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# Hallam Bridge



A Community called to love one another as Christ loves us.

ISSUE #  
004

## LOVE THE STRANGER

A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees



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## EDITOR'S LETTER

As we continue our Lenten Journey, perhaps renewing our resolutions daily, Hallam Bridge takes a look at some Synodal Journeying going on across the diocese. Bishop Ralph and Hallam Youth at Flame 2023, news from St Wilfred's, news of our refugee family, introducing our new Deacon Tony Strike, and the BIG LENT WALK help to remind us that we in Hallam Diocese are continuing our synodal journey together. In wider news, the Bishops of England and Wales are attending to our pastoral needs with a new document on Refugees and the return of the chalice to mass, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Blessed be God. As ever, your articles, letters, thoughts and events are welcomed for the next edition. Wishing you all a blessed Easter from Hallam Bridge.

Editor

## CONTACT

This is a publication by Hallam Diocese. Please send your articles or Feedback to [communications@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com) or Hallam Pastoral Centre in St Charles St, Sheffield, S9 9WU.

## Welcome to our New Trustee Tony Strike



Tony is our latest appointed Trustee of the Hallam Diocese. You can read his full profile on: [hallam-diocese.com/about-doh/](http://hallam-diocese.com/about-doh/)

To get to know him better Tony shared with us four important thoughts:

About being a Trustee of Hallam Diocese he shared: "I retired recently from a professional governance role, and the opportunity presented to contribute where my vocation as a Permanent Deacon and my occupational competencies intersect is an honour and a privilege."

On his synodal journey in Hallam Diocese he shared: "At Sacred Heart, Hillsborough, we held a day of reflection to consider and respond to the first stage of the synodal process, which was well attended and several parishioners gave powerful testimony about their faith, and their lives as Catholics today. We sorted the inputs we received for the parish, diocese and universal church and will be working through our parish council on a pastoral plan responding

to the first part. It's been a very positive exercise in listening to and hearing each other as a faith community."

A message he wants to share with all the people that read Hallam Bridge is: "It's a miracle which is not to be taken for granted that our traditions, faith and culture have been passed on through thousands of generations. We cannot just assume our churches, communities and faith will continue without taking some responsibility. We must find a way of speaking about the Good News, which is true to our experience as celebrating Catholics and which invites this generation anew. Being a Deacon means my faith is public, which is only the first step into a conversation."

And last but not least he shared some of his experience doing the CAFOD Lent walk: "Mountains are everywhere in Scripture. Mount Sinai. Mount Tabor. Mount Hebron. Mount Mizor. I was blessed to be able to visit some of them. Often in the Hebrew world God was encountered on mountain tops. We are fortunate to live near the Peak District, which has 95 hills to climb. The CAFOD Big Lent Walk is a great way to make an extra collective effort, to get out into the Peaks, and do something practical to bring the hope of Christ to those who need to see a fairer world."

## Upcoming Events

### MAR 30 **Lenten Talks at St Marie's Cathedral**

At 7:00pm. This Thursday 30th March is the third talk and will be about Eucharistic miracles and their links to cardiology. The talk will be followed by Adoration until 8.00pm.

### MAR 30 **A Musical meditation on the Stations of the Cross**

In the parish of St Theresa, Our Lady of Lourdes with St Anthony's, A musical meditation on the Stations of the Cross with the Eckington Singers will be held at St Theresa's Church on Thursday 30th March 2023 at 7.30pm. All Welcome.

### APR 22 **El Camino de Santiago at St William of York**

Last summer we had the opportunity to walk the Camino. We walked the "Camino Primitivo" from Oviedo to Santiago de Compostela in memory of my sister Claudia. Claudia was forcibly abducted on 26th March 2021 in Mexico. In 2018 Claudia overcame cancer and she promised she would walk the Camino; we walked it for her and with her in our hearts. We would like to share with you our experience of the Camino. Hope you can join us. 22nd April 2023 – St William of York Hall 6.45 or 7pm.

## Pilgrimages

### **MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES 2023**

**June 15th to 22nd or September 14th to 21st**

For bookings and enquiries please contact Deacon Pete Marshall on: 07807955836 or [petesuemarshall@gmail.com](mailto:petesuemarshall@gmail.com)

### **LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023**

**June 30th to July 6th**

Applications forms are available from the Parish Offices. please see the poster at the back of church for more details.

### **WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2023**

**July 22nd**

For more information and bookings please contact Joseph Durham on 07939 152558 or [joseph.durham52@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.durham52@gmail.com)



## Articles

### Love The Stranger



Migrants and refugees are human beings not just statistics, says Bishop as Bishops' Conference releases new publication. In 2023, people making dangerous journeys across the Channel to reach the UK are called by various names: 'refugees', 'asylum seekers', 'migrants', and often by more derogatory terms.

Love the Stranger is a new publication by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' Department for International Affairs that articulates our Christian duty to look beyond such labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life.

The document offers 24 guiding principles and has been endorsed by the Holy See, COMECE, CAFOD, CSAN and Caritas Social Action Network members.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees for the Bishops' Conference, emphasises the need to uphold their innate human dignity: "Our starting point as a society must be to recognise migrants and refugees as people. We need to understand their stories, their reasons for leaving their homelands and hopes for building a future here. "We should never view people arriving from elsewhere as a political problem to be solved, but rather as brothers and sisters who we have a responsibility towards, and who greatly enrich our communities. "People are driven to leave their countries, sometimes making dangerous journeys or risking exploitation, because of conflict, poverty, oppression, or lack of opportunities. Looking beyond our own borders, we have a duty to help people flourish in their

homelands, as well as welcoming those who leave in search of a better life."

*Read full article and download the document on our website*

#### **We call on the Catholic community to write to their MPs, asking them to:**

- Protect rather than punish refugees by defending their fundamental right to seek asylum.
- Stand up for the UN Refugee Convention and this country's proud history as a founding signatory.
- Ensure the government provides alternatives to dangerous journeys, including safe routes.
- Insist on an effective asylum system which is just and compassionate, gives people a fair hearing and reduces the backlog in a fair manner.

*You can find out who your MP is here [members.parliament.uk](https://members.parliament.uk) and write or email them. A template letter can be download on our website*

### Reintroduction of Holy Communion from the Chalice



On Maundy Thursday 6 April this year the words of the second reading "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." will have renewed significance. On that day, at the Mass of the

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Lord's Supper, Bishop Ralph and the other bishops of England and Wales have allowed for the reintroduction of Communion from the chalice after its absence during the Covid Pandemic.

Once again we can fully share in the joy and graces of receiving both the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The words of Jesus, prayed in the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass, take on a renewed meaning: "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me." (RM3, EP I-IV)

In reintroducing the practice Bishop John Sherrington, speaking on behalf of the Bishops' Conference, said that this provides us with the opportunity also to remind ourselves of Important teaching about the Eucharist "...such as the totality of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of the Lord is received in either or both species, the personal disposition of those receiving holy Communion, and the reverence offered to the Blessed Sacrament..."

This reintroduction of receiving holy Communion from the chalice gives us the opportunity to deepen our Eucharistic faith.

Some people may have valid reservations about receiving from the chalice. However, a reasonable hesitation in the hearts of the faithful can also become an opportunity to investigate anew the Mystery of Christ among us in the Eucharist. Some reservations regarding Communion from the chalice may come from a fear of disease and the possible spread of germs. Professional, peer-reviewed medical research from epidemiologists concluded that there is no known outbreak of disease directly related to this liturgical practice. Common sense would suggest that individuals with illness are encouraged to refrain from the reception of the chalice.

By Kevan Grady,  
*Associate Coordinator of Formation and Mission*  
at Hallam Diocese

## Their new home



We continue the story of our support for a refugee family

Our family had been living in a tent, in a refugee camp in Lebanon. Basic needs for food and water would have been met, but with little education for any of their children, or help for their disabled child, life must have been a daily struggle.

You already know how pleased they were with their new home. So how had we secured it for them?

Once our application for a family was accepted, we decided to look for a larger house. South Yorkshire Housing Association were particularly helpful, offering us a 3-bedroomed house, with disabled access, in our favoured area. We jumped at it.

Despite decorators in the throes of a full refurbishment, our first visit showed that this house would be perfect for a family, although carpets would need to be replaced, the house furnished, and the garden tidied.

Our first piece of luck was contacting local supplier Pyramid Carpets who donated and fitted carpets throughout.

Next the furnishing. It was astonishing how many individual items were needed – teaspoons, beds, curtains...but once we had asked our church communities, friends and families, items came flooding in; Shannon and



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her team at SVP Furniture Project could not have been more helpful. We bought dolls, teddies, a football for the children, and a work team tidied the garden.

Team members examined the tenancy agreement and contacted suppliers for utilities.

The first part of our task – which had seemed overwhelming – was now complete. Blessed to be a part of God's work for our fellow human beings, we also felt moved by the generosity of donors.

By Home From Home Hallam

## An Update from St Wilfrid's Centre



After a very difficult two years when staff worked hard to keep the Centre open for clients, things should now have returned to normal. St Wilfrid's Centre, however, can never be described as normal. It is instead a very special place; a place where the vulnerable and socially excluded can feel safe, part of a community, supported, understood and accepted.

We have 179 current clients, (75% of them male). In the early part of this year, our referrals have doubled and the number of free meals and food parcels given out has tripled. The reasons for needing this support vary but problems receiving benefits, sleeping rough and/or no recourse to public funds remain significant factors. From December onwards, however, we saw the direct effect of people needing to pay for energy costs with their benefits instead of

buying food and this had an impact on the numbers described. In the same period, 20 emergency clothing/rough sleeper packs were given out. We have also introduced 'Free Food Fridays' where donated foods that will expire over the weekend, or we have excess of, are offered to clients to take home.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the generous donations from parishes, groups and individuals. The number of people and organisation who completed our Reverse Advent Calendar, which are still being brought to us, was overwhelming, not only because of the food, products and cash donations, but also it really showed the level of support and interest so many people and parishes have for the Centre.

The Welfare Team continue to provide invaluable support for clients on a daily basis, with each client having a 'named worker' and regular contact – either in person at the Centre or by phone if they have been unable to come. They also provide a number of group activities from 'Indoor Sports' to Women's group to Nature Walks.

The Workshop not only offers meaningful practical activities for clients, but it also continues to provide a valuable service making Medi-boxes and other items for a variety of organisations, while also generating money from sales to support the Centre's work.

The introduction of our Skills for Living Programme and the appointment of a Full-time Tutor to deliver it in 2022 have been very successful with clients commenting at the most recent Praise and Grumble session how much they liked the change. Clients enjoy the broad range of activities which include, 'Maintaining your home', banking and finance, Communication skills, Cooking, IT Skills and safety on-line. The tutor also works with clients on our allotment, learning a variety of skills and growing fruit and vegetables that can be used in our kitchen or to make jams and/or products for our fayres throughout the year.

By Ruth Moore, Director of St. Wilfrid's Centre

*Read full article our website*

## Synod News: Journeying Together

### Putting our faith into action through the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD



Lent enables us to pause our usual ways and through prayer, fasting and charity to reflect on how we can better serve Christ through what we say and do. In the face of traumatic world events the love shown from the Cross reminds us that hope reigns over despair. Together as Christian communities we can and do act together.

CAFOD exists to enable compassion over adversity, to bring about a fairer world and more dignified lives for everyone. We are thankful to the communities who are acting in solidarity with others. Pictured here is Deacon Tony Strike from Sacred Heart parish, Hillsborough, in Hallam, putting faith into action by joining the Big Lent Walk to raise funds for CAFOD. He is joined by a team of fellow parishioners who are supporting one another on the Lenten journey.

On the second Sunday in Lent we heard about the disciples climbing a mountain with Jesus. When they make it to the top, they don't want to leave. The image of "ascending the mountain" is an image of the human quest for God; the mountain top is a place where we see a vision of Christ transfigured. This Lent, we are each called to renew our own quest to better serve Christ, the Word of God, to make an extra effort, to "ascend" a spiritual mountain. It's through this

experience meeting the Word anew that we become the face of Christ in our world today. In faith, we can play our part, enabling everyone to recognise the face of Christ in our sisters and brothers as we reach out in solidarity to all.

By Angela Powell and Tony Strike

***Find the people and teams in Hallam doing the CAFOD Big Lent Walk on our website***

## Calais Thanks to the Union of Catholic Mothers



Appreciation has been expressed by Susan McDonald the Director of Youth Ministry to the Hallam Diocese for the support we have given her.

In February 2023 she, together with a group of 6th formers from All Saints and McAuley Schools, as well as the Chaplain, the Director of youth and educators from Birmingham who lent their minibus.

The group travelled to Calais where over 200 beanie hats (knitted by UCM members and their friends) were distributed by Fr. Philippe who runs a community for refugees. The young people learnt about the plight of the refugees by interacting with them through games and other services such as tea/coffee and haircuts.

Sue is most grateful for the contributions and fundraising to enable the youth of our Diocese



## Synod News: Journeying Together

to attend the Flame event and other activities. At the UCM Christmas Lunch in November 2022 over £200 was raised at the raffle which will help to subsidise the cost of the coaches.

No doubt our UCM members were delighted to be of help to our youth.

By Dorothy Anderson

## The Charles Plater Trust Project – Improving Lives and Building Social Justice



The impact of the Charles Plater Trust's very generous grant to St Wilfrid's Centre has been much wider than we originally envisaged. The delays to the Project, especially those created by lockdowns and restrictions, have meant that changes had to be made to the original plans and the chance to reflect more on our practice and our outcomes at St Wilfrid's Centre have led to what we believe is a more effective and sustainable project.

The result has been the commissioning and implementation of a bespoke database. Key to moving the project forward initially was the need for clarity over how we would review and track progress. After much reading about current practices and research, we formulated our own approach that we felt would be effective at the Centre but that also could be adapted or used in a different format elsewhere.

Our other key learning point has been the need not to pre-empt what impact and progress are, instead formulating a wide-ranging 'vulnerability' measure which includes a 'best-fit' approach, that is flexible and adaptable once we have enough data to evaluate. Because our clients have so many different needs we also need to make sure our understanding of impact and progress focuses on the individual.

Welfare workers review clients 'vulnerability' under a number of headings, including 'Isolation', Mental Health, Financial needs, 'Housing Needs', Life Skills'. The use of the vulnerability score and the lessons learnt from the development of the database demonstrates a different approach and/or principle to what has become for many public sector organisations the introduction of targets. Our aim has always been that good practice and principled work/leadership, underpinned by Catholic Social Teaching, will not be driven by imposed targets but will instead drive the need to identify real progress, even if that means just coming to a safe place and attending the Centre once a week, and evidencing how it can be measured.

The project has also led to a complete review of our use of hardware and software and the need for a long-term strategic plan. As is often the case for small organisations like ours, the use of technology has developed on a need's basis over the years, without any real funding commitment or consideration as to how its impact on clients can be increased. The bespoke database would not be as effective without secure and effective hardware and so a detailed costed plan for new hardware was devised and implemented. Although we have had to seek additional funding from individuals and trusts for this, we do feel that clients are already benefitting in Skills for Living Sessions and when needing help applying for benefits etc and the use of the database and the development of Vulnerability reviews are effective.

By Ruth Moore, Director of St Wilfrid's Centre

*Read full article on our website*

## Synod News: Journeying Together

### Hallam Youth at Flame 2023



FLAME 2023 called to the young people of England and Wales to RISE UP. After 3 years of challenges with Covid the young people did just that and set off for the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales, the FLAME congress.

With all 150 tickets allocated, the young people of Hallam Diocese set off at 6:30am to Wembley OVO Arena. Three coaches left Hallam picking up groups from: All Saints, St Bernard's, Notre Dame, St Mary's, St Pius, The McAuley and Mount St Mary's as well as St Oswald's and St Paul's parish groups. We were accompanied on the coach by our own Bishop Ralph who is the national Bishop of youth for England and Wales.

The day was packed with scripture, inspirational talks, praise and worship and music. The keynote speakers were Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop Costelloe, Robert Bilot and David Wells. Music was led by Adenike, Faith Child and Guvna B with worship being led by One Hope Project. The event concluded with Adoration led by Cardinal Vincent Nicols. FLAME2023 was given life by the 8,000 young people and their leaders who attended.

We had front row seats so it was impossible not to be involved in the singing and it did not take long before we were jumping up and down with Guvna B. the young people said of the experience, "Seeing so many young people celebrating their faith together brought me so much joy" "It was a pleasure to feel part of a Diocesan, national and international community all at once". The messages from our speakers were about the challenges and rewards of rising up from their seats and being active people of

God. Archbishop Costelloe urged the young people to rebuild the Church so that it does not fall into ruin and Cardinal Tagle shared who helped him rise up on his own journey of faith. Our young people said later "Personally I feel motivated to rise up" and "I feel grateful for those people in my life who help and care for me" another was moved by the talk from Faith Child who said running away from God is not Cardio.

*Read full article on our website*

### An epic trip to Flame 2023



On the 4th of March, it was an early start for the flame participants – a 6:45 meeting and a cold and dark morning. Soon enough we were on the M1, with our blue scarves and lanyards, we looked spectacular. Eventually, we made it to Wembley arena and joined a group of 8,000 people who all accepted the invitation to come together and celebrate our beliefs.

We entered during the opening liturgy, when the beautiful singer Adenike, set the crowd into the mood to rise up which was the theme of the day. Followed by some powerful and motivating speakers such as Fr Dominic Howarth and Robert Billot, Archbishop Costelloe and music from GuvnaB. Pope Francis also joined in the celebration, by writing a letter to the people taking part in Flame. By this time, we needed our stomachs to be filled.

By a member of Hallam Youth

*Read full article on our website*