



The St Francis Chronicle



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Editorial

This summer, it feels as though time is trying to catch up with us. Familiar things change.

First the amalgamation of our diocese with those of Leeds and Middlesbrough, and then, closer and more locally, Father Kevin's stroke. We pray for his full recovery even as we work to adapt to possible changes. It was good to see him concelebrating with Father Craig and joining parishioners after Mass as we marked the 65th. Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. (See below.) We are grateful for the continued provision of Sunday Mass during this time, with the generous help of priests from outside St Francis, especially Father Craig from St William's. Here at St Francis we know we are strong and full of hope, with many different forms of active ministry.

At times we may feel the ground shifting under our feet but we shall cope. Besides, we rest in the certainty of Jesus' saying, at the end of St Matthew's Gospel, I am with you always, even to the end of time.

Jenny

News from the diocese

But first of all, a note of sadness at the death of Rose Krzyz, a delightful person and also one of the original editors of the Chronicle. She often wrote for it as well; her last article appeared in the previous issue, in March. We keep Alex and all the family in our prayers.

Bishop Marcus of Leeds diocese has been appointed as Apostolic Administrator for the three dioceses of Leeds, Middlesbrough and Hallam.

Eight dioceses in the north of England and Wales have joined in forming the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership, to set up a four-year programme of study and pastoral formation for students wishing to be deacons. (Men only, sorry.) There are many more articles on various subjects. Search for Hallam Bridge.

A note of thanks from the Dance Company: Grazyna Swales writes that the last show raised £5050! The excellent photographs were taken by Terry Burke

Gerard Young

In most churches you will find memorials to clergy and parishioners who have gone to their reward. In our church there is just the one, in the narthex. It commemorates the life and Christian witness of Gerard Young. "A man whose hard work and conviction that the design of public buildings should combine elegance with practicality influenced many developments in Sheffield | His vision was fulfilled by his contribution to the | planning construction and furnishing of this church."



Ours is the Youngs' church. It is built in what was the garden of The Croft, the home of Marion Young, Gerard's sister. Gerard supervised every detail of its building, and there cannot perhaps be too many sources for the "anonymous donations of £200,000" (out of a total of £600,000) which allowed its completion (See "The Green Papers" in Issue 8). The four chalices which we regularly use for communion were purchased using a legacy from Diana Young in 2012.

Gerard was born on 5 May 1910, the son of Edith Aspinall and Smelter Young, the owner of the Tempered Spring Company. It was these Sheffield springs that attach rail lines to the sleepers on the track. Gerard went from Ampleforth to serve his apprenticeship working in the locomotive workshops at Doncaster and as a fireman on the London express. He joined the firm in 1930, built it up, and led it until his retirement in 1981. Our memorial sees the construction of this church as the culmination of his life's work contributing to the built environment of his native city of Sheffield, and it was here that he found his vocation.

He was there at the beginning of the NHS in 1947, involved in the building of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in the 1970s, an involvement which perhaps explains why the outpatients department has a chapel. He gave financial and practical support to the Sisters of Mercy to extend their hospital at Claremont, after it moved to its

present site. In his last illness – he died on 6 January 2004 – he jotted down notes for the improvement of the design of his hospital bed.

It was just like the old days, he remarked to me at a meeting of the Court of the University of Sheffield, sometime in the early 1990s. looking at the scale model of a new building. He had served for 41 years on the Council of the University and was Chairman of the Buildings Committee – for whom he would prepare a set of New Year



resolutions - at the period of its greatest expansion. The campus of the University which I joined in 1966, as a tutor in one of the halls of residence in Endcliffe and as a lecturer whose office was half way up the Arts Tower, was one that Gerard had planned. Should I thank him for the

Paternoster Lift, which so frequently broke down Perhaps not. But there could be a sense of humour behind the practicality. Another chairmanship was of the committee that designed the new Crucible Theatre, which opened in 1971. Rows G and F were designed to have extra leg-room. These were his initials. Chief amongst his civic responsibilities, as our memorial commemorates, was his service as the first Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, between 1974 and 1985.

Many members of the parish will remember the Youngs in their pew at the front right of the church, Gerard, ramrod straight well into old age, Diana, coming up to read with exemplary clarity, and occasionally a visit from their elder son, Hugo, the political journalist.

**“IF YOU SEEK HIS MONUMENT,
THEN LOOK AROUND YOU.”**

Edmund King

Our photograph has kindly been supplied by Edward Young, who is Gerard's nephew. He lived in the Croft for a time. He notes that the church was built on what used to be the vegetable garden, while the car park is over what was once a grass tennis court.

Charity Donations

Our parish Covenant with the Poor makes a commitment every year to support local charities. Over the next few issues of the Chronicle we are going to have a more indepth look at these charities.



City of Sanctuary

City of Sanctuary Sheffield is an independent charity working in solidarity with people seeking sanctuary. Their vision is for Sheffield to be a place of safety and welcome for both refugees and asylum seekers. They have a wide range of projects including the Sanctuary, a place of safety and welcome in in Sheffield city centre. Other projects include running a multi-agency drop-in centre every Wednesday where those seeking sanctuary

can receive advice and information and the SPRING project, a collaboration of six organisations helping new refugees settle into the local community. And there are many others. You can find out more about City of Sanctuary Sheffield, make a donation or explore volunteering opportunities here: <https://sheffield.cityofsanctuary.org/>. City of Sanctuary also produces useful factual information about sanctuary . <https://cityofsanctuary.org/2026/01/29/the-facts-about-sanctuary/> (Image from City of Sanctuary Sheffield website)



Assist

ASSIST Sheffield is a charity working with people who are seeking sanctuary and who have been refused asylum.



Over half of those seeking asylum in the UK are initially refused and while they appeal the decision they are often left destitute, without housing or financial support. ASSIST Sheffield helps by providing a safe place to sleep, a small amount of money and assistance with food. In addition, they provide information on



learning English and long term assistance in supporting clients in making their claim for asylum. You can find out more about ASSIST Sheffield, make a donation or explore volunteering opportunities here: www.assistsheffield.org.uk.

(Image from ASSIST Sheffield website)

St Wilfrid's Centre

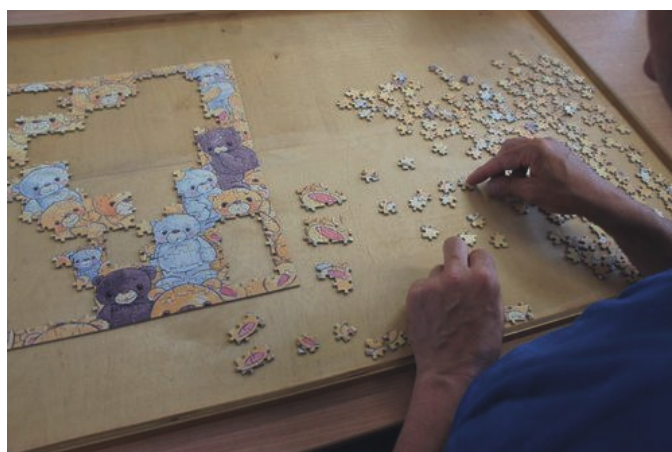
St. Wilfrid's Centre, situated on the Queens Road in Sheffield, is a day centre open Monday to



Friday for all homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded adults over the age of 18. The aims are to promote wellbeing and independence. There are welfare services as well as sessions aimed at learning life skills such as cookery and carpentry. There is a very busy cafe where the clients can get subsidised drinks and snacks. St Wilfrid's place is situated next door to the centre. It provides 20 self contained apartments for up to two years to enable people to work towards independent living. Help can be provided financially and also by volunteering at the centre. You can find out more here: <https://www.stwilfridscentre.org/>.

(Images from St Wilfrid's website)

Eva



The Franciscan Chronicle

A Joyful Gathering: Looking Back on the Three Franciscan Friars' Visit

Thank you to everyone involved in the April visit of Frs Casey Cole, Roberto "Tito" Serrano & Jason Damon. Their presence on YouTube in 'Oh Brother' and 'Breaking in the Habit' meant that, to some, their message and style was already well known and appreciated.

The pastoral team at the diocesan centre grabbed the opportunity of hosting the three American priests during a gap in their UK trip for evangelisation and vocations.

Their vitality, warmth, humour enhanced their spiritual encouragement of all those whose lives they touched.

Fr Kevin, Susanne Staub & David Bellamy picked them up from the Durham train and



whisked them away via a brief sightseeing
The Franciscan Chronicle



tour of central Sheffield to their overnight stay with Eva & Stephen Spooner.

The first evening was their chance to experience the view over Sheffield from the Norfolk Arms in Ringinglow over local beers and typically English pies.



Their first visit was to Padley Chapel for a talk from Maria Kenyon (of the Friends of Padley Chapel) with time to reflect on the sacrifice of Blessed Nicholas Garlick & Robert Ludlam. Events from 1588 were poignant for those in a country whose history is still being created.

The Cathedral Dean welcomed them to concelebrate at the lunch time Mass. Fr Jason gave the sermon before about 30 predominantly youth decamped to the Houlden Hall for lunch, chat and Q&A session: 'Sent to Share the Faith'

The well attended early evening Mass was concelebrated by our Fr Kevin, with Frs Casey & Jason. Thanks again to Eva who organised, and all those who brought food for the Pot Luck Supper. The quality of the food provided mirrored the enthusiasm of the audience for the 'How to Evangelise' talk given by all three priests.

It was with sadness that they left Sheffield station, early the next morning, for their next meeting in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

There were many spiritual lessons left in the author's mind. There is a possible trend of youth coming to the church for the first time. A feeling of there being more to this life

than what you experience day to day in a materialistic world is real. Some people may walk in through the church door out of curiosity, but street preaching doesn't work as well as setting a good example, being openly Catholic and welcoming the curious, encountering people where they are in their lives. To do this each of us has to prepare themselves, being grounded in the bible and properly formed in our own faith. We cannot help evangelise others within the security of our church's walls, we need to show our love to those we encounter everywhere.

If you wish to recap on their basic messages, then buy Fr Casey's book: 'Sent: How to Evangelize Wherever You Are, Whoever You are', easily available from the usual sellers of niche books.

Their mission away from parish work was granted by their ordinary, who saw the need for their fresh innovative approach. He hopes that they can demonstrate some of the effectiveness of their methods. Personally, I suspect that their true effect will only be revealed over time and be hidden from crude statistics.

Thanks again to all those who donated their time and resources. Anticipation levels were high before and it made preparation for the visit easy.



David Bellamy





Photos courtesy of Fr Casey & David



New email addresses for the parish

The Diocese of Leeds has asked us to change contact details in line with their overall policy.

The old address will still be monitored, but use the new ones to get in touch.



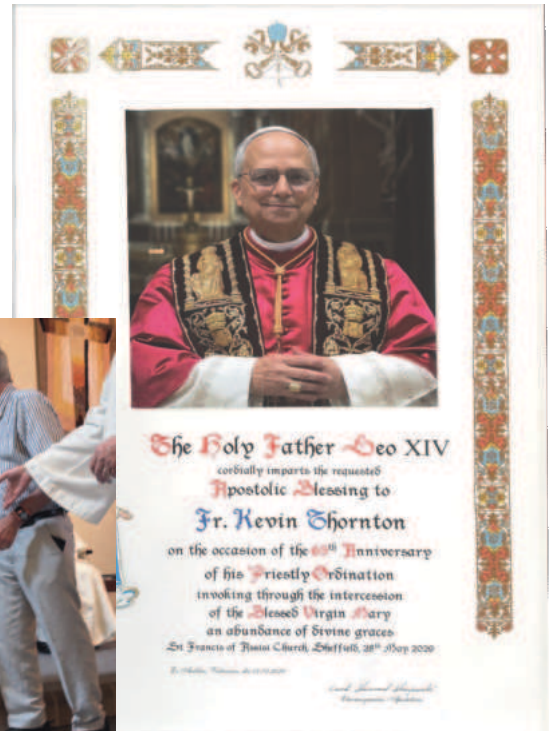
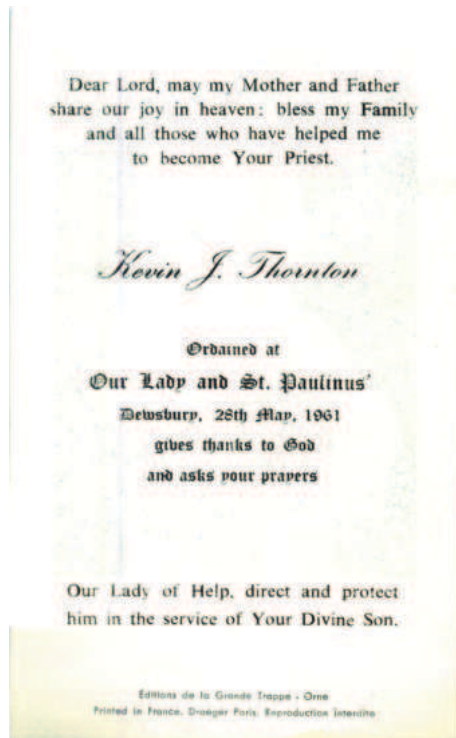
Fr Kevin is
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 For all else
 • officestfrancis@hallam-diocese.com

Parish Clerk

TWO BIG ANNIVERSARIES

65th Anniversary of Ordination

Congratulations to Fr Kevin, who was presented with the Apostolic Blessing Certificate from the Vatican .



50th Wedding anniversary for Mike & Jacinta

On Sunday 19th July Mike and Jacinta Campbell had the first of celebrations for their golden wedding anniversary at 11 o'clock Mass.

At the end of Mass Deacon Stephen Parker gave the couple a special blessing composed by himself. The couple thanked God for their three sons and seven grandchildren, who had all come to Sheffield for the celebration. Also present at Mass were Jacinta's two sisters and their families, Mike's brother and his wife, and Mike's late brother's wife and her families. All the guests commented on how lively and welcoming St Francis Parish was.



The actual wedding took place on August 14th 1976 in St Peter in Chain in Doncaster. The Mass was celebrated by the late Fr Jim Walsh who was Jacinta's brother, Fr Anthony Gaskin, Mike's cousin and Fr G Roebuck, the Parish Priest at St Peter's.