

**Monies raised between April 2017 &
March 2018**

Little House Boxes

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who empty boxes for our charity. We acknowledge with a letter and certificate of thanks. **£18,592.72**

Good Shepherd - Support from Catholic Schools traditionally during Lent

Some schools have held fund-raising 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. **£16,738.67**

Gift Aid

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 below from the 'taxman', so many thanks to all who signed gift aid declarations for the Organisation, it really does make a difference.

£5,849.27

Crib Appeal & 'Caritas at Christmas' 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. **£20,758.27**

Standing Orders

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. **£19,130.55**

Legacies and donations (Fundraising)

Through the generosity of benefactors who have remembered the Society at special times, we have received bequests and special donations. **£38,135.20**

Wonderful total raised for the year is:

£119,204.68

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

For further information contact us:

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Spring Newsletter 2018



CARITAS
DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY
CHILDREN | FAMILIES | COMMUNITY

Our Vision

All children, families and communities are empowered to experience a fullness of life.



Who are we?

Caritas is the new social action and social justice agency of the Diocese of Shrewsbury which seeks to develop the Church's social mission in the years ahead.

Caritas actually means 'Christian love of humankind' and we express this in loving service. This is the motivation at the heart of all the work we do here at Caritas Shrewsbury.

Our story

We encompass the work of the former Catholic Children's Society, and with the invaluable support from the diocesan-wide 'Our Mission Together' initiative, we have also extended our portfolio to include:

- intergenerational work
- young people at the risk of becoming homeless
- accessible community hubs
- work with those seeking refuge and asylum

What we do

The School Project

A dedicated team of experienced staff and volunteers including a social worker counsellors, with an excellent knowledge of local services and support networks, deliver this service working together with other agencies to provide a multi-agency approach.

We work in schools to provide services to pupils and their families to assist with any difficulties they may be experiencing. The aims of the service are achieved through assessment of each pupil or family, evaluation, joint discussion and delivery of a package of tailored support. Staff have a range of skills and experience including:

- Evidence based Parenting Programmes
- Safeguarding
- SEN
- Bereavement
- Family Support

St. Aidan's Centre, Wythenshawe

A centre of the community, the Centre is used on a regular basis by:

- groups supporting refugees
- adults with special needs
- a group for families with toddlers
- people accessing the Food Bank / Community Café
- A Pipe Band and Morris Dancing for children
- the Iraqi Community
- a group addressing social isolation of the over 60s

Refugee Project



Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury has been named by Bishop Mark as the coordinating point for Shrewsbury's response to the Refugee Crisis. In 2015 Pope Francis called attention to the plight of the people fleeing from Syria and he reminded us that we are all brothers and sisters, and we are called to take action and to 'Welcome the Stranger'. Caritas is responding by:

- Providing a safe space with advice, support and friendship at the Well Project.
- Supporting the Home Office resettlement programme called Community Sponsorship which some of our parishes are actively exploring with a view to supporting a family throughout their first couple of years in the UK.
- Raising awareness through school assemblies and talks in parishes and to groups.

2018 has so far been a very busy and rewarding year for us here at Caritas.

Our Refugee Project has been a huge success and we hope this year to expand it into other areas.

Our support staff have been working extremely hard with families within our communities around the Diocese who simply cannot cope with the problems that life throws at them, which may be due to a number of reasons both physical and emotional.

We are also excited to say our next project working with youth who are at risk of becoming homeless is now in the planning stage...more information to follow!