

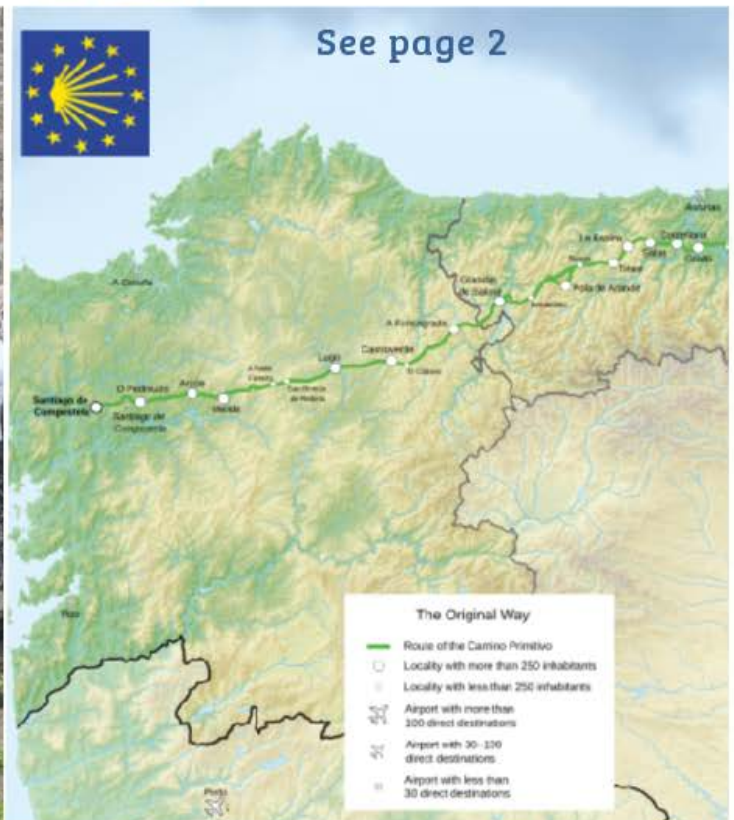


Young People from Hallam Join Pope Leo at the Jubilee of Youth See page 8



Pilgrims from Holy Family Parish journey to Padley

Walk the Camino Primitivo in 2026



Upcoming Events

28 September Disability Awareness Sunday Celebration St Vincent's, Sheffield

29 September Diocesan Communications Group Pastoral Centre

If you are interested in contributing to the work of the group or would like to send in a query or recommendations about social media and communication in the diocese, please feel free to get in touch at communications@hallam-diocese.com

3 October Cafod Harvest Fast Day

4 & 18 October CCRS Pastoral Centre

11 October Celebration for Married Couples, St Peter's, Doncaster

11 October Introduction to Accompaniment, Pastoral Centre

17 October Presentation for CCRS Students, Pastoral Centre

29 November Advent Recollection TBA



Jubilee Events in the Diocese

15 November Jubilee of Volunteers Immaculate Conception, Rotherham

Welcome to the September edition of Hallam Bridge

Pilgrimages of Hope and this edition of Hallam Bridge contains many interesting accounts from varied sources, about the pilgrimages you have been on. Do carry on sending them in. Many thanks to all who contributed photos and articles about pilgrimage to Padley, to Lourdes, and on St Mark's Way. We welcome Emma Green, the new media officer for UCM and her invitation to hear from you also. It is nice also to be able to display the message from Pope Leo for the Pilgrims.

The pilgrim stories, and other tales from people's lives can enrich and inspire us as they bear witness with their faith journeys. (Page 9; page 6)

If you are looking for ways to deepen your prayer life and journey onwards in your Catholic faith, there are a number of opportunities for you; for your own prayer life, consider undertaking the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius (page 14). To help you to help others as you walk together on your journey to and through the Kingdom of God, consider undertaking the Introduction to Accompaniment Course (page 15); there's still time to register. To develop your learning and understanding, consider undertaking the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies course starting soon. If you feel called to work for

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Diocese of Hallam



@HallamDioceseCC, @SynodHallam1



Hallam Diocese



@HallamDiocese

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CONTACT

justice, peace and care for creation, there are some invitations for this too; contribute to a Notre Dame project (page 16), or hospice care in the Holy Land. If you're not sure what direction to take next, why not go on retreat for a period of prayer and discernment and reflect on it, (page 13).

Finally, there is an important message from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. This body has oversight and responsibility for ensuring the Church is continually maintaining high standards of safeguarding and accountability. They are writing a report for publication next year on survivor engagement in dioceses and inviting you to contribute anything you think they should hear about in relation to this. See page 9. Blessings on your month ahead
Editor.

Appointments

Mgr Willie Kilgannon Retires

Fr Michael Umameh From Sacred Heart, Hillsborough, Sheffield to Mother of God & St Wilfrid, Sheffield

Fr Paul O'Hara From St Jude's, Worksop to Sacred Heart, Hillsborough Sheffield

Fr Desmond Edozie from St Alban's, Denaby, to St Jude's, Worksop

Fr Augustine Nwaiwu from St Paul's, Cantley to St Alban's, Denaby

Fr John Metcalfe returns from English College, Valladolid to St Michael's, Hathersage

Fr Martin Clayton Retires

Fr Jude Uche from St Josephs, Retford to St Joseph & St Theresa's, Woodlands, Doncaster

Camino Primitivo 2026

. This is the original Camino to Santiago starting from Oviedo in the Spanish province of Asturias. During the 9th century King Alfonso II made the pilgrimage to verify that the remains found in Compostela were indeed those of St James the Apostle. Thus began pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela with many pilgrims following the footsteps of King Alfonso II. Later during the 11th century the capital moved from Oviedo to Leon establishing a new route which today is called the Camino de Francia. The original route goes over parts of the Cantabrian mountain range and is demanding in parts. Although only 5% of all pilgrims take the route its history and scenery make it a unique experience.

I hope to organise a pilgrimage in September 2026 using this route and looking for 4-6 other pilgrims. The route covers 311 Km or 193 miles which is almost the same as the coast to coast long range walk in this country and takes 16 days. Each person should be experienced in hiking difficult routes through mountain ranges and be of an acceptable level of fitness. At this moment I have no fixed dates or estimation of costs but intend to make enquiries during this September.

If you are interested in joining me please contact me at Desmond.57@btinternet.com . Fr Desmond Sexton.

You can subscribe to receive the Hallam Bridge when it is published here: <https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/>

Subscribe

Around the Diocese

CAFOD's Young Leadership programme



At CAFOD, we know that young people can take the lead in creating a better world. Our Young Leadership programme supports young people to be leaders for social justice in their local and global communities.

In Hallam Diocese, CAFOD's Young Leadership programme offers students in Y10 an opportunity to take the lead and make a difference by raising awareness, standing up and speaking out, and giving time and energy to bring about real change in our world. As part of the programme, Young Leaders meet new people, grow in faith and develop confidence, leadership, communication and time management skills.

It has been a joy to journey to with this years 2024-25g group of Young Leaders. They were tasked with sharing the stories of Daniel, Sagesse and Bernadette, our partners in the DRC; whether they wrote the scripts, stood on the stage and delivered, or prepared and ran a PowerPoint presentation. Some students visited their local primary schools to raise awareness about CAFOD, others delivered to year groups in their schools. At St Pius X, one of the things the students loved was, 'That we were all more confident at presenting assemblies to students in all Year groups, even the Year 11s'.

All schools have fundraised in different ways; St Pius X students organised bake sales, flowers and gifts for Mother's day. All Saints students encouraged each form group to raise money for World Gifts. St Bernard's organised a Lenten

soup lunch, so successful they repeated it the following day. Notre Dame took part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, walking 8 miles from Notre Dame High School to Padley Chapel.

The Young Leaders were also tasked to raise awareness of CAFOD's Cancel Debt, Choose Hope campaign, encouraging their peers to call for a reset of the unjust debt crisis.

We are grateful to all the Young Leaders, the Staff Accompaniers, the school communities, friends and families for their support for our global family, through praying, campaigning and giving. We look forward to the Young Leaders continuing their journey with CAFOD - A better world needs all of us. **Sharon Matthews**

The Holy Family Parish Pilgrimage to Padley Chapel



On Saturday, 18th July 2025, Holy Family parishioners travelled to Grindleford, for their parish Jubilee pilgrimage to the Padley Martyrs' Shrine. Most participants began their journey with a 14 minute train ride from Sheffield Station to Grindleford station, High Peak District in Derbyshire where Padley Chapel is situated within walking distance of the train station. Visitors of all ages were welcomed by the 'Friends of Padley', who look after and maintain this site as a part of our Catholic cultural heritage. After arrival, attendees listened to talks about the history of Padley, it's Martyrs, the Blesseds Nicholas Garlick and Robert Ludlum, and the challenges faced by other local Catholic families regarding their faith during their time. The visit coincided with the same month that the Martyrs were arrested, imprisoned and finally executed on the 24th of July 1588 on Saint

Around the Diocese

Mary's Bridge Derby.

A central component of the pilgrimage was the celebration of mass by Father Henry Woodhouse inside the chapel, with liturgy and hymns delivered in various languages reflecting the diverse national backgrounds within the Holy Family Catholic Parish in Sheffield. Some Catholic friends from Manchester who happened to be visiting the area, were also lucky to be present for the mass. Following mass, attendees enjoyed refreshments and a light lunch in the courtyard of Padley in true Holy Family style.

Although many pilgrims expressed desire for more time at the site, they departed promptly to catch the 16:15hrs train back to Sheffield. Plans are underway for a future pilgrimage, allowing for an extended visit and a trek to St Mary's Bridge. **Tendayi Hanyani** Holy Family Church Parishioner

Little Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Season of Creation



There has been a regular Mass for many years on the first Monday of the month at St. Michael's Rivelin, offered for the souls of those buried there and in the Catholic section of Crookes Cemetery.

The Chapel and the cemetery are beautiful, in lovely wooded surroundings that reach up the valley side through the trees to join Walkley Cemetery. This September the date for the Mass fell on the first day of the Season of Creation,

and it seemed a fitting opportunity both to offer prayers for those gone before, and to celebrate the beauty of the natural world around their resting place.

A new Mass for the Care of Creation was instituted by the Vatican this summer, and offered by Pope Leo in the Borgo Laudato Si', Castel Gandolfo, in July. Fr Paddy Walsh used the new Liturgy for his last Mass at St. Michael's as parish priest, to celebrate the Season of Creation.

Afterwards, a group of us from Sacred Heart, St. William of York, St. Vincent's and the Cathedral, walked along the Rivelin Valley Trail to Malin Bridge, with prayer stops along the way dedicated to the industry carried out along the river in years gone by, and to conservation work undertaken now to maintain its heritage and biodiversity, for today and for generations to come. At Malin Bridge we remembered the death and destruction caused by the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864, and we prayed for those caught in terrible floods today and those threatened by rising sea levels due to climate change. From there we walked on to Sacred Heart, Hillsborough, where Father Michael Unameh said a final prayer with us in the Memorial Garden. A Little Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. **Columba Timmins.** St. Vincent's parish.

2025 Jubilee Year Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



The phrase "A Pilgrimage isn't meant to be easy" is one that I've heard many times over the 38

Around the Diocese

years that I've been travelling on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Diocese of Hallam. This was certainly demonstrated when 335 pilgrims from around the diocese, including 166 in the "Hallam Youth group" with students from all 7 diocesan High Schools, participated in the Jubilee Year Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 27th June to 3rd July 2025.

Pilgrims on the Charter Flight endured two separate delays – an initial 2½ delay due to crew hours and then a further 5 hours delay after the aircraft hit the windscreen on landing at Leeds Bradford Airport.

The spirit in which pilgrims navigated this 7½ delay was incredible with volunteer helpers, doctors and nurses, making sure our Assisted Pilgrims were looked after, and with many pilgrims using the time to get to know one another better.

Pilgrims gathered together for the Opening Mass on Saturday 28th June, our diocesan patronal feast day, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Ralph, and a powerful homily from Bishop Emeritus John Rawsthorne on the cure of Jack Traynor (71st recognized miracle of Lourdes). Traditionally, this was the Mass with "Blessing of the Helpers" where pilgrimage volunteers came forward to have their hands blessed. This year, in order to fully recognise that each and every one of us helps other pilgrims in some way or another during the pilgrimage, all pilgrims were invited to have their hands blessed.

On Saturday afternoon we had our Service of Reconciliation with large numbers of people going to confession. Saturday evening we participated as a Diocese in the Torchlight Procession, and then on Sunday morning we had our Mass with Anointing of the Sick.

We adapted the pace of our pilgrimage as the temperatures in Lourdes reached 35° C/ 36° C but still managed to hold a short Jubilee Procession on Sunday afternoon with our Diocesan Candle, from the Crowned Virgin

Statute to the Chapel of Lights, complete with Jubilee Flags for pilgrims celebrating the Jubilee Year. We participated in the Blessed Sacrament Procession and pilgrims had the opportunity for a late night visit to the Grotto for quiet prayer late on Sunday evening.

On Monday 30th June we joined with the Diocese of Paisley for Mass at the Grotto before heading up to the Lac de Lourdes to gather together socially, as a Diocese.

One of the highlights for many pilgrims is Holy Hour, which was led by Fr Lee Marshall on Monday evening. Other liturgies during our time in Lourdes included Stations of the Cross and participation in the International Mass on Wednesday morning and our Closing Liturgy on Wednesday afternoon. On Thursday morning, we split into three hotel groups for Mass in different chapels – celebrated by the priest chaplain from each hotel.

We were aware that there was going to be an Air Traffic Control strike on 3rd and 4th July but were initially advised by the airport that our departure would be ok. Sadly, just as we were checking-in at the airport, the authorities cancelled the flight and all our pilgrims returned to their hotels, within the hour. We ended up spending an extra 48 hours in Lourdes – which after the initial inconvenience, proved to be an extra blessing for many. We finally landed back on the evening of Saturday 5th July !

There are videos of our Opening Mass, the Blessed Sacrament Procession, Grotto Mass and International Mass are all on the pilgrimage website www.hallam-lourdes.com as is a video of our time in Lourdes. **Alex Prior** - Pilgrimage Director

Caritas News



Janet Kent, senior manager at Caritas, was invited to facilitate a workshop at the conference Catholic Social Teaching on the Streets at Oxford University on 2 September, the event was organised by the Charles Plater Trust.

Janet worked alongside Dr Amy Daughton Associate Professor in Practical Theology to explore the relationship between Catholic Social Teaching and the work of the Carmel Care Centre in Sheffield.

Janet said ' It was a joy and a privilege to take part in such an interesting and inspiring event.

Please see below a summary of the workshop.

Cultures of Encounter at Carmel Care:

Rejecting the isolation of abuse

This session focused on the work of the Carmel Care Centre, a team who work with people who've experienced coercion and abuse, to help them in recovery and regrowth.

This case study offered an example of a culture of encounter where encounter becomes the culture: "a project that includes everyone" (Fratelli Tutti, §216).

By discussing the activities and experiences of those who work and learn at Carmel Care, this session aimed to explore a culture of encounter and how it is sustained: where dignity goes beyond mere subsistence; where flourishing means giving as well as receiving; and where this project of the common good becomes a path to hope. Carmel Care illuminates the hope

of what a culture of encounter can be like, and how it can be built.- **Janet Kent** for Caritas

March for Life 2025



On Saturday 6th September, the day began at 7:30am, as a group of 'Pilgrims of Hope' from across the diocese of Hallam travelled down by coach to the annual March for Life event in London. Groups from different dioceses, all over England, travelled to this event to witness to their pro-life beliefs. Seven Catholic Bishops join the record-breaking UK March for Life, in which it is estimated 10,000 participants took part, and for the first time, a message and apostolic blessing to all participants from the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. The theme for this year was #HumanRights4All.

The day started at 10:30am in the Emmanuel Centre with a host of empowering pro-life speakers such as Heidi Crowter, a Down Syndrome advocate, speaking about human rights being denied for certain disabilities and that all individuals have the right to be different. There were live interviews with women affected by abortion talking about what women are not told about abortion. A heart-moving testimony from Josiah Presley, an abortion survivor, whose life has been physically and emotionally impacted due to the attempt to end his life in the womb. A Q&A session with legal experts on Human Rights and the Law. An empowering, bold yet resounding compassionate talk from MP Carla Lockhart who called for all leaders in power to recognise the dignity of both the woman and the unborn child. In addition to these distinguished pro-life speakers, this is a family-friendly event which provided crafts, face

painting and a play area for the younger children, and there were pro-life talks and the opportunity to create a pro-life T-shirt for the older children.

The March began at 1:30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, close to Westminster Cathedral, and culminated in Parliament Square. The March is the epitome of the event. Many people united in one belief that God is the giver and creator of all life and abortion is gravely wrong. A bagpipe player led the march, as we proceeded through the streets of London, with banners and placards held aloft and all that could be heard are pro-life chants, prayers and hymns ascending heavenward. By walking along the streets of our capital, and in particular, assembling in front of the Houses of Parliament, we demonstrated our support for measures which protect life before those who make our laws. The March felt especially pertinent this year, with Leadbeater's Assisted Suicide Bill facing its second reading in the House of Lords on 12th September and the proposal in the Crime and Policing Bill to decriminalise abortion, also set to be debated in the Lord's soon after.

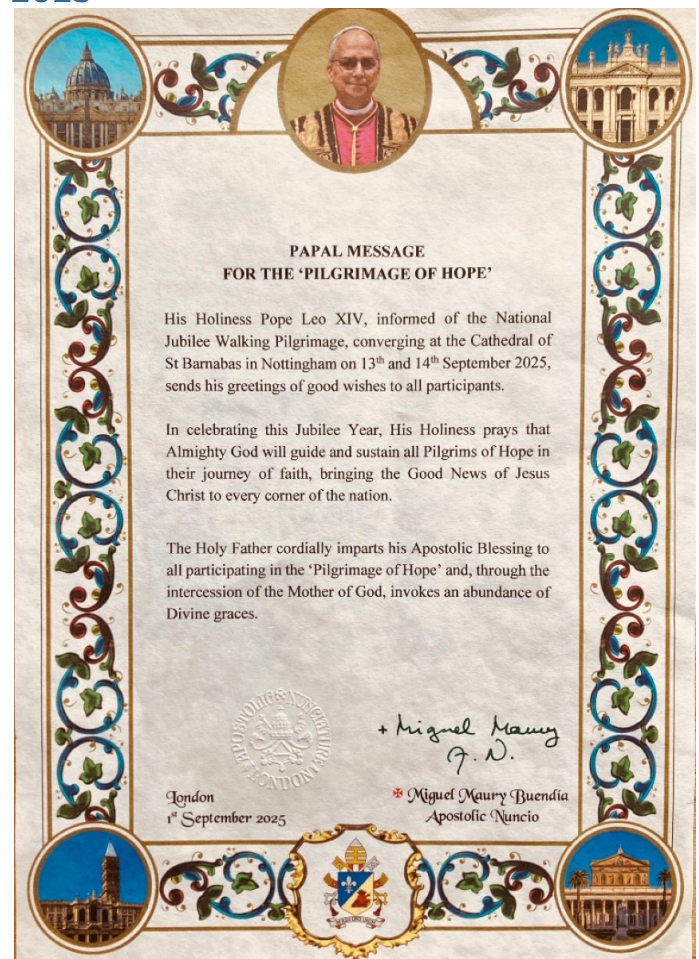
Rachel Wood

New Diocesan Media Officer for UCM for the Diocese



"Hello, my name is Emma Green and I'm the Diocesan Media Officer for UCM for the Diocese. As part of my role, I want to act as a "bridge for all Foundations in the Diocese. If you have any "news" that your Foundation would like to share, please email panthoot30@outlook.com for inclusion in the new UCM News. Many thanks
Emma Green, Diocesan Media Officer, Holy Rood Foundation Barnsley

The National Pilgrimage of Hope Saint Mark's Way (North) September 2025



The deepest thanks go to all in the Diocese of Hallam who supported Saint Mark's Way, as Pilgrims journeyed from Leeds, via Sheffield to Nottingham September 6th - 13th 2025.

The welcome we received at the Parish of Corpus Christi, the Cathedral Church of St Marie's and Padley Chapel was simply outstanding.

Saint Mark's Way offered us all the opportunity to participate in one single collective prayer. It involved route planning, connecting Dioceses, parish welcomes, visiting spiritual sites that 'bridged time', saying the Angelus and the Rosary along the Way and ultimately being blessed with the celebration of the holy Mass.

The Diocese of Leeds gifted us with 2,000 Saint Mark's Way prayer cards, which were distributed to 14 parishes and 3 schools along the Way, so that people could participate as 'Prayer Pilgrims'.

A daily diary of the Pilgrimage is available on the Diocese of Leeds website in the News section.

<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/news/>

All routes for the National Pilgrimage of Hope are available via the Outdooractive App. G Bonner National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope St Mark's Way (North) **Gerard Bonner**

A season of faith, friendship, and unforgettable journeys



Hallam Youth Summer 2025

Padley Pilgrimage

Just before the end of term, some of our older youth leaders supported the Padley Pilgrimage for primary schools. It was a joy to see the children preparing readings, serving at the altar, and taking part in the offertory with the guidance of our inspiring young leaders. Their enthusiasm created a beautiful atmosphere, and the glorious sunshine made the day even more special.

A Day in Liverpool

At the very start of summer, a group of young people travelled to Liverpool. The day began with a warm welcome from the Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, followed by time spent

exploring and praying together. Sr. Lynne Baron Fcj then led a session on discernment, giving everyone the chance to reflect on where God may be calling them. After lunch, we climbed the tower of the Anglican Cathedral, enjoying spectacular views of the city. The trip was not only about sightseeing but also about building friendships and taking time out of busy lives to grow in faith together.

Jubilee of Youth in Rome

The highlight of the summer was the long-awaited journey to Rome for the Jubilee of Youth. After nine months of preparation, we set off together for a week packed with prayer, community, and unforgettable encounters.

Here's what some of the group had to say about their experience:

The Jubilee of Youth is a special event in the Catholic Church where young people from around the world come together to celebrate their faith through prayer and community. I was in Rome for a week and during this time I have had the privilege to attend two masses with Pope Leo.

One of my favourite parts of this trip was visiting Assisi and hearing the story of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Hearing about how he used his privilege and knowledge of the internet to serve God was really inspiring to me and shows just how young people can lead a faithful life.

I think the main message I got from this trip which has helped me get closer to God is seeing how millions of people are connected through Jesus. It helped me see how faith isn't just an individual thing but something we all share and that even though the people at the jubilee of youth were from different countries of the world they were all connected through their love for Christ.

I would also like to encourage all the young people in our church to try new things. Before I went this year, I didn't know what to expect but now that I've done it I know it is a great experience. I have learned a lot about my faith and my faith has become stronger. The next pilgrimage is in 2027 in Seoul" will you be there. Lenny

What can I say about the past 7 days? I have just spent the past week of my life with the loveliest people in one of the most beautiful places on this earth.

Palazzola is definitely Rome's hidden gem. We've talked, prayed, sung, laughed, walked (and boy did we walk), swam, shared meals together, and just had one of those special weeks.

A mixture of all ages, the youngest being 14 and the oldest 72 got on like a house on fire. The Diocese of Hallam and The Diocese of Salford are now friends for life. Lorraine

Looking Ahead

This summer has been a true witness to the energy, hope, and deep faith of our young people, Hallam Youth has shown that young people are not only the future of the Church — they are its vibrant present.

We are now open for the new term, so follow us on Instagram @HALLAM_YOUTH or email youth@hallam-diocese.com

Sue Macdonald

St Peter's Parishioners Graduate from Maryvale



Two Parishioners from St. Peter in Chains Parish celebrated their academic achievements on Saturday 12 July when they graduated from Maryvale Institute. For both students this had been a long process over several years including the time of the Covid Pandemic. Elizabeth Elliott was awarded a Master of Arts with Honours in Catholic Applied Theology, and Vanessa Hailes was awarded a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Divinity. The graduation ceremony took place at Oscott College in Birmingham and the Degrees were presented by Rt. Rev John Keenen, Bishop of Paisley.



The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency is completing an audit to assess the current practice of Catholic Dioceses' and Religious Life Groups (RLGs) in England and Wales in engaging with and supporting survivors of abuse.

The purpose of this public call is to invite information from anyone who has had recent contact with a Diocese or Religious Life Group (RLG). This includes experiences that are new, ongoing, or connected to non-recent abuse. Although our assessment looks at the period from July 2024, we do not wish to limit what you choose to share. This information will support our assessment of the effectiveness of current safeguarding arrangements and contribute to the prevention of abuse. Whatever you tell us will help inform our conclusions about safeguarding today. We will let you know exactly how we will manage the information you give us.

Information regarding this survey can be found via the Public Call for Information section of the CSSA website: <https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/contact-us-and-other-information/public-calls-for-information>

St William of York – A Birthday Bash!



On Sunday 24 August, St William's celebrated the 90th birthday with one of their musicians, Jackie Williams; with cake and African drumming. Always one to champion everyone to 'have a go', this was an all-age party enjoying a new way of making a joyful noise.

I never believed I would celebrate my 90 birthday in the Catholic Church, but here I am after being received and confirmed in 2023. God still has work for me to do and I intend to live this out. Slower than before, but still running the race with perseverance!

My arrival in St William's has been a journey of faith, prayer and music. Baptised in Sheffield 1935, into an Anglican family; I am a multi-instrumentalist, - my main instruments are flute and Piano, although I no longer play flute.

I studied music at Manchester and Reading in the 1950's and experienced incredible opportunities playing flute alongside well-known musicians, with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Sir John Barbirolli. I acquired a wealth of Conducting knowledge from the Professor - skills I would use throughout my career. Having wanted to be an orchestral player, I discovered early on, that life was not for me.

Returning to Sheffield as Head of Music at Grange Grammar School, it was wonderful to encourage girls to fulfil their musical ambition. Alongside teaching, I wrote and arranged music; as well as playing in several Sheffield Orchestras. I was also had my first choir: The Youth Squash Choir - a vibrant group of young people who came together to sing and express their faith.

After the arrival of comprehensive education, I retired from classroom teaching but continued instrumental teaching for a while, but I found it was restrictive in creativity. Having been a Sunday School teacher, I became a Church Leader in the Housechurch. Prayer is and remains at my core and God was showing me the next steps on my journey.

Approached by Kingsway Music I proofed arrangements and typeset the early Songs of Fellowship books. I began my music publishing business - JAW Music, writing arrangements for experienced and beginner musicians to be used in churches. Interdenominational churches across the globe were now requesting copies. JAW Music ran until I was 70 and the ownership was transferred.

Billy Graham visited Sheffield in 1985, and I trained the choirs of over 500 in the North. At the Mission I was privileged to be asked to conduct my arrangements.

Afterwards, the Sheffield section carried on and became The Celebration Choir with 300 members. We proclaimed the gospel through song around the UK and it was one of the highlights of my Christian witness in music, releasing several recordings.

In 1998 bowel cancer arrived and I had to step away from music. Every fibre of strength was devoted to prayer and survival. After a gruelling two years of operations/chemotherapy, I was cancer free and back conducting.

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity and after 27 years it was time. Aged 75 I relinquished my role as church leader and musical director.

Before lockdown, I was invited to Mass at St William's. God was guiding me, and I was transfixed with the reverence afforded to the Body and Blood of Christ. My prayer life widened, I feel immediate peace wash over me when I partake in the sacrament.

Been given a talent of music, I am now one of the organists/musicians. God always finds an opportunity for the willing servant. I still write occasional arrangements and I know this is where I am meant to be. I am still learning, praying and listening to what God wants me to do. We never know where we will be called to serve! **Jackie Williams**

A Milestone for Hospice Care in the Holy Land



Bethlehem, September 2025 — Last Month marked the second anniversary of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust's Hospice at Home service—the only licensed palliative care provider in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

The initiative was launched on 1 August 2023 in response to an urgent request from the Christian community in Bethlehem, a city with the highest reported incidence of cancer in the OPT. Alarming, 7 out of every 10 cancer diagnoses in the region come too late for curative treatment. Before the service began, palliative care simply wasn't available—leaving many to face terminal illness without the dignity or comfort of appropriate care.

Unable to fund a dedicated hospice facility, the Trust instead developed a home-based care model. A solid operational structure was quickly established in Bethlehem, including an Operations Board supported by Clinical and Financial Governance Committees. Licenses were obtained, medical staff were recruited and trained, and the service officially launched.

Just two months after opening, (October 7 2023), the socio-economic and security environment deteriorated significantly. The OPT essentially shut down—tourism halted, businesses closed, and already high poverty levels worsened. In a region where nearly 30% of people survive on less than £1.34 a day, unemployment soared. Restrictions on movement added another layer of difficulty to delivering healthcare.

Despite these immense challenges, the Hospice at Home service persisted. Beginning with just 11 patients, the team of dedicated nurses have since made over 3,200 home visits, caring for 227 patients and supporting their families during their most difficult times.

Now entering its third year, the service is currently supporting 95 patients and continues to build compassionate communities across the Bethlehem Governorate. But the need is still far greater than the service's current capacity.


"We know there are many more suffering without access to palliative care—not just in Bethlehem, but throughout the OPT," a spokesperson for the Trust said. "We urgently need financial support to expand our services and reach those who are still going without care."

The Trust extends heartfelt thanks to its many donors for their continued and generous support. For more information go to www.bcandht.org or email info@bcandht.org Joe McNally

It's time to re-think Baptism Preparation

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Southwark are offering the opportunity to join them for a Masterclass webinar on Infant Baptism Preparation on Tuesday 7 October 7:30pm. The Masterclass will be perfect for priests, deacons, catechists and baptism preparation volunteers.


Masterclass Webinar Series



INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION


It's time to re-think Baptism Preparation. Here's the **field manual** to help you shape your baptism preparation to meet the needs and opportunities of your area.

with Dr. Petroc Willey, Dr. William J. Keimig, Jacqueline and Michael van Hemert



TUE 7TH OCTOBER 2025
7:30PM £5 registration

Scan the QR code or go to www.aec.rcas.org.uk/latest/masterclass-infant-baptism-preparation



Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis
 ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Register for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies Starting in September 2025

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES



CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Are you interested in deepening your understanding of the Catholic Faith? The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies may be for you

CCRS is a certificate course validated by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It offers a basic foundation in Catholic theology and practice through teaching, discussion, study, and personal reflection. It is aimed at anyone who wants to undertake some serious, but accessible, study into Catholic theology. It is particularly well-suited for staff in Catholic schools, parish catechists and those involved in various aspects of lay ministry.

It consists of six core modules

- Bible I (The Old Testament)
- Bible II (The New Testament)
- Jesus Christ
- The Church
- The Sacraments
- Christian Morality

And two Specialist modules currently offered in Hallam include:

- Catholic Religious Education
- Liturgy
- Catholic Social Teaching

The course will recommence in late September if you would like to register then please use this link or QR code and complete the Registration Form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczZAabQ50HOtIsJc4bNL7TdwMjFies9NY_50sODNQKlXUqlg/viewform?usp=header

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczZAabQ50HOtIsJc4bNL7TdwMjFies9NY_50sODNQKlXUqlg/viewform?usp=header

An Invitation from Bishop Ralph to Married Couples

Diocese of Hallam

Bishop Ralph Heskett

INVITES ALL COUPLES WHO HAVE MARRIED THIS YEAR OR WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR FIRST, TENTH, TWENTY FIFTH, FIFTIETH, SIXTIETH OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY

to
A DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF
THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

**SATURDAY 11 October 2025,
12:00 Noon**

**St Peter's Catholic Church
Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AA**

RSVP using this QR code
further details from
marriagepreparation@hallam-diocese.com

Have you just got married during 2025 or are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary - one, 10, 25, 50 60 or more? If so, Bishop Ralph cordially invites you to join him at a diocesan celebration Mass in thanksgiving for the sacrament of Marriage on 11 October 2025 at St Peter's, Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AA at 12:00 followed by refreshments. If you would like to attend then please add your details to this Google form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbNvpCCCHNo1R_y2c7P-tVSEW_z9sjCbgvNB203nMa4nMfyQ/viewform?usp=header or using the QR Code above. Further Details from marriagepreparation@hallam-diocese.com

Care for Creation update September



'A Care of Creation Retreat: The Joy of Limits on 4th – 10th October 2025

The Joy of Limits Retreat 2025 [Download](#)

The retreat is led by Sr Margaret Atkins of Boarbank Hall (canonesses of St Augustine) and John Paul de Quay of the Ecological Conversion Group.

The talks aim to make accessible themes of the social doctrine of the Church on care for creation. We will focus on slowing down and making room for Christ in our busy lives and finding joy in the little things.

We will discuss:

- What is enough?
- Art and the power of limits.
- Respecting God's laws and structures.
- Human limits and the incarnation.

Optional Activities include: walks, birdwatching, gardening, film evenings, artwork workshops. All set in the rhythm of Mass and sung Prayer of the Church with the Boarbank Community
 Cost: 7 days £540-600 for an individual room or £900 for a twin or double. £960 for a family room.
 Donation towards cost of course is optional.
 . ((reductions offered as needed
 For more information, or to book, email:
margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

2025 Season of Creation Theme: Peace with Creation

This year's season of creation has the theme "peace with creation". John Paul de Quay of The Ecological Conversion Group shares his thoughts on this year's theme in a blog post "From Garden to City. Peace with Creation", as part of the Journey to 2030 project. You can read the [article here:](https://journeyto2030.org/from-garden-to-city/)

2025 Year of Jubilee marks the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si', The 1700th Anniversary of the first Nicaean Council and the 800th Anniversary of St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures

To mark this special year Sr Margaret Atkins (Boarbank Hall, Cumbria) and John Paul (The Ecological Conversion Group) have put together a concise poster that seeks to explore the relevance of celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Laudato Si' during this year of Jubilee. The poster brings together the themes of Jubilee, Christian Mission, Integral Ecology, Ecological Conversion as not separate concerns, or even separate subject matters. Our hope is that the poster helps our Church to become aware of the importance to re-integrate care of creation into our everyday mission. The poster is a [freely available here:](https://theecg.org/resources/10th-anniversary-of-laudato-si-poster)

[https://theecg.org/resources/10th anniversary of laudato si poster](https://theecg.org/resources/10th-anniversary-of-laudato-si-poster) [Download](#)
Check out the NEW Resource Sorter: Journey to 2030

Need resources, ideas and inspiration to support you during the Season of Creation and beyond? Developed as part of the "Journey to 2030" project, the Resource Sorter is a searchable, filterable repository of key resources for parishes, schools, and individuals seeking to engage with the themes of care of creation and Catholic social teaching. The tool collates over 70 carefully-selected resources, including publications, partner materials, videos, books, and websites. www.journeyto2030.org/resources/

Prayer and Lifestyle Resources for the Season of Creation

A list of prayer and lifestyle resources has been prepared by Caritas Diocese of Brentwood that can be flexibly used in your parish, school, or organisation:

Daily Reflections for each day of the Season of Creation: PowerPoint, PDF and images for social media. Novena to St Francis of Assisi: PDF, which can be given as a handout or displayed.

Changing habits day by day: PDF poster (please note this is more suitable for 16+) Laudato Si' Goals: PDF poster The resources are freely available:

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/resource/season-of-creation/>

The Ecological Conversion Group

The Ecological Conversion Group, a small charity which is dedicated to inspiring action on the Care of Creation. Our mission is to help our Church, motivated by faith, to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor

The Journey to 2030

Our main project "The Journey to 2030" supports the Church and its wider community to respond to the cry of the earth and the poor. Our mission is: "To help our Church Communities to dream of, and build a better future, for all." www.journeyto2030.org

2025 Year of Jubilee marks the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si', The 1700th Anniversary of the first Nicaean Council and the 800th Anniversary of St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures. To mark this special year, you are invited to learn more about what you can do to contribute to the Care of Our Common Home. Free resources are available on The Ecological Conversion Group website www.theecg.org/resources/ and the Journey to 2030 website journeyto2030.org/resources/

Sign up to the newsletter: tinyurl.com/464ursd2
If you would like to find out more, please email: info@theecg.org

CAFOD: Jubilee Spiritual Practices - REST

CAFOD in collaboration with Sr Margaret Sr Margaret Atkins, a Canoness of St Augustine have written a thoughtful article on one of the reasons for Jubilee:

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h\Y'ž V]YY'mYUfž]g'UVci hWta a i bU'fYgh' fYghZcf
h\Y YUfH' UbX'fYghZcf'dYcd'Y'"Read the thought-provoking article here: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-spiritual-practices-res>

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola Made in daily life



What are the Spiritual Exercises?

In the 16th century, St Ignatius of Loyola set out his 'Spiritual Exercises' – sharing the way he had found to God. Initially these were offered as a 30 day silent retreat. Since that time, this way has become hugely influential – promoting a way to God based on everyday life. This retreat is at the heart of Jesuit Spirituality - the Jesuits today being the largest Catholic Order of priests and religious. Jesuits undertake the Spiritual Exercises twice during their formation and entry into the Society of Jesus, once at the beginning and again at a later stage.

More recently the Jesuits have promoted a wider use of the Exercises. From about the 1980s, the Exercises have been offered to a growing number of lay people and others from different Christian traditions. The most common way for laypersons to go through the Exercises now is through a "retreat in daily life", a five-seven months programme of prayer and reflection made in ordinary life. This form of the Exercises Ignatius called the 19th Annotation and is the form on offer here.

What is undoubted is the influence the Exercises can have. Many people have found undertaking the Spiritual Exercises to be life-changing, getting to know Jesus in a new and intimate way while providing fresh purpose to their lives.

Who is this for?

No special experience is necessary – simply the desire to know God more deeply, to find my purpose more clearly. However, the undertaking is a substantial one, requiring time and an openness to prayer.

For this reason, there is an 'introductory time' – time to allow an informed decision before a commitment to the retreat as a whole. The programme starts with four introductory weeks to see if this is for me - [1-22October].

Course Dates:

1 October 2025 - 6 May 2026

Meetings

Each Wednesday evening 7.30pm - 9.00pm St William of York Church, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield S11 8TL

More information and booking :

Alessio Salvadori 0114 266 4500 / 07766712343

alessiosp5@outlook.com

Free Online Bible Study Course



The Bible Timeline Course
12 Time Periods, One Story

Early World	Patriarchs	Egypt & Exodus	Desert Wanderings	Conquest & Judges	Royal Kingdom
Divided Kingdom	Exile	Return	Maccabean Revolt	Messiah's Fulfillment	The Church

Starts Wed 1st October, 2025
8 Wednesdays (1st Oct – 19th Nov) @ 7pm UK Time

FREE COURSE **LIVE & STREAMED**

Grasp the Big Picture of the Bible from Start to Finish, using Jeff Cavins' world-renowned Bible Study Methodology

Presented LIVE online by Catholic speaker **Mauro Iannicelli**

Register Today: **comeandsee.org**

Or register using the QR code



The Bible can feel overwhelming—73 books, hundreds of characters, countless events. Many Catholics want to read it but struggle to know where to begin. The Bible Timeline Study System, developed by Jeff Cavins, offers a breakthrough approach. It divides the story of salvation into 12 colour-coded periods, making it simple to follow, remember, and understand. In this course, Mauro will guide you step by step through all 12 periods, showing how the people and events of Scripture fit together into one great narrative—from Adam and Eve to Jesus Christ, the Old and the New Testament. Join us to see the Bible come alive as God's great plan of salvation unfolds!

Spiritual Conversation- Introduction to Accompaniment



Join us for stage 3 as we grow in ways of journeying together through listening, speaking and discerning. Whether you're a returning participant or new to our series, these sessions give you the opportunity to deepen your understanding and practice of Spiritual Conversation. Participants will need to attend all sessions.

Further training will be necessary for anyone discerning their call as a Spiritual Accompanier

The programme consists of two day sessions in-person at the Hallam Pastoral Centre

Saturday 11 October 2025 10am-5pm in person

Saturday 31 January 2026 10am-5pm In-person

Tea & Coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

and six Zoom sessions on the following dates:

Thursday 23 October 2025 7pm-9pm On-line
Saturday 8 November 2025 1pm-5pm On-line
Thursday 20 November 2025 7pm-9pm On-Line,
Saturday 6 December 2025 1pm-5pm On-line
Thursday 18 December 2025 7pm-9pm On-line
Thursday 15 January 2026 7pm-9pm On-line
Participants will need be able to commit to attend all of the sessions

Booking deadline extended to 30 September

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd60DFBKxkASVpt_Wgilh3PhKyOqpg8Np6FMhcXEVmgqao9Mg/viewform?usp=header

British Federation of Notre Dame (de Namur) Associations, (BFNDA)



Be like the sunflower that follows every movement of the sun, and keep your eyes always turned towards our good God," St. Julie Billiart

The British Federation of Notre Dame (de Namur) Associations (BFNDA), allies associations of past pupils, students, staff and anyone else connected with Notre Dame schools, or colleges, from around the country. St. Julie Billiart formed the Notre Dame order in 1804 to educate the daughters of the poor. Some schools have now closed. Some have merged with similar organisations to form new establishments, (e.g. Mount Pleasant College of Education, with two other colleges, became Liverpool Hope University). Others, are flourishing, still with the Notre Dame ethos and badge with St. Julie's words "Ah, qu'il est bon, le bon Dieu" ("Ah, how good he is, the good God") and also educate boys.

BFNDA was formed in 1928 to bring together past pupils, "for mutual assistance", "for the furtherance of Catholic education and interests", "to formulate and promote movements requiring the support of educated Catholic women" and "the welfare of Notre Dame (de Namur)".

The current federation has an annual "Weekend Away", in September, including an AGM, prioritising the social aspects of the meeting, e.g. an optional trip to a local place of interest (including coffee & cake) a delicious dinner, with a highly entertaining speaker and the opportunity to meet old friends and colleagues and form new friendships with people from elsewhere. A very important aspect of the organization is the support it has given and continues to give to Notre Dame projects around the world.

The sisters have communities, dedicated to helping in under-privileged and frequently dangerous areas. There are projects which bring basic commodities, such as fresh water to very poor areas and education to girls (and boys), often where there is violent opposition. The achievements of alumni groups which support the missionary work of the Notre Dame order and fulfill the aims of St. Julie Billiart are greatly enhanced when working in co-

operation with each other, through BFNDA. There are fewer local associations these days, but the federation does have an association of direct members. For more information visit bfnda.org, or contact me at francesca@fmflynn.plus.com

Francesca Flynn

Book Review

John Curr: The Man Who Revolutionised Mining, by Charles P Dixon

published by Heritage Hunter, www.heritagehunter.co.uk, price £25.

Walk through the South Door of St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield and you will see a small notice telling you that, somewhere under the modern flooring, lies the tombstone of one John Curr.

It is a brief reminder of a man who - though little known today - has his place alongside some of the great names of the Industrial Revolution in addition to the Catholic Revival's impact on the Sheffield region.

Now, thanks to Charles P Dixon, one of Curr's direct descendants, his place as 'The Man who Revolutionised Mining' is assured, alongside his legacy as one of those who laid the foundations on which Sheffield's Catholic Cathedral is built. For Catholics, Curr was the leader of three men who acquired land from the then Duke of Norfolk in 1814 where the first public place of Catholic worship in Sheffield was built since Henry VIII's Reformation made Catholicism illegal.

Reviewed by **Bob Rae**

The full book review is available on our website