

AUTUMN 2019

Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury Newsletter

October 2019

Hello from our Chief Executive

Time does move on almost imperceptibly. In August we actually celebrated with coffee and cake a year to the day of moving into our new Head Office here in Seacombe and laughed over all the comings and goings that that entailed. However, I can report we are now well settled and rapidly filling all the extra space we gained on moving from the Beechwood office.

With a mind to premises and change I am happy to report that we have finally got planning for our small centre in Crewe and hope to begin construction there in the New Year. We are looking forward to working closely with the Parish of St. Mary's, LATH and introducing some vital family support and community services. Rachel

Hughes, our Community Services Manager, has been very busy carrying out an audit and building relationships with prospective partners.



Mary Kilcoyne, Chief Executive
local schools and doing a great job.

In Shrewsbury we had a shared fundraiser in the Cathedral's Orchard Café, which coincided with the Shrewsbury Flower Show. It was beautifully organised by Richard Keddie and team and our staff enjoyed a few hours there getting to know the local people attending the event and sharing about our work throughout the Diocese. All, of course, were delighted to know that our Family Support Worker Lucy was already active in the

As we move towards the close of the year we will be launching our Caritas at Christmas Appeal in parishes and schools. Thanks to your generosity and thoughtfulness, many families who are struggling, will enjoy a Christmas meal together and their children have presents to open.

Thank you everyone for all the support you give us in volunteering, fundraising and advertising our services. It is very much appreciated by ourselves and those who benefit.

Thank you!

if any.

"True charity requires courage: let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need."

- Pope Francis

MENd Minds Group

Members and helpers enjoying the Wythenshawe Games and Horticultural Area in Wythenshawe Park during the Summer.



Mike Kane MP, and supporters of the Carers Together Group

The Carers Together Group

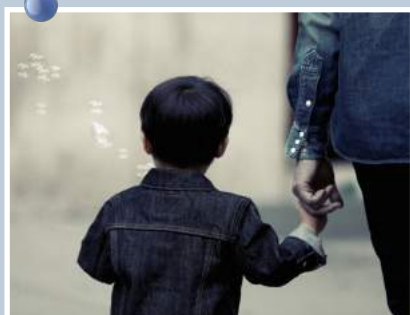
The Carers Together Group, which began in November last year, now has over 20 members. 6 members had accessed the opportunity to have a carers assessments.

To mark Carers Week at the end of June, the local MP, Mike Kane, visited the group and also met members of the Mend Minds Group. One of the key issues to emerge from the discussions was the lack of facilities or groups for children with disabilities. Mike Kane is keen to work with the group to address this



Volunteer Week 2019 at Caritas!

Caritas celebrated Volunteer Week by hosting a get together for some of our volunteers from Manchester and Wirral at our Head Office, followed by coffee and cake at "Remember When" in New Brighton. Our service volunteers and some of our trustees enjoyed meeting each other and Caritas staff to share their volunteering experiences with each other and learn more about Caritas services. Our Manchester Volunteers received a Certificate of Thanks from The Lord Mayor of Manchester. All of our volunteers received a special thank you from Caritas. Our volunteers are crucial in delivering quality services to children, families and communities.



Community Sponsorship

The Community Sponsorship scheme parish groups have been absolutely fabulous in their commitment to the families and are enjoying seeing the progress they are making in language and settling into a different life. So many of those volunteers speak of their delight in supporting the family and recognise that the experience has taught them so much too. It is very much a mutual giving and receiving relationship.

Three other parishes have already shown an interest in becoming Community Sponsors, so it is hoped that this time next year there will be five refugee families being welcomed into the Diocese.

Caritas's role in this is as Lead Sponsor supporting the parish group, liaising with the Home Office and Local Authority, ensuring safeguarding procedures are working and providing advice when required.

If your parish is thinking about becoming a sponsor, please contact us and we will be happy to meet with you and tell you about Community Sponsorship scheme. (There is also some basic information available on our website).

Caritas Prayer Requests

Now more than ever, please continue to remember us in your prayers. In particular, we ask you to pray for:

- **The parishes within the Diocese who are exploring hosting families as Community Sponsors.**

We pray that more parishes will consider the very real possibility of 'welcoming the stranger' by becoming a Community Sponsor for a refugee family.

- **Funding opportunities for Caritas**

We give thanks for the support received through the Our Mission Together campaign, our collection boxes and all our contributors. We pray for success in accessing additional funding through local authority bids, Charitable Foundations and the generosity of benefactors.

- **The health and well-being of our staff**

Our staff team is our greatest blessing, and so we pray for their continued good health and well-being.

- **New opportunities in 2020**

We pray that God will go before us as we continue the work of Caritas, and create new opportunities for the organisation in other areas of the Diocese.

Contact Us

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

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