



## Community Sponsorship

Thursday 9th May 2019 was certainly a new beginning for the parishioners and planning group in St. Winifride's, Sandbach as after months and months of planning and preparation a small group of us met in Manchester Airport to welcome an Iraqi family coming to the UK under the Community Sponsorship Scheme. The family of five came from a camp in Lebanon where they had been living for four years. The Parish put on a wonderful welcome for them, plenty of smiles and hot food and proudly showed the family around the house that they had prepared for them with donations of furniture, kitchen equipment, bedding and all the other necessities that make up a welcoming and safe place. Two of the children are already in school and the push is on to make sure that mum and dad become proficient in English as soon as possible. They are attending college classes and some of the volunteers are giving them additional 'conversational English' sessions. The parish has been greatly supported by a team of volunteer interpreters who provide an invaluable service to the family and parish volunteers.

An endeavour Shrewsbury and many other Dioceses throughout England and Wales are participating in, the Community Sponsorship scheme is designed for parishes and faith groups to respond in charity to the appeal of Pope Francis in 2015 that every, parish, religious community and people of goodwill open their hearts to people in distress who are undergoing persecution and are forced to leave their homeland for the safety of themselves and their children.

The faith communities and the Home office have developed and improved the scheme where local communities welcome a family seeking refuge and asylum and provide support and friendship for a period of two years. If your parish is interested in hearing more about the scheme please contact us here in Caritas and should you wish to move forward with a parish project we will support you in the journey.

Congratulations St. Winifride's as you step out in faith and undertake this wonderful challenge.

## Contact Us

Contact us for more information about our services and how you can help support the work we do.

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## Caritas Prayer Request

*"Come, O Holy Spirit.*

*Come as Holy Fire and burn  
in us,*

*Come as Holy Light and lead  
us in the darkness,*

*Come as Holy Truth and  
dispel our ignorance,*

*Come as Holy Power and  
enable our weakness,*

*Come as Holy Life and dwell  
in us.*

*Convict us, convert us,  
consecrate us,*

*Until we are set free from the  
service of ourselves,*

*To be your servants to the  
world"*

*- John Henry Newman*



**CARITAS**  
DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY  
CHILDREN | FAMILIES | COMMUNITY

# SPRING 2019

Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury Newsletter

June 2019

## Hello from our Chief Executive

I love the season of Spring because it makes me think of new beginnings, new life and new growth.

The early months of this year, as you will see from this newsletter, have been busy and exciting.

We have seen projects develop, new ones begin, and plans unfold.

On the Wirral we are embarking on a project, commissioned by the local authority to deliver preventative services (Early Help) to families and children. Our Schools Family Support Service is so valued and staff work hard to maintain standards in challenging times. New projects in Seacombe are beginning to bear fruit.



Mary Kilcoyne, Chief Executive

In Shrewsbury we recently started delivering a Family Support Service in the local schools. This is just the beginning, we are looking to initiate a community project there and will soon be starting an audit of local needs and consultation with the people who live in the area.

Progress in Crewe is slow. We are still awaiting planning permission for our new modular build Centre, situated close to St. Mary's Parish, where we will work in partnership with local organisations and deliver some valuable family and community services. We are so looking forward to making a start possibly in the New Year.

*"Don't be observers of  
life, but get involved.*

*Jesus did..."*

*- Pope Francis*

## In This Issue

- The Figures Are In!
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*Thank you!*

Many thanks as always to our box collectors and holders who faithfully continue to support our work. They have received new boxes with a different design emphasising the changes and developments Caritas is making in the Diocese.

*if any*





# The Figures Are In!

**Collection Boxes** £14,819.30

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who empty boxes for our charity. We acknowledge receipt with a letter and certificate of thanks.

**Good Shepherd** £16,773.47

(Support from Catholic Schools traditionally during Lent)

Some schools have held fundraising activities such as; raffles, cake sales, World Book Day, carol singing, school plays and the children's favourite - non-uniform days!! Some school children contributed by doing something extra during Lent, concentrating on helping others for a small donation.

**Gift Aid** £2,189.51

If you are a tax payer please think about signing a Gift Aid form, as it costs you nothing and brings in 25p in every pound donated to Caritas. We were able to re-claim the amount above from the 'taxman', so many thanks to all who signed gift aid declarations for the Organisation, it really does make a difference.

**Crib Appeal & Caritas at Christmas** £18,937.32

(Annual collection taken at church during Advent)

Through the generosity of parish communities we received donations from Catholic Churches for the Crib Appeal. 'Caritas at Christmas' was an appeal held during Advent so that we could support families with hampers over the festive period.

**Standing Orders & Donations** £12,880.05

Some people choose to support us by giving a donation on a regular basis. This is a very helpful way to donate as it enables us to plan budgets with a guaranteed income.

**Legacies, Parish Appeals, Events & Donations** £6,640.10

Through the generosity of benefactors who have remembered us at special times, we have received bequests and special donations.

**Wonderful total raised for the year is:**

**£72,239.75**

We also receive funds from grants, schools and we are at present being supported by 'Our Mission Together'.

Your generous financial support makes it possible for Caritas to grow and continue helping those in need.

A **HUGE Thank You** for your support, with your help, we are able to make a difference in the lives of many people.

# Highlights from Christmas 2018

Christmas 2018 was another incredible success for Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury and all our supporters. We were able to distribute food hampers, gifts and in some cases, clothing to more families and those in most need across our Diocese during the festive season.

We reached out to 175 families in; Crewe, Market Drayton, Wythenshawe, the Wirral, Shrewsbury, Shropshire and Runcorn...to name a few!



Top: PJs collected by Portland Primary School Community Group, for children entering the local Refuge at Christmas  
Bottom: Gifts from St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Sale

# New Appointments

As the organisation grows and our reputation spreads across the Diocese, so too does our workforce. The last 6 months have seen a few changes and an increase in our team.

In order to have a constant presence in south of the Diocese, we have employed a Family Support Worker, Lucy Carsen. Lucy will help us build up the Family Support Services in Shrewsbury initially, but gradually expanding our reach into other areas of Shropshire.

At the very end of 2018, we were thrilled to find out we had successfully bid for the Early Help Support aspect of the Community Matters contract with Wirral Borough Council. Lisa Frances, our new Early Help Support Worker, joined us on 3rd June. Lisa is based at our Head Office in Seacombe, and will help deliver the programme within Wirral.

Last year we were sad to see Lise McLean leave us, but we are so happy to introduce Susie Collard to our team! Susie is based in Wythenshawe and will be carrying out the Family Support service within the schools in that area.

And finally, Rachel Hughes, who joined us last year as our Volunteer Coordinator, successfully applied for the new post of Community Services Manager. Based in Wythenshawe, Rachel will manage Caritas' current programmes in the north of the Diocese, and develop new ones in the near future.

