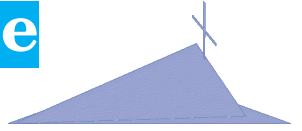




The St Francis Chronicle



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Editorial

As the year swings into its autumnal beginnings, consider what has been gained (a bit) and what is still to be struggled for (plenty.) Both are reflected in this issue. Read, for example, about the trip to Lourdes of five parishioners, and the local pilgrimage from St Francis to Padley, and consider the ongoing work of the Justice and Peace group.

The article on the parish WhatsApp groups is clear and useful.

Welcome to those new to the parish! If you could write about your experiences of joining the parish, positive or not, or arriving in Sheffield or this part of it, we would be delighted to hear from you. God bless all our readers!

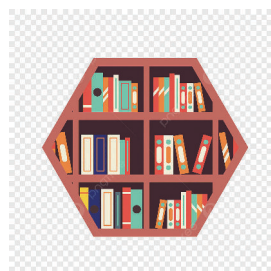
Jenny

Parish Library

Our small but useful library is now housed in a couple of bookcases in the hall, beside the hatch where tea is served after Sunday Mass. So you can go for a cup of tea and come away with a copy of Laudato Si or a Life of St Francis, or Matthew's Gospel. Or lots of other subjects.

Don't forget to write your name in the exercise book, as a reminder to yourself and the librarians.

As a rough guide, saints' lives are



on the left, Christian thought and living in the middle, Bibles and commentaries on the right.

An exercise book for entering loans is on the top and a box in case you have a book you wish to donate.

There is an index on line as an alternative to browsing, which you can find via the parish website.

So borrow a book next Sunday and take it home to have a look. There is definitely no exam!

Mike Campbell

Parish Tea Party

Anne-Marie wrote:

The afternoon teas started when Veronica could no longer run the lunch club and they happened regularly every month for several years. Unfortunately the pandemic came along and afternoon teas stopped. Only two have been held in the last year or so but regular attenders do appreciate them and so one was provided during Easter this year. The intention now is to have the afternoon teas four times a year at least,



Occasionally they have happened in school holidays and have been popular with the children. Anyone is welcome to come and spend a couple of hours having a chat with fellow parishioners. Funds have been raised for Roundabout, S2 Foodbank, CAFOD and others.

Bernie wrote:

We recently enjoyed a lovely Afternoon Tea in the Assisi Hall. The tables were set out beautifully with vintage tea sets and we were presented with a tasty selection of sandwiches and cheese scones followed by delicious homemade cakes, scones with jam & cream and teapots of freshly made tea. It was such a lovely way to meet up with friends and hopefully there will be another one later in the year.

Anne-Marie kindly hosted the event and all the donations received will benefit her chosen charity, the S2 Foodbank.

Hopefully the next one will be before Christmas and will be announced in the church bulletin.

Anne-Marie Appleton and Bernie Shepherd



Parish Pilgrimage to Padley

On the last Saturday of August, a dozen hardy pilgrims of all ages set off from St Francis to walk to Padley. They were inspired by Pope Francis and the



encouragement to make a pilgrimage during the year of Jubilee.

The weather was kind and the company excellent. On Houndkirk we were accompanied by two paramedics carrying defibrillators and saw the air ambulance helicopter take off, fortunately without any of the pilgrims! We had lunch at Longshaw and we lost and gained some pilgrims on the way. We gained more pilgrims at Grindleford,

including Fr Kevin, who accompanied us on the last leg and said Mass for us.

We numbered about twenty five for the Mass, and gave thanks for the company and the experience.

Thanks to Fr Kevin for saying Mass, to Jonathan and Benedict for assisting at Mass, to Maria for opening up Padley Chapel and to David, Sian, Nikki, Stephen and Mike for reconnaissance, leading the walk and providing lifts for the return.

Mike Campbell



Live Simply so that others may Simply Live

Back in 2024, the St Francis Justice and Peace group made a commitment to work towards gaining the CAFOD Live Simply award. The award would be for the parish, not just the J&P group, so we needed everyone's help to make it a whole parish effort.

The challenge of the Live Simply campaign is to live:

- simply
- sustainably with creation
- in solidarity with people living in poverty.

Each month over the last year, we have chosen a theme that aligns with one of these challenges and asked parishioners to help. We have provided information and ideas and asked people to make a pledge to take up (or continue/increase) a new way of living. The themes covered: appreciating God's creation, recycling, growing your own vegetables, a sustainable Christmas, CAFOD world gifts, foodbanks, eating less meat, money, nature friendly gardens, transport, and toilets!

You may wonder (or indeed worry) what toilets have to do with living simply. Well, we can probably drink a glass of water, wash our hands or go to the toilet without it turning into a life-or-death situation. But dirty drinking water, unhealthy hygiene and unsafe sanitation cause the deaths of 1.4 million people every year and over 1000 children under the age of 5 every day. So, as part of living in solidarity with people living in poverty, we decided to

support a charity that works to provide sanitary toilets and safe drinking water around the world.

They work by asking people to 'twin' their toilet with a toilet in another country - in the spirit of town twinning. If you donate £60, they will send you a framed picture of a toilet that they have built. You can then display this to spread the word about the work they do. We wanted to twin each of the six toilets at St Francis.

We asked people to make a donation and in return they received a puzzle piece. The puzzles were of toilets that had been provided by the charity and of a typical toilet in this country. If all the puzzles could be completed then we would have enough to twin all the toilets. As ever, the parish stepped up to the mark! We raised £387 and many people also pledged to twin their own toilet at home.

There are details of all our themes on the parish website (just click on Live Simply on the menu) as well as a link to the toilet twinning charity.

We now have enough material and pledges to be able to submit our application for the Live Simply award. But the story doesn't end there – it's an ongoing process and a life long commitment to live more simply. So there will be more themes and reminders of all the many things we can do so that others may simply live.

Liz Dingle



Retracted article

WhatsApp as a Path to a More Connected Parish Community

For several years, our parish has had a WhatsApp group. It has served us well, but it hasn't always been easy for newcomers to find out about it or know how to join.



Recently, we've taken a step forward by moving this into a WhatsApp Community. This new setup makes the group more visible and easier to access, with space for different kinds of conversations under one roof — and the invitation is open to all.

For those unfamiliar with it, WhatsApp is a simple app for smartphones that lets people send messages, photos, or short updates to a group rather than just one person. A Community brings several related groups together in one place. In practice, this means you can join the parish community once, and then easily see or join the different conversations that interest you — without being swamped by things you don't need.

The virtual parish community has two broad aspects to it, which should complement their physical counterparts. One is about parish life: sharing news of upcoming events, discussing church matters (from the latest Vatican news to parish notices), and requesting or offering prayers. The other is more social and everyday: friendly chat, sharing practical help, and simply keeping in touch during the week.

You don't need to be interested in everything to take part. Some may value the prayer and church updates most; others may just enjoy the day-to-day companionship. That's the beauty of it: you

can connect in the way that suits you.

And it's important to say: WhatsApp isn't for everyone, and that's fine. It's only one part of our parish communication. The Franciscan remains our main way of sharing notices and important news. WhatsApp simply adds another layer — a way to continue conversations, to ask questions, or to go into more detail about the items that interest you.

More than that, though, this is a chance to think about parish life in a bigger way. Church has never been just about what happens on Sunday morning; it's about the bonds of faith and friendship that carry us through the week, and about the welcome we extend to others. If we can use tools like WhatsApp to keep those bonds alive — to invite someone new, to support a neighbour, to share opportunities to serve the wider community — then we begin to live out more fully the Church's mission of hospitality and outreach.

In a small but real way, the WhatsApp Community can also help us practice Pope Francis's vision of a synodal Church — a Church that walks together, makes space for all voices to be heard, and values the contribution of each person. It reminds us that every parishioner has something to offer, and that the Spirit works not only through a few but through the whole community listening to one another.

This new community is not just about convenience. It's about widening the circle, so that everyone has a place in the conversation, and so that our parish becomes known not only for the beauty of its liturgy, but for the warmth of its community — open, generous, and alive every day of the week.

HOW TO JOIN

If you'd like to be part of the parish WhatsApp Community, you can join directly using this link: tinyurl.com/StFrancisWhatsApp. Alternatively, you can

simply ask anyone who is already in the community to send you a personal invitation.

Ben Ryan

Annual Gifts to Local Charities

Every year as part of our Covenant with the Poor, the parish donates to local charities. This year it was decided to donate a portion of our offertory income to nominated charities.

So you are aware of what happened we sent £300 a piece to nine charities. Each Charity is explained in words derived from their own websites. In case you want to volunteer there are details of the physical locations of each.

Assist Sheffield works with people who are seeking sanctuary and who have been refused asylum. We provide accommodation, information and other support. We're a charity and we rely on volunteers, grants and the generosity of the people of Sheffield and the surrounding area. Volunteers meet at the Victoria Hall Methodist Church in Norfolk St, next to the Cathedral.



S2 Foodbank provides emergency food parcels and help those in debt who live in the S1, S2 and S12 post code area of Sheffield. The Food Bank is run by a small staff and volunteers, and is supported by donations of food and money from the generous people of Sheffield. It can be found in St. Swithun's Church, Cary Rd.



City of Sanctuary Sheffield is an independent charity working in solidarity with people seeking sanctuary. Our vision is for Sheffield to be a place of safety and welcome for people seeking sanctuary.



St Wilfrid's Centre is a community where isolated, vulnerable, socially excluded and homeless adults can find understanding, practical assistance, a sense of belonging and the support to regain self-esteem. We aim to provide individuals with opportunities to improve their quality of life. They have their building in Queens Road S2.



Project Buzz is a Sheffield based support service for separated families based at St Andrews URC in Upper Hannover Street.



Baby Basics provides many of the essentials needed for life with a child up to 5yrs of age to families in need across Sheffield.



Items such as clothing, toys, toiletries, equipment and more are processed and packaged by our volunteer team to be given out to families who are referred to us for support. They are based in

Savile St S4.

We work closely with over 100 referral agencies including midwives, health visitors, social care and other charities to provide a safe, reliable service that people can trust.

Roundabout is a South Yorkshire wide charity committed to ending youth homelessness in South Yorkshire. They now support more than 350 people aged 16-25 every day who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. There is an office in Rockingham Lane, a hostel in St Barnabas Road S2 and a homeless prevention service in Union St S1.



SVP St Vincent's furniture store is a Community Support Project of the St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) that has been operating in the Sheffield area since 1987. We collect, then redistribute recycled furniture and household items to people who are disadvantaged due to poverty, deprivation and circumstance in our community.



Food Works Sheffield

We upcycle quality surplus and locally grown ingredients into delicious food and drink in our Community Cafes.

The food we create is also used in our Just Meals ready meals.

We collect and share surplus food at our three Food Markets in Handsworth, Sharrow and Upperthorpe.

We develop hyperlocal food production through community growing on our Farm.

We empower people with skills, knowledge and support in our community with volunteering opportunities across all our sites.



David Bellamy

Parish Day 5th October

As the feast day of St Francis of Assisi is on Saturday 4th October the PPC has been cooking up ideas for a special day on the 5th.

Keep reading the Franciscan for details of the shared lunch.

The parish pastoral council would like to start planning for changes over the next few years. Please bring your thoughts to the lunch, there will be an opportunity to express yourself either online or on paper with a survey.

One of the key characteristics of a synodal Church is listening. The Parish Pastoral Council wants to listen to every voice in our parish, so that together we can grow closer to God.

This questionnaire is open to everyone — whether you are a current or past, old or new, regular or irregular worshipper at St Francis. Please complete each response as just one person's views. Parents are invited to support younger children in filling in their own.

the PPC