



Registered Charity No 1094766

# Pastoral Care Project

Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – 2015

*"What beautiful legacy they left us!"*

- Chair's Introduction



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# Pastoral Care Project

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## **Mission Statement**

Raising awareness of the spiritual needs of the frail elderly –  
enabling carers to support them in their journey to the fullness of life.

## **Inspired by Luke 4.18-19**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release for prisoners and  
recovery of sight for the blind;  
to free the broken-hearted and  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

## **Pastoral Care Project – how it began.**

It may be helpful as a first time reader to know of the Pastoral Care Projects' beginnings.

The Pastoral Care Project began in 1994, as a result of Frances Molloy now Project Manager, meeting with a lady in an EMI (Elderly and Mentally Infirm) Ward at the local George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton, while visiting as a church volunteer in 1989. The lady had a form of dementia but was also blind and yet seemed to have an awareness, which captured Frances' attention.

At the time, Frances was beginning her training as a retreat leader (Light Out Of Darkness – Sr Kathleen O'Sullivan SSL) and the theme of the programme that particular week was 'finding God in my weakness'- the relevant scripture being Romans 8.26-27. Meeting with this lady with dementia made Frances aware how special and unique each person is and that weakness can be strength.

The lady visited was instrumental in this Pastoral Care Project taking off because no-one had recognised that she too had a spiritual life, which was overlooked on medical assessment. Frances never knew the lady's name; the lady could not remember what it was – and yet she had this great awareness of God and others.

## Lead Bishop

Rt Rev David McGough Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Chair

Mrs Sheevaun Sparkes

### Vice-Chair

Mrs Glenys Roberson

### Treasurer

Mrs Leema Philips

### Secretary

Miss Ingrid Klabisz J.P

Mrs Frances Ashley

Mr Michael Cauchi

Rev Kevin Kavanagh   retired

Mrs Helen Hawley     retired

## Employees

Mrs Frances Molloy

Project Manager - part-time  
Retreat Leader/Prayer Guide  
Parish Eucharist Minister & Reader

Mrs Maria Gallagher

Administrative Assistant - part-time

## Office

Pastoral Care Project

St George's House

Gerards Way

Coleshill B46 3FG

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Follow us on twitter @dementiaaprayer

## **Chair's Introduction**

### ***'What a beautiful legacy they left us!'***

This is my second year serving as Chair of the Pastoral Care Project, and it has been a privilege to serve alongside my fellow trustees, and be part of this great charity whose mission of *'Raising awareness of the spiritual needs of the frail and elderly – enabling carers to support them in their journey to the fullness of life'* upholds the dignity of human life, valuing each and every person as unique and precious in the eyes of God. This underpins all that we think, plan and do as we continue the work.

Reflecting on *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness"*. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) brought to mind how much the charity has grown since the pioneering days of the Pastoral Care Project when I was a team member visiting care homes and sharing ecumenical prayer services with the residents, often with relatives and sometimes staff. I will never forget the humility and faith in Christ I witnessed by those whose memory was stimulated through scripture, hymns, prayers and human interaction. What was particularly amazing to see was the visible change, how they became more alive and radiating Christ's presence - *what a beautiful legacy they left us!*

There are many examples within this report of what has been achieved this year including new initiatives too. These are the new website, with the online shop where 'Instructions for my Funeral Mass' can be ordered, the 'HeARTS and Minds' young people's volunteer programme and Victoria Caldwell's DVD entitled 'For Better, For Worse', which highlights the love and dignity of those diagnosed with dementia and the effect on their family, in a deeply moving way. Adding to this is the Dementia – Prayer Week now welcomed throughout the UK, Ireland and some cities overseas.

I wish to thank Bishop David McGough for his continued support and theological input, Frances Molloy the Project Manager and Maria Gallagher, part/time Admin Assistant and the retiring trustees who have contributed to the work of the Pastoral Care Project for many years. With the growth in resources of the Pastoral Care Project, the trustees will be seeking new members to join the board on this exciting mission - in the words of Pope Francis speaking at his weekly general audience when he said, *"We must reawaken our collective sense of gratitude, appreciation and hospitality, helping the elderly know they are a living part of their communities"*.  
(Source-Catholic Herald March 2015)

The needs of the vulnerable in our society is as great as ever, in the face of budget cuts, an ageing population and the grave concern and care of the mentally ill, remains a constant challenge to us all.

**Sheevaun Sparkes**  
**Chair Person**

## **Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

The charity's work this year in fulfilling our mission has been both challenging and rewarding as we continue to support the individuals and families who have been receiving pastoral support for many years. It has been difficult due to the lack of resources, but it teaches us that the helplessness they have experienced coupled with the funding cuts, and the strain of years of caring has impacted on their health - many carers are elderly and could benefit from additional support themselves.

Therefore raising awareness, especially in the lead up to and during Dementia – Prayer Week 12-19<sup>th</sup> March was even more important than ever, with the increasing number of people with dementia and disabilities.

The experience this last year especially through the Dementia – Prayer week is the benefits that Pastoral Care brings about; the closeness to one another and to God, deepening the bond of love and creating new memories to cherish. The person with memory loss however advanced, is still living and loving in the present moment which can often be a struggle for families who live and care with little support from the community.

Our Prayer Leaflet – the theme *'have you got time to say a prayer?'* with scripture verses and intentions may be a way of opening up the subject and to bring forth more help in meeting the spiritual needs or more simply put, the restless within the person with dementia in their search for God.

Providing induction for new trustees who have brought new energy to the work established by their predecessors. The many people who have helped in a variety of ways. Our thanks to those who assisted with the office move and events noted in the report.

### **Communitas Project, Sparkhill, Birmingham – 15<sup>th</sup> May - Presentation and Almsgiving**

The first in May when Frances Molloy, Project Manager was invited to give a talk to the carers and the cared for at Communitas Project weekly meeting. They were interested to hear more about the work of the Pastoral Care Project. They themselves shared about what they organised as part of the Dementia – Prayer week, their prayer and almsgiving and presented a cheque for the Pastoral Care Project's charitable work.

## **July 2014 Film - 'For Better, for Worse'**

The second visit in July was to share with them the short film 'For Better, for Worse' produced by Victoria Caldwell, graduate and volunteer with the Pastoral Care Project. Glenys Roberson (Trustee), Maria Gallagher (Admin worker) went with Frances Molloy to hear Victoria speak about the inspiration behind the film.

The feedback from carers and the leaders was very constructive and valuable. Glenys spoke about SINGING Café and the importance of understanding music and its effect on those with dementia, and indeed all of us. The visit concluded with Eddie one of the helpers and caring for his father singing the Pastoral Care Project song, 'I have loved you' - it was a truly an uplifting and memorable visit.

## **St John Fisher RC School – Teachers Pentecost Retreat 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014**

This Quiet time for Reflection afternoon '*The Lord is my light and my help*' resulted from Frances Molloy giving an assembly in March 2104. All of the teachers attended and appreciated the time of reflection with an opportunity for a taster of 'Pastoral Companions' followed by time of sharing and ministry.

## **St Thomas More School assembly – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The Pastoral Care Project is one of St Thomas More School chosen charities and was invited to give an assembly. This year Victoria Caldwell gave a talk and showed her film 'For Better for Worse' which was followed by question time. Everyone was very moved by the film and the Pastoral Care Project was approached regarding using the film in the new term with sixth form students.

## **Kingsbury Mothers' Union – July & Sept 2014**

Mothers' Union in Kingsbury, Warwickshire invited Frances Molloy to speak about the charity and to lead a time of prayer at their July monthly meeting. From listening, and sharing it was clear that the members were concerned about the lack of pastoral support for carers in the area due to the cutbacks. Over the summer months they reflected on what they could do, and the Pastoral Care Project was contacted again in September to ask for help to set up a churches together pastoral care locally.

## **Mass for the Sick, Nuneaton and surrounding parishes – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

The mass for the sick in Nuneaton has been running for many years. The Mass was attended by many of the very frail and those who are caring for family members. It was encouraging to see the number of children involved this year; in serving mass and providing singing and dancing after the lunch – a special thank you to them and to the many parishioners who assisted with the catering and serving of food. It was such a blessed day, the mass and anointing of the sick; lunch and then returning to church for Benediction before going home.

## **Pastoral Care Project - Annual General Meeting Thur 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The Annual General Meeting of the Pastoral Care Project took place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30pm in the parish hall of Our Lady of the Angels, Nuneaton.

The Chairperson, Sheevaun Sparkes welcomed everyone to the meeting which began with a spiritual reflection and prayer requests from those attending and those received in the post. The Annual Report was presented and adopted. The Treasurer presented the Accounts which were adopted.

The Chair welcomed the new trustees onto the board; Glenys Roberson as Vice - Chair, Leema Philips as Treasurer and Michael Cauchi. New volunteers welcomed were: Melissa Pearce, Pat Barrass and Victoria Caldwell.

### **Speaker & Spiritual Reflection**

Fr Michael Miners OCDS –

The trustees were delighted that Fr Michael Miners a long standing associate with the Pastoral Care Project gave a talk on St Hildegard of Bingen. His talk was educational and inspirational and is available to view on the Pastoral Care Project's website [www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk](http://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk)

### **Close of Meeting**

The Chair, thanked everyone for attending: the individuals who sent prayer requests and donations, the speaker Fr Michael Miners OCDS and John Hart for the video and photography services on the evening. The volunteers who helped with refreshments and those who baked scones, apple pies and cakes – a wonderful expression of generosity and a fine example of 'Bake n Share' in action which people were invited to stay and chat together afterwards.

### **BBC interview – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The BBC's Dementia Focus Week 5-12<sup>th</sup> October resulted in the Pastoral Care Project being approached to give an interview about 'Instructions for my Funeral Mass.' The introduction came through the Catholic Media Office. The BBC reporter visited the Pastoral Care Project office and Frances Molloy was interviewed about the 'Instructions for my Funeral Mass' document and its importance for people with dementia.

The reporter also interviewed Maria Gallagher, Admin Assistant, who spoke about her own personal experience and how valuable the document was to her when her brother passed away suddenly - followed a short time afterwards by her mother. The hour long interview was condensed into a three minute podcast which was heard nationally on Radio 4 Sunday Morning programmes on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Whilst we had prepared what we were going to say, it was very encouraging listening to it on the radio and hearing the dignified way it was produced and very touching to hear the way in which the reporter had used 'Ave Maria' as the supporting music.



## **Services of Remembrance, Nuneaton sheltered housing – November 2014**

The Pastoral Care Project was approached by scheme managers in Cheverel Place and Stan Williams Court Sheltered Housing Complexes in Nuneaton to help them and the staff to organise Remembrance Services. This is a long standing annual event which is also attended by members of the community.

The Pastoral Care Project is thankful to many people for making these events so meaningful; Nuneaton Methodist Church Choir, Hinckley ex-servicemen Standard Bearers and the City of Coventry Standard Bearers Association. To the Project Volunteers; Deacon Mike Skidmore a Project volunteer spoke at Cheverel Place.

Frances Molloy at Stan Williams Court. Our Lady of the Angels Infant School choir joined with the Methodist Church Choir. The school children sang two hymns - only their voices filled the room which was deeply moving. The pupils also created their own wreath and laid it, on behalf of the school. Many of the residents had commented afterwards on the reverence and good behaviour of the children.

The sounding of the 'Last Post' is always a solemn moment; the flags are dipped in salute and wreaths are laid in memory of the fallen. It was a poignant moment too, during the time of prayer as the scheme managers from each complex read out the names of their deceased residents from the complexes' Books of Remembrance.

These events are more than just remembering the past; they are prayerful, reconciling and renewing - making it a truly community event. Listening to residents over a cup of tea afterwards and hearing their stories is a very precious time; they are so grateful to be remembered and really appreciate the services.

## **Office Move**

Preparations for the office move began in March 2014 when we were advised we were required to move due to the relocation of Father Hudson's Society to new purpose built office premises. Much work had to be done in the months preceding the move to reduce our files and resources, as there would be much less space for storage in the new building.

On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November the office move took place and ran smoothly with IT and telephones back online as soon as possible. The unpacking of resources and preparation for Christmas and the events for 2015 was very demanding coupled with our limited financial resources. We would like to express our gratitude to Father Hudson's Society for the provision of an office within their new building: St George's House, Gerards Way, Coleshill B46 3FG.

## **Online Pastoral Care Project Christmas Message – December 2014**

The Pastoral Care Project wishes to thank Bishop David McGough Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and lead Bishop to the Pastoral Care Project for his Christmas message which was produced as a Christmas card and message to download from the website:

*"At Christmas I send my warmest Christmas greetings and prayers to all who support the work of the Pastoral Care Project. Christmas is a time for family and home, a season that builds on the memories of the past. It is, for this very reason, a difficult time for those whose failing health and declining years have led to increasing isolation.*

*Thank you for a work that reaches out to so many, to those for whom 'there is no room at the Christmas Inn.' It is in the most vulnerable that we welcome Christ."*

## **Catholic Today - Birmingham Diocesan Monthly Newspaper**

Catholic Today newspaper invited the Pastoral Care Project to write a monthly column. This column provides us with the opportunity to share our experiences over the last twenty five years of being with the frail elderly, many of whom are living with dementia; supporting carers and leading Eucharistic Services, Prayer and Training in Care Homes and Parishes.

The Column to help raise awareness of the resources available for parishes, schools, care homes and individuals who are caring for the frail elderly. The responses received to date are a great encouragement to us and a point of contact for those needing information, resources or to wishing to host an event.

## **January 2015 – Preparation for Dementia – Prayer Week 12-19<sup>th</sup> March**

The New Year began with a day of reflection for trustees and staff. The theme was based on Palm 85.8 'I will hear what the Lord God has to say'. This was an opportunity to hear, reflect and share in preparation for Dementia Prayer week in March - how we can be a voice for those affected by dementia.

Following the growth from previous years and the feedback a new leaflet was designed and produced for Dementia – Prayer Week 2015. This included a message from Bishop David McGough; prayer intentions for each day to link with the scripture readings as well as information and suggestions of how to join in locally.

We wish to acknowledge the support of the Mental Health Project and a grant from the Catholic Bishops Conference Day for Life Fund to assist with the printing costs.

Information was forwarded to all the Bishops for circulation to their clergy and organisations as well as information being emailed to existing contacts. We are grateful for the support of Catholic Media, Catholic Today, Christians Together England and Wales, and the local press for promoting the event, which enabled many people to join in prayer and also think about their own situation and what they can offer through using our resources.

We also wish to acknowledge the support and participation of His Eminence Vincent Gerard Cardinal Nichols, along with his Bishops throughout England and Wales and we also wish to thank our own Archbishop of Birmingham Rt. Rev Bernard Longley and his assistant Bishops and clergy; the Church of England Bishop of Birmingham, Rt. Rev David Urquhart along with his Bishops and Rt. Rev Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry and to Mothers' Union, for their support in promoting Dementia – Prayer Week.

The leaflet was available online and we have received encouraging feedback from people who said how lovely it was and they felt they could pass it on to family and friends, even those who may not have any direct connection with church.

The Pastoral Care Project website and social media resulted in enquiries from many regions of the UK, all with the same concern – reaching out to the most vulnerable.

### **Dementia – Prayer Week 12<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Diocese, Parishes and Organisations throughout the Britain and Ireland and several overseas missionary societies supported Dementia – Prayer Week by including posting in their blogs, by their prayers daily and at weekend masses. Several have emailed us, others we hear about throughout the year. Below are a few of those who gave us more specific information.

#### **Religious Orders, Organisations and Care Settings:**

##### **Little Sisters of the Poor**

Birmingham and nationally

##### **Sisters of Nazareth**

Footherley Hall, Staffordshire,  
St Teresa Care Home, London  
St Augustine Care Home, Surrey

##### **Sisters Hospitaller of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Nazareth House, Finchley London

## **Sons of Divine Providence (Orione Care), Upholland, Lancashire, organised an ecumenical day of prayer – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Cardinal Heenan House is a residential care home for older people, specialising in dementia care. This is the third year in which they supported, promoted and organised an ecumenical Prayer Day.

Below is an extract from Fr Stephen Beale report of the day.

"Prior to the week supplies of Prayer Cards and Leaflets were purchased from the Pastoral Care Project and distributed in the deanery and the wider community. Our Annual Dedicated Day for Prayer and Awareness of Dementia, held on 12 March in aid of the Pastoral Care Project charity went very well and was well attended. There was a great buzz with plenty of food for thought and reflection. The Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire spoke about their experiences of visiting local care homes for people with dementia. Additional speakers were; Rev Peter Whittington, OWLS, Joan Crank and Margaret Jennings. Clair from the Cardinal House staff team spoke on palliative care and Fr. Stephen Beale – a year on effects of progression of dementia in Cardinal Heenan House.

Organisations represented were Pastoral Care Project, Alzheimer's Association, Age UK, Artreach, St. Helen's Carer's Trust and connect4life. Bishop Vincent Malone was the main celebrant at Mass, which fittingly closed the day where a collection was taken for the charitable work of the Pastoral Care Project.

In his homily, Bishop Vincent said "Those who observe this Week of Prayer try to put themselves – ourselves – alongside all those who are affected by this trial and, holding hands with each other, look to our loving Father God for strength and perseverance" and he quoted Pope Francis in his recent exhortation on "The proclamation of the Gospel in today's world", which the Pope sees to be at the heart of the Church's purpose, *"In justice I must say first that the contribution of the Church in today's world is enormous. The pain and the shame that we feel at the sins of some members of the Church, and at our own, must never make us forget how many Christians are giving their lives in love. They help so many people to be healed or to die in peace in makeshift hospitals. They are present to those enslaved by different addictions in the poorest places on earth. They devote themselves to the education of children and young people. They take care of the elderly who have been forgotten by everyone else. They look for ways to communicate values in hostile environments. They are dedicated in many other ways to showing an immense love for humanity inspired by God who became man. I am grateful for the beautiful example given to me by so many Christians who joyfully sacrifice their lives and their time. This witness comforts and sustains me in my own efforts to overcome selfishness and to give more fully of myself."*

For more information about the day please visit [www.sonsofdivineprovidence.org.uk](http://www.sonsofdivineprovidence.org.uk) or [orionecare.org](http://orionecare.org)

## **Schools:**

The Pastoral Care Project has continued to strengthen its links with schools by providing online resources and leading some awareness assemblies near to the office base. We are so thankful to the Birmingham Diocesan Schools Commission for their support and the schools who supported this annual week, to those who prayed and held almsgiving/ fundraising events in aid of our charitable work.

The following includes a summary and example of some of the schools who supported the Week again this year. They pledged to pray during the week and donate to our work through their Lenten Alms giving or holding specific events dedicated to dementia.

### **Friday 6th March 2015**

**Holy Family Primary School, Coventry** – Assembly led by the Pastoral Care Project Manager assisted by Pat Barrass. The school will be praying each day and creating a Yellow Prayer Box with prayer card intentions for their prayer corner. They plan to hold an almsgiving event.

#### **St John Fisher Primary School, Coventry**

Prayer included in Assembly each school day between 12-19<sup>th</sup> March – Frances Molloy and volunteer Pat Barrass were invited to lead an assembly in summer term where a cheque would be presented by the pupils.

#### **St Thomas More School of Technology & Sixth Form College, Nuneaton**

The Sixth Form College deputy head Mrs N Anderton promoted the Prayer Leaflets in the College and School. The students volunteering with the Pastoral Care Project's 'HeARTs and Minds' programme gave a presentation to all the college students; this was followed by viewing the film 'For Better for Worse' produced and directed by Victoria Caldwell, former student. Discussions followed in tutor groups. Our thanks to the college for setting aside the day for this important week of prayer and awareness.

#### **John Henry Newman College, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham**

Monday 16th March 2015 Mass at midday.

#### **Our Lady of the Angels Infant School, Nuneaton**

Prayed the Dementia Prayer every day during the week and promised to organise a Yellow Day event.

#### **St Joseph's Junior School, Nuneaton**

Confirmed they would be using the Dementia Prayer Leaflet intentions each school day and sending a share of their almsgiving towards our mission.

### **St Edmunds School, Wolverhampton**

The chaplain included prayers and the proceeds from a collection were sent to via BACS to the Pastoral Care Project. Sending donations by BACS is a more efficient way to donate whilst reducing admin and postage costs for everyone.

### **Parishes and Religious Orders:**

#### **Wednesday 4th March 2015**

Sisters of St Joseph of Lyon, St Joseph's Convent, Haunton, Staffs – Day of celebration during the Year of Consecration. 10am-4.30pm with proceeds to the Pastoral Care Project.

#### **Wednesday 11th March 2015**

**Presentation Sisters (PBVM), Nuneaton**, held prayer time 6.30 – 6.55pm followed by Mass 7.00pm followed by hospitality until 8.30pm. A almsgiving basket was available for those who wished to contribute to the Pastoral Care Project.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 19th March 2015**

#### **Northampton Diocese**

Rt. Rev Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton wrote to say that he would be offering Mass on one of the days during Dementia – Prayer Week.

#### **English Province - Presentation Sisters (PBVM)**

Emailed their support for the Pastoral Care Project and praying every day for everyone whose life is affected by dementia and all who are supporting them.

#### **Southwark Diocese**

Most Rev. Peter Smith, Archbishop of Southwark confirmed that he would be celebrating Mass on one of the days during Dementia – Prayer Week.

#### **St Patrick's Parish, Coventry Franciscans Missionaries of Divine Motherhood**

The sisters recently moved to Coventry and working with the Parish, they offered to promote in the parish. Prayers in St Patrick's were said each day for the intentions within the Prayer Leaflet; a basket was provided for people to place their intentions.

#### **England and Philipines - Columban Missionaries**

The Columban Missionaries in the Philippines and in England supported the week of prayer by including prayer intentions each day at Mass.

#### **St Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Leamington Spa**

Prayers each day were included in the Mass. St Peter's also made an appeal in January and sent the funds donated to the Pastoral Care Project which was so valuable and timely in helping with the cost of producing the Prayer Leaflets.

### **Our Lady of the Angels Church, Nuneaton**

Rosary before daily Mass linking with the Prayer Leaflet intentions. Our Lady's altar was the setting for the Pastoral Care Project's Painting of 'The Finding of The Child Jesus in The Temple' along with devotional resources. The parish toddler group helped by their parents and grandparents created the most beautiful Prayer Intention Box. Our thanks to Linda Darlison and Amy Ashton for involving the youngest members of the community.

### **Syro Malabar Catholic Community, Nuneaton**

The community committed to Mass and gathered the children round painting of 'The Finding of The Child Jesus in The Temple' so they could read the prayers from the leaflet for those they knew personally.

### **Sisters of St Joseph of Lyon, St Joseph's Convent, Haunton, Staffs**

Prayers 9am-9.30am and 6.30pm-7pm each day of the week.

### **Fr M Murphy, Cork City, Ireland**

Emailed to say that he would be praying the prayer each day, he also sent his own personal prayer intentions.

### **Thursday 12th March 2015:**

#### **Aldersgate (MHA) Nuneaton - 12th March -19<sup>th</sup> 2015**

A Prayer and arts event took place where students and residents spent time round the table creating prayer intention box whereby residents, staff and visitors could place their prayer intentions.

The residents and staff were delighted to have the students from St Thomas More Catholic Sixth Form College and Project Volunteer Mellissa Pearce to assist with the resources. They asked to have two weeks of prayer and almsgiving activities with a final celebration on 26th March – where the residents presented the students and Melissa Pearce with Easter Eggs.

### **Olton Friary, Olton, Birmingham**

emailed to confirm Exposition 11am-2pm

### **Friday 13th March 2015:**

#### **His Eminence Vincent Gerard Cardinal Nichols**

Confirmed he would be offering a private Mass in his chapel.

### **St Augustine's Catholic Church, Solihull**

Holy Hour between 5–6pm

### **Bishop Richard Moth**

Offered a private Mass in his chapel.

### **St Anne's Church, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham**

Rosary and devotions 9:45-10:00am

**St Ambrose Barlow Church, Hall Green, Birmingham**

Stations of the Cross, followed by Service of Word and Holy Communion 6:30pm

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015:**

**Corpus Christi Church, Stechford, Birmingham**

Holy hour 10:30-11:30am

**Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley, Solihull**

Exposition 9:30am

**University Hospitals Leicester**

Dementia - Prayer Week was publicised in the hospital chapel and included in prayers of intercession at University Hospital Leicester.

**St Joseph the Worker Church, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire**

Mass 5.30pm and 11.00 Sunday. Prayers and collection for the Pastoral Care Project.

**Trinity URC, Hall Green, Birmingham**

Morning worship using Pastoral Care Project's online resources.

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bilton, Rugby**

Bidding Prayers during weekend Mass and the prayer was said each day of the week.

**Tuesday 17th March 2015:**

**St Patrick & St Brigid's Church, Ballycastle, N. Ireland**

The parish ordered Prayer Cards and Leaflets which they distribute in the parish and care homes. They used the resource each day at Mass with special intention mass on feast of St Patrick followed by refreshments and almsgiving organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society. This parish and the SVP group have supported and financially contributed to the work of the Project for several years which is most appreciated -they value the resources which they use for their visiting.

**Wednesday 18th March 2015:**

**St Helen's Catholic Church, Caerphilly, Wales**

Mass 10.00am followed by refreshments and almsgiving for the Pastoral Care Project.

**Thursday 19th March 2015:**

**All Hallows Catholic Church, Miskin, Cardiff**

The Annual Archdiocesan Mass included the Sacrament of the Sick for Dementia Sufferers and their Carers. There was refreshments/hospitality after the Mass.



## **Resources:**

### **Instructions for my Funeral Mass/Care of the Dying document**

Instructions for my Funeral Mass document is produced by the Pastoral Care Project and approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Extract from the Message within the document. "Completing this document will make it so much easier for your family or friends to make the arrangements for your funeral at what will be a sad and difficult time for them. More importantly if your family are not Catholics, or have lapsed from the practice of their faith, or where there is no family around to ensure that your wishes are followed, it ensures that you will receive what is your right as a member of the Catholic Church."

His Eminence Vincent Gerard Cardinal Nichols.

There has been a strong and consistent demand for copies of Instructions for my Funeral Mass this year both from individuals and parishes in all of the dioceses.

A number of clergy have shared with us how they were holding Awareness Afternoons in their parishes to encourage parishioners of every age to make use of the documents and to assist those parishioners who may require some support in talking through their choices or needing assistance, due to their frailty to fill in the form.

The ordering of resources was also highlighted at the Deans meeting, offering each deanery the opportunity to order with one point of delivery thus reducing their delivery charges and their admin time.

Parishes, or health care providers and funeral directors may wish to order supplies of Instructions for my Funeral Mass by downloading the online order form [www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk](http://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk) or email [info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk](mailto:info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk)

### **Website**

The website infrastructure has been updated by Gabriel Media. This now offers an online shop and many other services – pending funding or sponsorship. Buying resources online is the most effective way forward which is accessible to people at a time convenient to them.

The future plan is to find sponsorship or donations to update the resources in the office and upload them for wider use. This will help individuals, families and those involved in pastoral care, health care, education or vocational courses.

## **Volunteers**

This year we have welcomed three new volunteers, Melissa Pearce who committed to nine months, Pat Barrass who has supported the Project in many ways and Victoria Caldwell a graduate then – now in full time employment. The valuable contribution of their time, skills and experience is highlighted below.

### **'For Better, for Worse' – Dementia and my Family**

'For Better, for Worse' is a short film which was produced and directed by Victoria Caldwell as part of her Art, Design and Media Communication Degree at Newman University. Whilst coming to terms with her grandfather's dementia, Victoria decided to put her energy into making a short film that would capture the essence of her grandparents' 65-year of marriage, contrasting the fun times of their youth and courtship days of the 1930's with the gradual overshadowing of dementia in their later years.

Seeing young actors step into the shoes of a couple living with Alzheimer's Disease/dementia lends a particular depth and power to the film, and is a striking reminder that Alzheimer's Disease/dementia does not take away a person's essence or their humanity.

Fleeting memories are skilfully recreated through colour and monochrome and set to the song 'The Promise', inviting us to imagine the vivid thoughts that revisit her grandfather's mind as he sits with his wife (the actors in a film booth). The booth brings home the current isolation and the difficulty of caring by his wife, Victoria's grandmother.

This simple yet moving film has been piloted in groups and schools and we have seen how it reaches out across generations and will look at ways of making it more widely available.

Acknowledgments: We wish to thank Victoria for joining as a volunteer and for gifting her film to the Pastoral Care Project and song artist Ben Howard for granting permission to use his song 'The Promise'.

### **HeARTs & Minds – October 2015 – March 2015**

Melissa Pearce was drawn to the Pastoral Care Project as she searched for potential volunteer placements where her gifts and skills would be best put to use. She had worked for six years as a lay chaplain in a Catholic sixth form college, and also training in spiritual accompaniment so it was wonderful that she should be willing to give one day per week with the Project.

## **HeARTs & Minds (continued)**

When St Thomas More School and College approached the Pastoral Care Project in September about working with students it made sense that Melissa and Victoria Caldwell, both young adults would be able to help with this. So after an initial presentation to sixth form and meeting prospective students Melissa was given the task of organising the programme and finding local placement.

Her own words follow: "It has been a privilege to be able to use my skills and chaplaincy experience to help prepare, launch and work with the students on the 'Hearts and Minds' volunteer project."

When we first met in August 2014, Frances Molloy mentioned the need for more people to be involved in this work – the harvest was ready, and I responded with 'and the labourers are coming!' Indeed, there has been a strong sense of the Holy Spirit at work throughout, as people, communities and resources have come together at the right time to enable this project to bear fruit: the timing of my own application to join the Pastoral Care Project, the availability of Victoria Caldwell and her powerful film, 'For Better, For Worse', the fostering of a fruitful relationship with Aldersgate that has blossomed, the support of St Thomas More School and Sixth Form and the desire of three sixth form students who wanted to volunteer in a faith capacity. It was felt that one of the Pastoral Care Project initiatives, 'Pastoral Companions' could be adapted to suit these student volunteers and that it might provide an opportunity for the students to name this new initiative with something that would appeal to young people – and so 'Hearts and Minds' was born."

Some of the high points have been working with new volunteers and planning a new training programme with and for young people: spending time listening to Aldersgate residents and helping prepare reflections and training material, involving students by reading and interactive prayer with residents as well as incorporating space for Melissa to use her skill of Sign Language - so moving and loved by residents and staff and everyone.

The final celebration is planned for June, where the students will be presented with certificates from the Pastoral Care Project and from Methodist Housing Association – to show appreciation of their commitment, added skills and achievement.

## **Spiritual Reflection – ‘their oneness is something to behold’**

**The Dementia Prayer** : Lord thank you for your presence this moment.

Holding us in your love, help us to share your love, with those who live among us with dementia, that we may see your beauty in them. Amen.

A few people have already told us how much they love the prayer and sometimes replace the word ‘dementia’ as the need arises. It is a simple and much loved prayer, used in schools, care settings and parishes. As one man wrote in his letter to us, *"I got so much from looking after my mum when she had dementia."* Looking after a loved one at home can be a great blessing, but many are not in a position to do this and so rely on care agencies or care homes; so the relationship can be different as less time is spent together. One of the fears often raised with us about visiting the person with dementia is, *"they won't know who I am."* Why is there such expectation on someone who is so ill, confused and vulnerable?

‘Visiting the Frail Elderly Person’ Pastoral Care Leaflet can be of help, but I decided to look at bit deeper at this fear. This fear, is it a lack of confidence or being out of our depth or simply uncomfortable expressing our emotions. I love being a grandmother - of just six years to three grandchildren of six and four years and one nine months old, so it's all new to me and my husband. A recent experience when our granddaughter, who is just nine months old, was with us for the day. I was intrigued watching her playing – she would look and watch us and I wondered as I often do, what is she thinking about as she looks and listens and is taking in all that was going on around her? I thought to myself, *'if only she could express herself.'* My questions were answered, when her dad came to collect her, she immediately recognised his voice and crawled towards him holding the hem of his trousers, waiting to be picked up and cuddled. The way she looked at him; she is unable to call him daddy yet she has this sense of knowing him; their oneness that moment was something to behold. It reminds me of several experiences of being with someone with dementia and how changed they are with a visit by a loved one , and other times during prayer or in a holy place, where they appear to feel at home.

Might it be like my granddaughter that within each of us there is the child who still seeks parental love? It may be difficult coming to terms with the frailty of a parent with advanced dementia who can no longer express their love in this way - every relationship is different but what is apparent is the deep down desire, need and longing between parent and child - to be loved.

We thank and value every person who is part of our Christian mission; their prayer and support in a variety of ways is a source of great encouragement for the continuity of our work.

**Frances Molloy**  
**Project Manager**

## **Financial Overview - Treasurer**

This year I became treasurer and it has been a busy time for the Pastoral Care Project: moving office, responding to enquiries and creating resources with limited income and time. However, all that has been achieved is truly amazing and so much of the work would not have been possible without the continued support of Father Hudson's Society and the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

There have been a few unexpected and most welcome donations received, from funerals; a collection from St Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Leamington Spa, and one family carer who contacted the office for support in her time of need; these acts of kindness have really touched our hearts. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in our own time of need.

Securing income is essential for the continuation of our work in relieving the distress of many who are disadvantaged, and we wish to acknowledge and thank all the parishes who have financially supported the Pastoral Care Project in the past and helped it become what it is today. Two years ago there was the loss of income from parishes, the impact was felt this year and has meant that the Manager and Admin worker hours were reduced considerably - the Manager has contributed many hours voluntarily – this is not ideal. We are trying to address this shortfall which is important to help us meet our commitments especially to move forward with the 'HeARTS and Minds' programme with the young people who have volunteered this year; as Pope Francis referred to during World Youth Day in 2013, *"...the results of our pastoral work do not depend on the wealth of resources but on the creativity of love."*

It may be that you have ideas or would like to invest in their future with us by making a one off or regular donation. It will be a worthwhile investment whatever their career path; they will go forward with a sound spiritual awareness and pastoral understanding to offer those who are frail as dementia can, does and will affect all generations for many years to come.

Our thanks to those who supported the annual appeal by giving alms during the Dementia – Prayer Week 12-19<sup>th</sup> March 2015. We hope more people will pledge their support for the Prayer Week in 2016. Please do contact us to pledge your support or should you wish to contribute to the weeks resources, cheques should be made payable to 'Pastoral Care Project' and sent to the Pastoral Care Project, St George's House, Gerards Way, Coleshill, B46 3FG (there is a Gift Aid form in this report and online). Should you prefer to make a donation via bank transfer, please contact the office for details on 01675 434035.

**Leema Philips**  
**Treasurer**

**PASTORAL CARE PROJECT**  
**Accounts**  
**31 March 2015**

**Beasley & Co.**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Abbey House**  
**105 Abbey Street**

**Nuneaton**  
**Warwickshire**  
**CV11 5BX**

**PASTORAL CARE PROJECT**  
**Receipts And Payments Account For The Year Ended**  
**31 March 2015**

£		£
16,115.75	Balance at Bank, 1 April 2014	12,480.97
24,959.25	Receipts: Grants and Donations	21,607.37
2,875.23	Resource sales and Pastoral Fees	2,554.90
20.23	Bank Interest	14.73
<u>27,854.71</u>		<u>24,177.00</u>
960.05	Payments: Equipment and Resources	2,689.57
24,976.59	Wages - Project Manager and Part Time Assistant	23,428.16
2,200.00	Office Rent and Services (In Kind)	2,200.00
681.44	Telephone	636.00
666.00	Postages and Stationery	670.99
230.07	Insurance	241.57
247.70	Internet	-
105.00	Subscriptions and licences	35.00
471.00	Travelling Expenses	372.69
106.13	AGM and Events costs	35.00
226.31	Training costs	
120.00	Promotion Expenses etc	-
<u>499.20</u>	Accountancy	<u>499.20</u>
31,489.49		30,808.18
<u><u>12,480.97</u></u>	Balance at 31st March 2015	<u><u>5,849.79</u></u>

## **PASTORAL CARE PROJECT**

### **Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Pastoral Care Project**

I report on the receipts and payments account of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2015, which is set on page 2.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you may consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Bias of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

in connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting?

Requirements of the Act. have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### **Beasley & Co. Chartered Accountants**

14th April 2015



## **PASTORAL CARE PROJECT**

### **Charity Information**

**31 March 2015**

#### **Charity Trustees**

Sheevaun Sparkes (Chair)  
Glenys Roberson (Vice-Chair)  
Leema Philips (Treasurer)  
Ingrid Klabisz J.P. (Secretary)  
Helen Hawley (retiring 2015)  
Frances Ashley  
Rev Kevin Kavanagh (retiring 2015)  
Michael Cauchi

#### **Reporting accountants**

Beasley & Co Chartered Accountants  
Abbey House  
105 Abbey Street  
Nuneaton  
Warwickshire  
CV11 5BX

#### **Bank**

The Cooperative Bank  
PO Box 101  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

#### **Charity registered number**

1094766

## Donations

The Pastoral Care Project is reliant on donations to continue its charitable work of raising awareness of the spiritual needs of the frail elderly – enabling carers to support them in their journey to the fullness of life. Therefore every donation is important. Please consider sharing in our mission by making a donation.

These can be monthly or annually or in memory of a loved one.

Should you wish to pay directly through your bank please contact us for our bank account details. Thank you for considering this request.



**Registered Charity No 1094766**

## GIFT AID

The Project is grateful to individuals who send us donations. If you are a tax payer and sending a donation you may wish to complete the Gift Aid form so that the Project can reclaim tax from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

**Pastoral Care Project** – Registered Charity No 1094766

## Gift Aid Declaration

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please treat as Gift Aid all donations I have made to the Pastoral Care Project over the past four years and all donations I make thereafter until I advise otherwise. I understand the Pastoral Care Project will reclaim tax on every donation that I give. I understand I can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Pastoral Care Project. \*You must pay an amount of UK income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Pastoral Care Project reclaims on your donations in the tax year (at the current rate).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: Project Manager, Pastoral Care Project, St George's House, Gerards Way, Coleshill B46 3FG

Thank you for considering our work.

## **FUTURE PLANS – 2015-16**

### **Annual Events**

Schools assemblies  
Annual Dementia – Prayer Week 12- 19<sup>th</sup> March 16  
Continue to develop links with schools – HeARTS and Minds programme

### **Conference workshops**

Anglican Diocese of Worcester Autumn Worshiping with People who have Dementia  
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Conference- Mental Health Project retreat

### **Retreat – Days of Prayer**

St Augustine's RC Church, Solihull, Easter - Day Retreat  
Retreat Afternoon linked to the Annual General Meeting

### **Networking**

Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth Meeting –Public Health Group  
Continue developing links with churches and organisations

### **Resources**

Dementia information for Parishes  
Instructions for my Funeral Mass  
Critical Illness and Care of the Dying

### **IT**

Updating website and resources – acquire iPad for presentations  
Editing photographs setting up website gallery  
Editing videos and uploading to website  
Develop online shop resources

### **Recruit new trustees and new volunteers**

Recruit Trustees  
Developing skills in assisting with training  
Recruit new volunteers

### **Funding**

Seeking partners to further the work  
Grants to expand charitable work  
Increase local and online giving  
Develop the Website and PowerPoint Resources  
Create online shop

[www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk](http://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk)