



Registered Charity No 1094766

Pastoral Care Project

Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

‘the God, who journeys with each of us’



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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 training as a Spiritual Director (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. 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 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 by Archbishop Bernard Longley as lead bishop to the Pastoral Care Project in October 2011.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair

Chair to be appointed

Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair to be appointed

Treasurer

Mr Kevin Goodyear

Business Support Manager, Parish Eucharist Minister and Reader.

Treasurer to be appointed

Secretary

Miss Ingrid Klabisz J.P

Justice of the Peace, Retired Nurse Manager

Mrs Helen Hawley

Religious Education Co-ordinator, Our Lady of the Angels Infant School, Nuneaton

Mrs Frances Ashley

Teaching Assistant, Croft Junior School, Nuneaton

Rev Kevin Kavanagh

Parish Priest, Sacred Heart and St Teresa, Coleshill

Rev Michael Gamble

Parish Priest, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Bulkington

Employees

Mrs Frances Molloy

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

Mrs Maria Gallagher

Administrative Assistant part-time

Office

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Introduction/Overview

This year's annual report is not the usual illustrated version. There are several reasons for this; it has been a year of transition, a reduction in working hours, moving office as well as an increase in enquires received from families and individual elderly people needing information and support. What is not written in detail and should nonetheless be noted is that from those we support and the enquires we receive there is a considerable sense of fear and concern felt by individuals and families; some are working, others are elderly frail and also clergy who do not live near relatives and are unable to visit them as often as they would wish. *"As our population continues to age, dementia is the modern epidemic, largely hidden behind closed doors."* Bishop David McGough Message in 2103 Annual Report.

One concern often voiced by people who contact us is in regard to their faith needs; they worry about being forgotten and fear what will happen if they have to leave their family home. Often the perception is that once a relative is in a care home the problem is solved, however, if their loved one's health deteriorates or they are hospitalised, alternative nursing care may have to be sought; resulting in the individual being moved somewhere unknown to them, at a time when they need comfort and security most.

Several carers whom we supported for many years have found caring every day an enormous pressure on their own health. The local authority respite they depended on is no longer available. They often express how the level of care received saddens them and they don't just feel isolated and neglected, *they are* isolated and neglected. We already network with many parishes and deaneries and so we are able to provide carers with the relevant contact details or contact the parish on their behalf. If they tell us they are to be admitted to hospital, we advise them to ask the hospital staff to contact the chaplain to visit them.

The individuals and carers who are supported by the Pastoral Care Project continue to be our priority but with limited resources we must continue to raise awareness and enable others so that more parishes will take on this apostolate.

Frances Molloy
Project Manager

Annual Report 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

Communitas Project, Sparkhill, Birmingham – Day of Formation/Reflection Saturday 20th April 2013

The Pastoral Care Project was invited by Mauricio Silva, leader of the Communitas Project in Birmingham, to lead a day of formation and reflection for their members and their partners from the Muslim Educational Consultative Committee, in their joint work of reducing isolation in their area of Birmingham.

“This Day of Reflection was the first time that the Communitas Project volunteers and staff had the chance to meet and reflect together in a respectful and faith-filled atmosphere, with time to explore deeply their desire to serve others, particularly the elderly. To me the most striking feature of the day was the composition of the group, five Muslims and eight Christians talking about caring for others. Another highlight of the day for me was the sharing at the table as we sat together and shared what God has given us.

To me, it was an image of what God is inviting Communitas to be - an interfaith initiative which builds bridges among people of different faiths and cultures. The gentle and wise direction of Frances Molloy and Helen Hawley led us into a journey which started with the opening of our minds to the reality of working with the elderly and concluded with an invitation to open our hearts to discover the God, who journeys with each of us.” Mauricio Silva, Communitas Project Leader writing in Catholic Today 2013

Nuneaton Rotarian Lunch - Monday 26th August 2013

The President of Nuneaton Rotary Club, Gary Dancer, had chosen the Pastoral Care Project as one of his charities during his year of office. This came about as he himself is a ‘Dementia Friend’ and his connections with Rev Helga Cornell, Minister of United Reformed Church and Minister of the workplace, who already supports our work. He invited the Project Manager was invited to the Rotarian lunch where the President officially announced that the Pastoral Care Project was one of the chosen charities of the Nuneaton Rotary Club for 2013-14.

Catholic Social Action Road Shows – for those who care about others

These regional events were held in the Archdiocese of Birmingham and organised by Father Hudson's Society and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). The Pastoral Care Project was invited to have a stand in the Marketplace at both Road Shows.

Road Show (north) - Saturday 22nd June 2013

The first Road Show was held in the north of the diocese on Saturday 22 June 2013 at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School, Wednesbury. The Pastoral Care Project had

its own stall on the Marketplace where Frances Ashley (Project Trustee) and Maria Gallagher (Admin Assistant) were on hand to speak to people and hand out information and resources as well as attending workshops that had been organised as part of the day.

Road Show (south) - Saturday 12th October 2013

The second Road Show was held in the south of the diocese on Saturday 12th October 2013 at Blessed George Napier Catholic High School, Banbury. Frances Molloy (Project Manager) and Ingrid Klabisz (Project Trustee) attended the day.

It was interesting to meet many people who were caring for elderly relatives, or were elderly themselves caring for a loved one and helping with grandchildren as well. There are clearly hidden gifts and needs among the older generation. There is so much love and devotion to draw from as a way of encouraging family life.

Thank you to everyone who visited our stalls in the Marketplace on both occasions - it was wonderful to meet and speak with so many people, sharing ideas and distributing resources.

Pastoral Care Project - Annual General Meeting Thur 10th October 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Pastoral Care Project took place on Thursday 10th October 2013 at 7.30pm in the parish hall of Our Lady of the Angels, Nuneaton.

The Chair, Fr Michael Gamble welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer, including the prayer requests received. Gordon Chilvers, a volunteer since 1999 who had recently gone to the Lord was also remembered in the prayers.

The Chair presented the Annual Report and the Treasurer, Kevin Goodyear, presented the Annual Accounts – both the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts were adopted.

Retiring Trustee

As Fr. Philip Harrop moved to St Dunstan's parish Birmingham in 2013 he could no longer commit to being a trustee. The Chair acknowledged the tremendous contribution Fr. Philip had made to the Pastoral Care Project during his years as a Trustee, not least with the Instructions for my Funeral Mass document.

Speakers

Deputy Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth, Cllr Brian Hawkes.

The first speaker of the evening was the Deputy Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth, Council Cllr Brian Hawkes. Cllr Hawkes referred back to the first event organised by the Pastoral Care Project that he had attended, the Spiritual Care in Confusion Conference in 2000 when his wife was Mayor and he her consort. He said that they

were both delighted to have the opportunity to attend this AGM. He spoke of the recent concern regarding fifteen minute visits by care staff, which was insufficient for peoples' needs. He spoke passionately about preserving the dignity of the elderly including their spiritual needs. His talk concluded with his reflection on 1. Corinthians 13. 1-13, Love is Patient.

Mr Gary Dancer, President of the Nuneaton Rotary Club.

The second guest speaker of the evening was Mr Gary Dancer, President of the Nuneaton Rotary Club. Gary spoke about the work of the Rotarians and the international and local projects they support. He spoke of their support for the 'Dementia Friends' initiative, which led him to the Pastoral Care Project and his wish to include the Pastoral Care Project as one of his charities the Nuneaton Rotary Club would be raising funds for during 2013-14.

Canon Edward Pogmore, Chaplaincy Team Leader at George Eliot Hospital.

'Where is Grace in Vulnerability?' and 'Continuing to Break Down the Barriers in Confusion!'

Extracts from Canon Edward Pogmore's talk.

Canon Edward began his talk linking Pastoral Care with Advance Care Planning. Edward spoke of having travelled with the Pastoral Care Project for twenty five years – what was then a tiny mustard seed... with deep roots in spiritual and pastoral care it became a beacon, and still is when other beacons have diminished.

Fear in confusion and dementia express an important truth....this is an urgent message that pastoral care needs to be more deeply and widely understood.

Edward's talk was interspersed with personal experiences of his late mother, who had an inkling that she had dementia – he said, "*she was queen of the Mothers Union and often a communicator of grace in word and deed; as is seen in the Bake and Share campaign – she liked to bake scones, profusely.*" Living within protected living meant she could continue to live independently. He spoke of her coping with dementia and of the importance of practising her faith.

Edward's talk addressed current issues for instance, 'Fear in confusion - fear of our own insecurity, our own control ... friends ... loved ones – we must open the doors,' referring to what Bishop David McGough said in reference to the increase in the number of people with dementia 'hidden behind closed doors is the modern epidemic.' He referred to Professor John Swinton in one of his talks on 'Theology and Dementia' (available to watch on YouTube) challenged his listeners by asking "do you cease to be when you no longer remember who you are, or is there another dimension?" The same question Edward asked those present earlier, who are you? Is cognition the only meaning ... do not stop visiting people who have confusion; Edward spoke of his own personal frustration with the lack of visiting.

'Causes of Hope' however fleetingly, that moment when we have eye accord, attention is caught we can somehow act. So what reaches people with dementia? Reflective Practice looks at care – the difficult cases – shared with each other on the team – bear fruit and we find better ways to do things and encourage each other. 'Causes of Hope' – breaking down preconceived ideas and take people as they are – as people. It is a hard discipline – an important discipline.

Advance Care Planning – pastoral care and Instructions for my Funeral Mass is ACP in health care to assist frail individuals and families to talk about it. A number of us have campaigned for it – and people still serve and contribute despite confusion.

The challenge is there and gives every possibility to all - all faiths and none in our community to use the gifts of everyone - the barriers to overcome and be transformed are our own.

To be better at discerning where grace is in vulnerability; to look out for the essence of pastoral care in confusion; to strengthen our own practice.

Edward closed his talk by saying "the Pastoral Care Project prophesied for a good time....fear not, nothing can separate us from the love of God; all be given fresh courage this year and in the years to come. Blessings."

Resignation of Chair of the Pastoral Care Project

Following on from the speakers, Fr Michael Gamble thanked all the guest speakers. Fr Michael stated that he would be stepping down as Chair of the Pastoral Care Project as soon as possible because he had taken on the responsibility of an additional parish.

Spiritual Reflection

Bishop David McGough, lead bishop to the Pastoral Care Project then gave the spiritual reflection based on the one contained within the Annual Report. Bishop David said he was intrigued that the idea for 'Bake n Share' was inspired by the scripture, 1 Kings Chapter 17. ..Bishop David said, "*In this there is a profound truth: that in any undertaking, however impoverished we seem to be, we all have something to offer – we all have a part to play...*"

Bishop David spoke fondly about his own mother and her love of baking. In her later years, she suffered cruelly from dementia, but even as she became more confused, she could still make perfect pastry! He spoke of how his mother had a great devotion to Mary, finding comfort from praying the Hail Mary over and over.

Close of Meeting

Fr Michael Gamble invited Frances Molloy, Project Manager to introduce the hymn to close the meeting. Introducing the hymn *Take my life and let it be*, Frances spoke of how this hymn was a prayer of abandonment and surrender – putting one's life into God's care, especially those who are coming to the end of their life. This hymn

was often sung by the team at the close of services in care settings and was being offered tonight to place in God's safe keeping the frail elderly and those who care for them.

Fr Michael Gamble thanked everyone for attending the AGM and invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments on offer.

The Pastoral Care Project wishes to thank those who baked scones, apple pies and cakes – a wonderful expression of generosity and a fine example of 'Bake n Share' in action. It was wonderful meeting clergy and parishioners and care managers from Rugeley and Solihull, who had come specifically to hear about the Pastoral Care Project and what it had been doing. Thank you to all those who attended the Annual General Meeting; the individuals who sent prayer requests and donations and those who helped with refreshments. Thank you to John Hart for the video and photography services on the evening.

Diocesan Pastoral Forum, Birmingham – Thursday 24th October 2013

Bishop William Kenny invited Frances Molloy, Project Manager to attend the area forum and to give an overview of the Projects work. It was an opportunity to raise awareness about our work in relation to the 800,000 people in the UK living with a form of dementia and also to hear what was happening throughout the dioceses.

Services of Remembrance – November 2013

The Pastoral Care Project with the help of scheme managers and staff organised Remembrance Services in Cheverel Place and Stan Williams Court Sheltered Housing Complexes in Nuneaton. The services were attended by the Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth Cllr Bob Copeland and Mayoress Mrs Elaine Copeland.

The Pastoral Care Project is thankful to many people for making these events happen; the choir from St John's Methodist Church, Hinckley ex-servicemen Standard Bearers and the City of Coventry Standard Bearers Association and Project volunteers and guest speakers. The Pastoral Care Project acknowledges the grant received from Councilors' June Tandy and Bob Hicks in support of these events.

It is always a solemn moment as the Last Post is sounded; the flags are dipped in salute and wreaths are laid in memory of the fallen. A very moving moment occurred during the laying of wreaths, a father and his small son, Noah, laid a wreath in memory of his great-great grandfather, who died in the first world war and a grandfather who died in the second world war – the family had recently moved into the area, next door to Stan Williams Court, and had asked if they could join in the service.

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, they are prayerful and renew hope because everyone from veterans, residents, staff and Councillors join together in making it a truly community event. Afterwards, listening to residents over a cup of tea and hearing their stories is a very precious time; they are so grateful to be remembered and really appreciate the services, which are provided for them each year. As one standard bearer from Coventry said, *"today is of great importance to me, the preparation and participation in formal services demands so much energy and emotion, and coming over to Nuneaton to such a warm and homely environment is wonderful."*

Speakers this year were:

Cheverel Place – Tuesday 12th November 2013 was Rev Helga Cornell, United Reform Church and Minister in the Workplace. After reading the gospel Helga invited people to share their stories. Veterans, residents and members of the choir told their stories which really were very moving. *"For some to carry those memories for so many years and still the emotions are so real is humbling."* FM

Stan Williams Court – Thursday 14th November 2013 was Rev Alex Potts, former chaplain to the army. He spoke of a few of his experiences during his time of service, which many residents and veterans could appreciate and relate to.

Meeting with Marcus Jones MP - Friday 13th December 2013?

In light of the David Cameron's 'Dementia Friends' initiative, the Project Manager Frances Molloy along with Project Trustee Ingrid Klabisz met with Marcus Jones MP to discuss the work of the Pastoral Care Project at local and national level. This resulted in Marcus Jones, saying he would be forwarding a copy of our Annual Report to the Minister of Health.

He also committed to lend his support to our event in Ropewalk Shopping Centre on March 8th in promoting the forthcoming the Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia 12-19th March 2014.

Online Pastoral Care Project Christmas Message – December 2013

The Pastoral Care Project wishes to thank Bishop David McGough Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and lead Bishop to the 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. I will be offering mass for your intentions on Monday 23rd December.

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.

NHS Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning CCG Vision for Quality – 30th Jan 2014

NHS Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning CCG Vision for Quality was held at Bulkington, Warwickshire. Frances Molloy, Project Manager and Ingrid Klabisz, Project Trustee, were invited to attend the event. They took part in workshops on end of life care and dementia respectively where they gave input into the importance of spiritual care and the need for training in this for professional carers.

Catholic Today - Birmingham Diocesan Monthly Newspaper

The Pastoral Care Project is honoured to have been given the opportunity to write a monthly column in Catholic Today newspaper. This column gives us the opportunity to share our experience over the last twenty five years and so help raise awareness about our mission and the dignity of the frail elderly. Hopefully it will encourage individuals in parishes and within families to share the gospel of joy with one another.

January 2014 – Preparation for the Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia

During January there was much prayer, reflection and preparation for the forthcoming Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia 12th-19th March. Information was forwarded to all the Bishops for circulation to parishes as well as information being emailed to existing contacts. We are grateful for the support of Catholic Media, Catholic Today, Christian Together England and Wales, and the local press for promoting the event.

Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia 12th - 19th March 2014

"We all have something to offer"

The words spoken by Bishop David McGough, our lead bishop at our AGM about how *"we all have something to offer"* were a personal challenge to us – how could we inspire greater awareness and prayer?

With over 800,000 people in the UK diagnosed with having a form of dementia, raising awareness and enabling others to help in some small way would make such a difference. The Pastoral Care Project is concerned about those 800,000 people and is also concerned about their families and carers.

Reading the book *'Prayer of the Holy Family'* by Fr. Livinus Donohoe OCD inspired us to look more at the role of the family, as dementia impacts on children as well as adults, as we realised whilst visiting schools and giving assemblies. In searching for a suitable image of the family for a prayer card for the Week of Prayer 2014, led us to contact Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM to see if she had a painting we could use. Sr. Annie had previously been very kind to the Pastoral Care Project allowing us to use

her paintings to help our work, but on this occasion, she didn't have anything suitable. However, to our surprise, some weeks later a beautiful painting arrived in the post. The painting depicting the Child Jesus in the Temple is so beautiful and suitable for all ages for reflection. A five year old child when she first saw it said 'it was Jesus and his family.' The painting has since been called the '*The Closeness of God*' - inspired by the words which can be read in the reflection on page 28.

The Pastoral Care Project is very thankful to Sr. Annie for this beautiful painting which is so inspiring and helpful to our work. The painting has been used many times for reflection in parishes and schools as well as with groups of carers and volunteers.

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 to Church of England Bishop of Birmingham, Rt. Rev David Urquhart and the Bishops of Aston, Lichfield and Coventry for their support of the Week of Prayer.

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

Parishes:

Parishes throughout the Britain and Ireland and several overseas missionary organisations have supported the Week of Prayer by including prayers either daily or at weekend masses. Several have emailed us, others we hear about throughout the year. Below is just a few of those who gave us more specific information.

Wednesday 5th March - St Patrick's Cathedral, Belfast, Fr Kevin McGuckien – Mass on Ash Wednesday in preparation for the forthcoming Week.

Wednesday 5th March – Mass in the Project Manager's family home.

This was a parish initiative of Our Lady of the Angels Church, Nuneaton to invite families in different areas of the town to have mass during Lent, so it was a privilege to have the opportunity to have an open house for friends and neighbours which coincided with the Week of Prayer 12-19th March

Friday 7th March - Our Lady of the Angels Church, Nuneaton, Mass followed by the regular Light Lunch including Bake 'n' Share and saying the Prayer, proceeds of £50.00 were given to the Pastoral Care Project.

Wednesday 12th March - Polesworth Abbey, Polesworth offered their mid-day Eucharistic Service and information was available afterwards in the refectory.

Wednesday 12th March - St Patrick & St Brigid's Church, Ballycastle, County Antrim, Mass followed by Tea proceeds of £90.00 sent to the Pastoral Care Project.

Wednesday 12th March - United Reformed Church Nuneaton. Incorporated Prayer week into their regular Wednesday coffee morning, where prayers were offered for those with dementia and their carers, £106.00 was donated to the Project.

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March - St Dunstan & St Jude's Church, Birmingham, promotion of event and the prayer included in newsletter.

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March - St Joseph's Church, Wrightington, prayers included throughout the Week.

Thursday 13th March St Mary's in Dunstable held an afternoon of Prayer using the Project's online resources.

Thursday 13th March - Our Lady of the Angels Church, Nuneaton, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Thursday 13th March – Bishop David McGough led a day with the Project Trustees and staff of the Pastoral Care Project in Coleshill, including Mass and an afternoon of reflection.

Saturday 15th March - Bishop Richard Moth offered Mass in his private chapel.

Saturday 15th March & Sunday 16th March - St Augustine of England, Solihull, prayers at weekend Masses and also held Bake 'n' Share events after each Mass with proceeds of £115.00 sent to the Pastoral Care Project.

Saturday 15th March & Sunday 16th March – St Benedict's Church, Atherstone – Prayer Cards purchased and online prayers of the faithful.

Sunday 16th March – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, Mass and talks were given by Sr. Renate and Fr Jeremy Howard.

Sunday 16th March - Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Annes, Lancs. Dementia Prayer said at each Mass - a coffee morning focusing on dementia, joined by local churches.

Tuesday 18th March - Cardinal Vincent Nichols offered Mass in his private chapel.

Tuesday 18th March - St George's Cathedral, Southwalk, Mass 12.30pm celebrated by Archbishop Peter Smith.

Wednesday 19th March - All Hallows Church, Misken, Cardiff, Archbishop George Stack offered Mass and ministered the sacrament of the sick followed by hospitality in the parish hall.

Wednesday 19th March - Carmelite Priory Boars Hill, Oxford, Feast of St Joseph Mass and prayers throughout the week.

Wednesday 19th March - Erdington Abbey, Birmingham, Mass and resources from the Pastoral Care Project were on display at their regular coffee morning.

Wednesday 19th March - St Anne's Church, Camp Hill, Nuneaton, Mass.

Wednesday 19th March - St Teresa's RC Church, Upholland, Mass with a collection for the Pastoral Care Project totaling £71.00.

Religious Orders, Organisations and Care Settings

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March St. Columban's Missionary Society in England and the Philippines, Prayer throughout the week and awareness on MISYON online and bangortobobbio.blogspot.com

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March La Retraite Sisters, Prayer throughout the week and a donation of £30.00

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March - Sisters of Nazareth, London, Prayer throughout the Week.

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March – Little Sisters of the Poor Birmingham, Prayer throughout the Week.

Mater Ecclesia Convent, Street Ashton, Prayer throughout the Week.

Wednesday 12th - Wednesday 19th March - Cow Lees Care Home, Astley, Nuneaton, the Activity Worker incorporated the Project's resources into their daily activities throughout the Week.

Wednesday 12th March – Wednesday 19th March

St Vincent de Paul Society Ballycastle, County Antrim

St. Vincent de Paul Society, in the parish of St Patrick & St Brigid's Church, Ballycastle wanted to highlight the Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia. Supported by the parish clergy they contacted the primary school and invited children to attend the mass, and also join in a decade of the rosary.

Thursday 13th March - Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart held special times of prayer throughout the day.

Sons of Divine Providence (Orione Care), Upholland, Lancashire, organised an ecumenical day of prayer – Wednesday 19th March

Cardinal Heenan House is a residential care home for older people, specialising in dementia care. This is the second year in which they organised a Day of Prayer. The Pastoral Care Project was invited to contribute to their day on 19th March, the feast of St. Joseph.

The day comprised of half hour sessions beginning with a prayer and ending with a hymn. These sessions provided the opportunity to hear the personal experience of each presenter speaking about a different subject.

To begin the day of prayer, the spiritual reflection was provided by Frances Molloy, Project Manager of the Pastoral Care Project, on the painting by Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM entitled *'The Closeness of God.'* This seemed to touched many people in their present situation, but one person in particular expressed how the paining of St Joseph revealed the strength and yet the tenderness of caring. The session concluded with the Pastoral Care Project's Awareness Prayer.

There were many wonderful participants in the day all with their own unique story to tell; there was Ted's Memory Book, created and presented by his daughter Mary and her husband Martin. AGE UK, Wigan, speaker Sue presented an overview of the Bright Days project and their various activities and events.

After the wonderful lunch prepared by the Cardinal Heenan House staff, Father David Potter from Liverpool Archdiocese gave a reflection on his thirteen years working as hospital chaplain in different hospitals, with particular reference to experiences with patients suffering from dementia. Then the OWLS group from St. Teresa's RC parish Upholland joined with St. Thomas the Martyr Anglican representatives sharing readings, poems and experiences.

Fr. Stephen Beale spoke about the 'Stepping Stones' experience within Orione Care – identifying people in the early stages of dementia, befriending them, journeying with them and their families, helped by care staff before possibly coming into long term residential care.

Looking back at the benefits of the day it was clear the contribution people with dementia make to society, and to the day itself. For instance, Bill accompanied by his wife Teresa brought along his sculpture of the Holy Trinity – Bill is in the early stages of dementia but was able to clearly explain why he had done the sculpture and what it meant to him.

Another was a lady who reminded everyone of the importance of singing; she sang *How great thou art* so perfectly without a hymn sheet. Later on, she could be heard singing *Danny Boy* - every note was pitch perfect, it was beautiful.

Schools:

During 2013/14 the Pastoral Care Project has continued to strengthen its links with schools by providing online resources and leading awareness assemblies. We are so thankful to 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 personally visited by us, and other schools who have used the online resources and led their own assemblies.

St John Fisher Primary School Coventry – 5th March

Frances Molloy, Project Manager, led the school Assembly and it was a wonderful surprise after speaking about creating a Prayer Board that the head of RE invited a child to present some rosary beads which had been left to the school by the child's grandparents, one of whom had suffered from dementia - the rosary beads have become the beginning of their Prayer Board.

Our Lady's Primary School, Princethorpe - joined in the Week of Prayer and donated £215.41 to the Pastoral Care Project.

St Joseph's RC Junior School, Nuneaton – the Project Manager assisted by Pat Barrass give a presentation including the 'Closeness of God' reflection. Then on 14th March, the schools 'Enterprise' day raised £125.63 for the Pastoral Care Project

Our Lady of the Angels Infant School, Nuneaton

On 17th March the Project Manager Frances Molloy accompanied by Pat Barras from the parish led an assembly with all the classes. The painting 'The Closeness of God' was used as a way of talking about our work.

It was so moving to hear a seven year old pupil speak about her grandmother who has dementia; this young girl had a clear understanding of the illness. The school's prayer and almsgiving event for the Pastoral Care Project was held on Friday 21st March raising £272.00.

Holy Family School, Coventry – our website resources enabled them to led two assemblies during the Week and prayed the rosary. They also donated £517.36 to the Pastoral Care Project.

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Perry Barr, Birmingham - offered to say the Rosary each day.

Guardian Angels Infant & Junior School, Shard End, Birmingham – email received confirming that they would be holding times of prayer throughout the Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia.

Archbishop IIsley School, Birmingham - committed to pray and held Bake 'n' Share events, with proceeds to the Pastoral Care Project. £50.00 raised.

St Patrick & St Brigid's School, and Cross and Passion College Ballycastle. County Antrim - Members of the SVP, Bridie O'Neill and Sandy Morrison organised and led two assemblies in the school and the college using the Pastoral Care Project's website resources.

St Thomas More School of Technology & Sixth Form College, Nuneaton - Head of RE Mr Bath has booked an assembly for June 2014 but also confirmed that the school would be praying each day during the Week of Prayer.

Our Lady of the Wayside RC Primary School, Shirley - pledged their prayer support and a share of their Lenten collection to the Pastoral Care Project.

St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy Wolverhampton

'St Teresa's we will get the pupils to bake and visit a local residential home which is supported by the Parish Eucharistic Ministers. If possible, we will ask the Priest to accompany the visit. This will be for prayer and awareness raising with the children.'

Community Events:

Ropewalk Shopping Centre, Nuneaton - Saturday 8th March 2014

This day was organised to promote awareness in the lead up to the Week of Prayer. Our thanks to John Kelleher Manager of Ropewalk Shopping Centre, Nuneaton for providing space for a stand and promoting the event.

Our thanks to the Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth Councillor, Bob Copland and Mayoress Elaine Copland for giving their time so generously. The Mayor said of the event, "*we had a wonderful time helping raise awareness of dementia in Ropewalk and chatted with a few people who were affected.*"

Thank you also to Marcus Jones MP for his support on the day as he commented, "Dementia is an illness that both sufferers and families need a great deal of support with. I was therefore delighted to support the event raising awareness of dementia and the important work of the Pastoral Care Project, which gives fabulous support to sufferers affected by this terrible condition and their carers." More comments and pictures can be viewed on twitter @marcusjonesmp.

Resources and support was also available in the United Reform Church Café, our thanks to Rev Helga Cornell the Minister and her volunteers for offering hospitality and for helping out at Ropewalk. Our thanks to Major Conny Vogler of the Salvation Army, the Nuneaton Rotary Club for providing the collecting buckets, and the many volunteers and friends of the Pastoral Care Project, including.

"It was so worthwhile to have been in Ropewalk Shopping Centre on Saturday 8th March to talk with individuals and with families," said Frances Molloy, Project Manager. It highlighted the need for a greater understanding of what families are going through and how isolated they feel."

Cheverel Place 'Yellow Day' – Friday 14th March 2014

Cheverel Place Sheltered Housing Complex held a 'Yellow Day' on Friday 14th March to raise awareness of dementia as part of the Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia 12-19th March.

The Scheme Manager, Ann Haywood, should be congratulated for all her hard work in arranging the event, which for her began very early in the morning. The residents joined in very enthusiastically – everyone dressing in yellow and the spacious community room was full of people chatting over coffee. There was a great sense of friendship, recalling memories and of making new memories. It was not surprising that 'Memories' was the subject of a presentation on poetry given by Liz Lloyd, a Pastoral Care Project volunteer, where Liz gave examples of some of her own favourite poems along with tips on how to write poetry effectively.

Following on from this, those present were invited to share in a jacket potato lunch. The tables looked so beautiful adorned with yellow flowers. Yellow accessories seemed to be the order of the day, even Deputy Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth, Councillor Brian Hawkes, wore yellow socks and a yellow tie especially for the occasion.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brian Hawkes attended the event along with his wife Mrs Diana Hawkes, they have always shown great interest in the work of the Pastoral Care Project since attending one of the Project's conferences in 2000. The Deputy Mayor said, *"this week needs to continue in the way that the community responds to the needs of those suffering from dementia."* In the afternoon, there was the opportunity for residents to receive a relaxing hand massage from therapist Ileana Goodwin.

The hard work, the joy and friendship shown by everyone was truly amazing. The fact that £200.00 was raised by residents and staff of the complex for the work of the Pastoral Care Project through their love, kindness and concern for others is a remarkable achievement. The Pastoral Care Project would like to thank all of the residents and staff of Cheverel Place Sheltered Housing Complex for taking our work to heart.

Ami Ashton Dance Academy, Nuneaton – pledged to host a Yellow Day event. Ami said, *"Many of the older generation will have memories of when they met their spouse through dancing – it still happens today. Some of us will recall memories of watching our parents dancing – dancing is ageless and crosses all cultures."*

Management/Trustee Strategy Day – Thursday 13th March 2014

The strategy day was re-scheduled from October 2013 to March 2014 was to review the work of the Pastoral Care Project. With changes of trustees no review has been carried out for eight years. With the move to new offices and less resources the Project has to look at how best to serve those in need with the limited resources we have available.

The morning session was facilitated by Andy Quinn, Community Projects Development Manager at Father Hudson's Society with those present; Frances Molloy, Ingrid Klabisz, Fr Kevin Kavanagh, Maria Gallagher and Bishop David McGough. The morning session focused on those present being invited to share their views on the work of the Pastoral Care Project to date and also on what should be the focus of the Project.

Mass followed at noon celebrated by Bishop David McGough. During his homily the words based on Philippians 2.5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, reminded us that we need to reflect on these words in what we do.

Tim Bradford CEO of Father Hudson's Society joined us for lunch and the afternoon reflection; Tim had already given considerable time in preparation for the Strategy Day and it was good that he could join with us.

Bishop David incorporated the Project's painting 'The Closeness of God', into his reflection.

Instructions for my Funeral Mass/Care of the Dying documents

Instructions for my Funeral Mass document is produced by the Pastoral Care Project and approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. There has been a consistent demand for copies of Instructions for my Funeral Mass, during 2013-14 with over 3,500 copies of the document being ordered by parishes throughout 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.

The document has been updated to reflect the fact that Archbishop Vincent Nichols is now His Eminence Vincent Gerard Cardinal Nichols and his message within the document will hopefully continue to encourage people to complete them and also to consider using the care of the dying section when being assessed for care.

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

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 or email info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk

Financial Overview

The Pastoral Care Project is very grateful for the financial support received this year from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Birmingham, Father Hudson's Society, the parishes of Nuneaton and surrounding district (Our Lady of the Angels, St Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, St Anne's & St Joseph's, Sacred Heart & St Teresa, Coleshill).

In addition, there have been unexpected and most welcome donations received from Nuneaton Rotary Club and from St Vincent de Paul Society in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, who joined in the Week of Prayer 12-19th March 2014. Prayer and support from schools has also increased as schools used the online resources to lead assemblies and creatively raised donations as detailed in pages 18-19.

Income from resources is also important, for example, Instructions for my Funeral Mass. The document approved by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is available to order nationally and parishes purchasing copies of the document provide both an important pastoral and outreach service to their parishioners as well as supporting our mission.

The Week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia 12-19th March is also an important and growing resource and is now a well-established annual commitment in many parishes, schools and care settings. It is hoped that many more people will be inspired to take part in the Dementia – Prayer Week 12-19th March 2015.

The financial situation is one of the concerns of the Trustees and expenditure is always carefully monitored. Although there was an increase of £1,000 in donations the grants have been reduced by £3,000. The Project relies on grants to plan ahead. It is very difficult to source new lines of funding for our particular mission as well as completing grant applications is very time consuming with no guarantee; time which we would prefer to devote to enabling and encouraging more people to support the frail elderly where they live.

Volunteers are a gift and many of volunteers have been with the Pastoral Care Project from its early pioneering days. All of our volunteers are very much part of what we do and we are thankful for their time and commitment along with their enthusiasm and ability to be part of the Project's work. It is interesting the new volunteering have come to us through prayer and raising awareness and it is as if they have always been with us.

We are grateful for every donation received whether from an individual, parish, school or organisation - it is very much appreciated. If you would like to make a donation towards our charitable work or in memory of a loved one, it can be sent direct to the Pastoral Care Project, St Gerard's, Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3ED or use the PayPal link on our website www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk where you will also find a Gift Aid form.

**PASTORAL CARE PROJECT
Accounts
31 March 2014**

**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 2014

	£			
	£			
20,335.92		Balance at Bank, 1 April 2013		16,115.75
28,679.1 3	Receipts:	Grants and Donations	24,959.25	
4,255.30		Resource sales and Pastoral Fees	2,875.23	
<u>26.74</u>		Bank Interest	<u>20.23</u>	
32,961.17				27,854.71
4,021.49	Payments:	Equipment and Resources	960.05	
27,080.3 5		Wages -Project Manager and Part Time Assistant	24,976.59	
2,200.00		Office Rent and Services (In Kind)	2,200.00	
720.37		Telephone	681.44	
1,293.64		Postages and Stationery	666.00	
242.18		Insurance	230.07	
46.13		Internet	247.70	
103.00		Subscriptions and licences	105.00	
459.20		Travelling Expenses	471.00	
274.53		AGM and Events costs	106.13	
-		Training costs	226.31	
241.25		Promotion Expenses etc	120.00	
<u>499.20</u>		Accountancy	<u>499.20</u>	
<u>37,181.34</u>				<u>31,489.49</u>
<u>16,115.75</u>		Balance at 31st March 2014		<u>12,480.97</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 2014, 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 2014

PASTORAL CARE PROJECT

Charity Information

31 March 2014

Charity Trustees

Kevin Goodyear (Treasurer)
Ingrid Klabisz J.P. (Secretary)
Helen Hawley
Frances Ashley
Rev Kevin Kavanagh
Rev Michael Gamble

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



Spiritual Reflection

'The Closeness of God'

Reflection based on Luke Ch 2 v 40-50

This beautiful image is taken of a painting by Sr Annie Bromham IBMV based on Luke chi 2 40-50. Sr Annie painted it especially for the Pastoral Care Project. She has kindly loaned us the painting until such time as we have the funds to buy it.

In 'The Prayer of The Holy Family' book of reflections by Father Livinus Donohoe, O.C.D. he brings home to us the closeness of God. "*When you talked to Him (Jesus) you were looking into the human eyes of God*" here Fr Livinus invites us to see the gospel of Luke Ch 2 v 40-50 differently.

How - what does Joseph teach us today about the responsibility of caring – a husband caring for his wife; or a son caring for his mother? Pondering Mary and Joseph's experience will surely connect with many parents/guardians who have found themselves in a situation of when a child went missing, but what happens when an elderly person with dementia whom you are responsible for suddenly wanders off – lost? How can we respond to the needs of the family as they support the person who has dementia, and so prevent them becoming isolated?

The Week of Prayer and Awareness of Dementia 12-19th March is an invitation to look again at the person with dementia, despite dementia causing forgetfulness they are receptive to the Holy Spirit, and often share this love with those around them. Many of them remember prayers and find the rhythm of the mass helps them to live in the present moment. Like you and me they too need help to feel the closeness of God - what can we do?

We are privileged at the Pastoral Care Project to have accompanied many people with dementia and their loved ones on their spiritual/sacramental journey - they are the inspiration for this week of prayer and their experiences have helped us in producing resources which others can benefit from. We wish to thank Archbishop Bernard Longley for his continued support and prayers, along with the many bishops nationally; clergy and religious orders and also Bishop David McGough, lead bishop to the Pastoral Care Project, especially for sharing his own personal story (Catholic Today Jan 2014). Our heartfelt thanks go to Cardinal Vincent Nichols for his continued encouragement, and for contacting the Project to say that he is supporting the Week of Prayer and Awareness 12-19th March; the Cardinal will be offering Mass on 18th March in his private chapel. This generous gift of the Mass and his kindness and concern will surely touch the lives of so many in a very

special way.

Excerpt from the Reflection - The Closeness of God.
Based on the painting and Luke Ch 2 v 40-50

Joseph, how did you feel when you realised Jesus was missing?
You knew how it felt to be overshadowed by the sense of guilt...
The litany of 'if only' recited to the tune of hope...hope ebbing away when suddenly
you and Mary together see Him....
Jesus is in the Temple!

*"I feel a flood of emotions...
welling up within me...
I see Jesus as he looks to His mother.
Her hand goes out to hold him...
I feel the tears running down my beard.
I thought the situation with Herod was difficult, the flight into Egypt,
but back then we could lift Jesus up and hold him.
Now the roles are reversed.
It is not us who are holding Jesus...
It is Jesus who is holding us...
in the Father's love...
Nothing compares to this moment."*

'I have loved you' based on John Ch 15v 9 Glenys Roberson - Pastoral Care
Project ©



I have known you in your isolation,
and met you in your darkest place.
No wall can separate us
or keep you from my grace.
I'll be the thread that joins you
to those you've loved and lost;
and in those I've sent to see you
you'll feel the Father's love.
Refrain

The above words came from a Day of Reflection led by the
Pastoral Care Project for Communitas Project, Birmingham.

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 _____

I want the Pastoral Care Project to treat donations I have made and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations*. 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 current tax year.

Signed _____ Date _____

Post to: Project Manager, Pastoral Care Project, St Gerard's, Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3ED

Thank you for considering our work.

www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk