity these schemes seem to have largely disappeared.

This is not to say that individual parishes should not consider doing it. It is especially worth considering if a church building has to have some work done on its roof. A significant part of the cost of installation is hire of scaffolding whilst installation takes place – so if this can be done off the back of other work that has to be done then it becomes a much more attractive proposition.



A striking finding relates to the heating systems installed in different churches. Most of the churches had relatively new central heating boilers. However, in at least two of the churches visited the boilers themselves were of the order of 50 years old. Whilst it is fantastic that these boilers have lasted so long, they are very inefficient when compared with more recent boilers. So there may well be an economic case to be made in such circumstances.

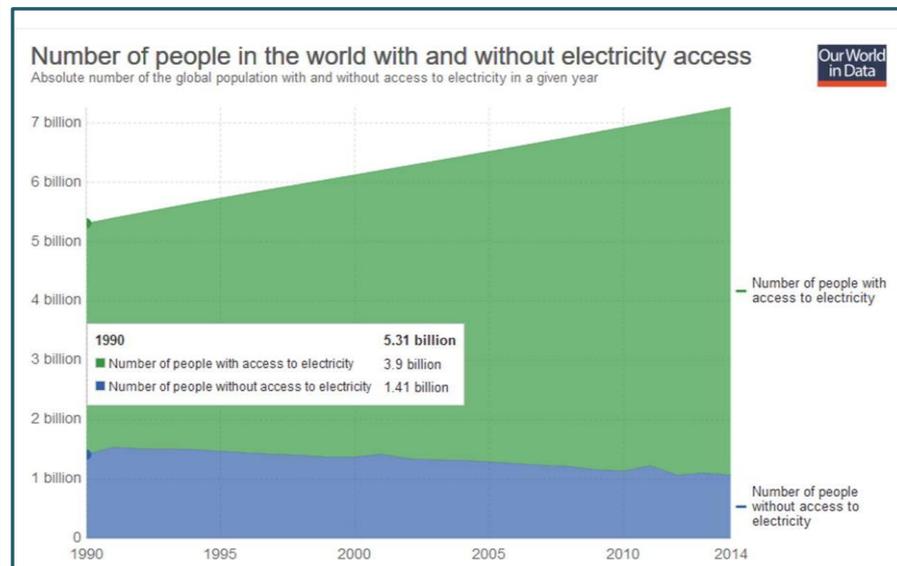
What Mohamed's work has illustrated to us is that there are possibilities but that they need detailed investigation and promotion at a parish level. If you are interested in helping us to do this then please email us at <mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk>

CAFOD'S POWER TO BE CAMPAIGN STILL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



1 in 6 of the world's population does not have access to electricity. CAFOD's campaign on this centres around how we do something about this. Local, renewable energy is usually the cheapest, fastest and most efficient solution to bring power to the poorest communities. It can help families to lift themselves out of poverty, without harming the world we share.

One of the key players in in developing countries is the World Bank. However, only 3% of their budget for energy projects goes on small scale renewable energy projects. Instead, most of their money for supporting this sector goes on large scale projects that have little chance of really helping the poorest communities in the world. That is why they are particularly asking people to sign a petition targeted at Melanie Robinson – the UK representative on the World Bank.



Let's be clear, global access to electricity has improved significantly over the last 27 years as the graph shows. Since 1990 world population has increased by about 2 billion whereas the number of people without access to electricity has declined from about 1.4 billion down to 1 billion. This is good news – all the pressure that people have been putting on

Governments for many years has actually made a

difference!

The current improvements in renewable technology provide real opportunities to not only dramatically reduce this figure further but to do it in a way that means local communities have more control over their energy supply, there is less impact on the environment and there are more employment opportunities. Have you signed the petition yet?? <https://e-activist.com/page/7676/petition/1?locale=en-GB>

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FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR - 19 NOVEMBER 2017 (33rd Sunday)

Pope Francis has instituted a new ‘World Day of the Poor’, inviting us “to embrace the culture of encounter” and to understand that sharing with those living in poverty “enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel”.

In his message for the first World Day Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means or background, to unite in love, in acts of service to one another and in genuine encounter.

So what can we do to mark this Sunday in our parish liturgies? The good news is that there are readily available resources with loads of ideas that you can just pick up and use ‘out of the box’.

If you want to hold a special liturgy or incorporate some specific prayers into the masses on that day then CAFOD have collected together all their resources that are suitable onto one webpage:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/World-Day-of-the-Poor>

CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) has put together a fairly comprehensive set of resources – including suggestions for liturgy groups - including children’s liturgy groups - intercessory prayers, homily notes as well as testimonies so that the voice of the poor can be heard. In addition there are ‘print ready’ materials so that posters and prayer cards can be printed out if you so wish. Their website has all the details:-

<http://www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor/#Print>

With these resources every church can mark this special day in some respect.

Bishop Marcus will be celebrating a special mass on this theme at 11:00 on this day at St Anne’s Cathedral and there will be a Pastoral Letter that will be read in all churches.



EVENTS

<p>Sun 12 Nov</p>	<p>SONGS FOR PEACE <i>Meet at Bradford Cenotaph (next to the Alhambra Theatre) 1pm</i> Yorkshire CND organise this event annually. Tony and Rahel will lead the singing and white poppies for peace will be available for sale. There will be a free soup lunch available afterwards at nearby Glyde House.</p>
<p>Sat 18 Nov</p>	<p>VOICES FROM THE MARGINS CONF & CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY AGM 2017 <i>St Mary’s Church and Conference Centre, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4QZ</i> Join Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield to hear how churches are listening to people in poverty, and share ideas for how we can stand alongside those on the margins. The Conference will include: prayers and shared worship, inspiring stories from churches, projects and people with lived experience of poverty.</p>



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 Sat 18 Nov	<p>JOY IN ENOUGH: THE BIG WORKSHOP <i>Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk St. Sheffield S1 2JB 11:00 – 16:30</i> This is a launch event for a new project by Green Christian. It is about exploring the role that faith communities can play in creating a sustainable economy and what a Christian vision might be for human flourishing within natural limits. If you google 'Joy in enough Sheffield' you will find the Eventbrite page for the event.</p>
 Sun 19 Nov	<p>FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR A newly instituted day by Pope Francis. He says "I invite the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity." How will you celebrate this day in your community? - See the article inside for some suggestions.</p>
 Tue 21 Nov	<p>OPEN COMMISSION MEETING AT SS PETER & PAUL SANDAL WAKEFIELD <i>Ss Peter & Paul parish Centre, Standbridge Lane, Wakefield WF2 7NR</i> Members of the Commission and people from the parish Justice & Peace group are getting together so that the Commission can hear about the social justice concerns in the Wakefield area, what people are doing and how the Commission could better support the reflection and action on social justice that is already happening. Everyone is welcome.</p>
 Fri 24 Nov	<p>TRINITY TALKS –NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE <i>Leeds Trinity University, Brownberrie Lane, LS18 5HD</i> Many older supporters of J&P work will remember Mairead Corrigan and her involvement in trying to develop alternative approaches to violence in relation to the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland during the 70's and 80's. This should be an inspiring evening. Tickets cost £8 and include a light buffet after the talk. Google 'mairead corrigan leeds trinity' to find the Eventbrite page for this event and to book tickets.</p>
 Sat 25 Nov Sun 26 Nov	<p>LEEDS PEACEJAM CONFERENCE <i>Leeds Trinity University</i> This residential event is aimed at young people aged 14-21. The Peacejam organisation was set up by a group of Nobel Peace prize laureates and they hold conferences like this across the world to encourage young people to become more engaged in issues of social justice and the building up of civil society. See their website for more details and to encourage teenagers to get signed up via their school. http://www.peacejam.org.uk/</p>
 Sun 14 Jan 18	<p>PEACE SUNDAY 2018 <i>The Theme has yet to be announced but will be coming soon. There seems more need than ever to pray and work for nonviolent ways of resolving conflicts. Pax Christi send out a special resource pack to every parish in England and Wales – so why not use their resources to really focus people's attention on this key issue for all Christians. Keep a watch on www.paxchristi.org.uk for more details.</i></p>



Follow us on Facebook to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.

Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.