

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRE

Place of Sanctuary

NOVEMBER 2018

Issue 3

The Good Shepherd Centre, All Saints' Anglican Church and the Salvation Army work together as 'Keighley Place of Sanctuary' to support and care for Asylum Seekers & Refugees and all those recently arrived in our town.

On Sunday 9th September, to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis's launch of the "Share the Journey" campaign, Canon Michael McCreadie invited all the families we care for to join parishioners at St Anne's Church for the 11.00 am High Mass.



The Mass included Bidding Prayers in Slovakian, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, French and Malayalam with readings in English and Polish, the Gloria in Latin and Agnus Dei in Polish.

Anglican Town Chaplain Revd. Dr. Jonathan Pritchard attended, together with All Saints' parishioners and Kurdish Iranian members of the Keighley Salvation Army. After Mass refreshments were served by volunteers from The Good Shepherd Centre with pizza and lasagne provided by the Italian community.



We are a Place of Welcome so please come along for a coffee and a chat
www.placesofwelcome.org/locations/Bradford

For more information or if you would like to share your ideas and offer your support please let us know. "PLEASE PASS THIS ON"



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Supporting Bradford City of Sanctuary
Charity No: 1170396

Welcome, Witamy, Vitajte,

Bonjour, Fáilte, Benvenuto, Sveiki, Croeso,

Bine ati venit, Selamat datang, Soo dhaweyn

Our Visitors



Saturday 21st April 2018

BISHOP MARCUS

We were delighted to host Bishop Marcus Stock at the Centre. Bishop Marcus clearly greatly enjoyed his visit and wrote subsequently:- "Thank you so much for the wonderful warm welcome extended to me. I really enjoyed my visit and to have the opportunity to meet many of those who benefit from the excellent services that the Good Shepherd Centre is providing. It really is quite inspirational to see just what can be accomplished by a group of dedicated people at a local level. Assuring the Good Shepherd Centre of my prayers and very best wishes."

POLICE COMMISSIONER MARK BURNS-WILLIAMSON

visited the Centre in June to inspect the results of a grant from his 'Safer Communities Fund' which we used to provide external lighting along the drive. He told the local press:-

"The Centre gave me a very warm welcome and an opportunity to see what they have achieved. I met Trustees, staff, volunteers, Centre Manager and those attending classes and was completely amazed at what the Centre has undertaken in only 12 months and of the commitment and passion of those involved. It was very clear to me that the project offers really valuable support to people who are often the most vulnerable and at risk of isolation. What was also clear was how the Centre was working with others at a local level with schools, other faiths, volunteers and community groups, the support and referrals they have already received is a testament to the support they provide."



Monday 11th June 2018



Wednesday 13th June 2018

KEIGHLEY TOWN MAYOR

Keighley Town Council has supported the Centre by the provision of a grant to fund CCTV cameras on the exterior of the building and in the grounds and newly elected Mayor Cllr Fulzar Ahmed wanted to make an early visit to the Centre accompanied by his wife the Lady Mayoress, saying that the facility provided "an invaluable service". The Mayor met Volunteers and the Centre Manager and said that he found "Volunteers full of energy and driven by a strong commitment. They provide much-needed support to new arrivals from Eastern Europe and other countries such as Iran." The Mayor said he was impressed to visit three classes where people were learning to improve their skills in the English Language. "At a time when resources are so limited they are doing outstanding work. For me this has been a very worthwhile visit."



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Since May we have been very busy with the Community Vegetable Garden. Over 80 adults and children have been involved in building raised beds, collecting manure from a local stable and then planting and watering. We also have two green houses full of cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers. Families have begun to enjoy the taste of our strawberries, lettuce, beetroot, dill, radish and many more fresh vegetables. We are very grateful to the Church Urban Fund 'Near Neighbours Fund' which provided the grant for this development. It could never have happened without this support and the many personal donations of tools and kit. This project has certainly been a great success, encouraging families of several nationalities to work and play together. We now also have chickens with fresh eggs for collection daily.



CLOTHING AND FURNITURE BANK AS WELL AS FOOD

We have received many donations of clothing and furniture as well as prams and baby equipment. As a result we have been able to support 53 families with furniture and even more with clothing. We now have everything nicely sorted with the support of our volunteers Sally and Anne. Such things make a big difference to the lives of many people so we thank you so much for your many kind donations.

VISIT OF NATIVE AMERICANS

We welcomed some very special guests from St Francis Solanus Parish in Northern Wisconsin USA. Ralph and Dorothea are Native Americans from Lac Courte Oreilles Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Ralph is from Superior where Dorothea works in the Mission. Students from St Anne's Primary School and Holy Family Catholic School joined us on this occasion to learn about the work which Ralph and Dorothea do in their Mission.

MAY PROCESSION

The May Procession in Honour of Our Lady took place in the grounds of the Centre. We welcomed the children and teaching staff from Our Lady of Victories School and provided refreshments and play facilities after the service. We even had two Police Community Support Officers who visited to join in the singing with the children.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY AWARENESS

In June, Dementia Friendly Keighley organised a dementia awareness session for our families. The session was very well attended and some important questions were raised during the discussion. We are now a Dementia Friendly Centre and are certainly more aware of what dementia is and its affect on our lives.



"REAL PEOPLE, HONEST TALK" IN KEIGHLEY

People were encouraged to discuss the issues which matter most to local residents. Six people of different nationalities represented our Centre and participated in these lively discussions. Two more sessions will be held, one at our Centre and one at the Highfield Community Centre. All are funded by the 'Near Neighbours' programme.

DON'T FORGET THAT WE OFFER ...

*Free English Language Courses, at a variety of levels, on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning & evening, and computer access.

*Free new course on 'British Way of Life' delivered by our volunteer Richard on Friday mornings. This is for people who would like to apply for British Citizenship or Permanent UK Residence.

*A huge collection of good quality second hand clothing and furniture.

*Please tell anyone whom you know who might benefit from any of this.

COULD YOU HELP US WITH...

*Staffing a Charity Shop or Stall in the Airedale Shopping Centre where we could raise some money by selling off part of our collection of second hand clothing and furniture?

*Developing a Healthy Cooking and Eating Course at the Centre?

*Developing a group at the Centre to discuss good house-keeping and money-management?

GREAT FUN SPORTS DAY

Together with the group 'The Challenge' we organised a number of different sporting activities during the summer break. Children, young people and adults joined us to help us in the garden during the morning and in the afternoon they enjoyed outside sporting activities. Children from seven different Keighley schools took part and everyone enjoyed themselves.

STAY & PLAY & CHAT

Our popular Friday morning sessions from 9.30 to 11.00 am are usually attended by over 30 adults & children, including friends from Albania, Burundi, Poland, Ireland, Slovakia, Ukraine & Italy. We also have regular Friday morning visits from PC Maria Dobrynychuk who is the New Emerging Community Engagement Officer for West Yorkshire Police. Maria is always available for private one-to-one consultation on any matters of concern.

BREXIT & EU NATIONALS

The Trustees are very aware of the potential difficulties which may lie ahead for EU Nationals who are living in the UK following departure from the European Union. The Trust Secretary is in regular contact with the Office of John Grogan, the Member of Parliament for Keighley and the Centre Manager is already providing appropriate guidance and advice to many members of our community.