



YCW NEWSLETTER

St. Thomas of Canterbury, Billingham

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- "Give me leaders and I will raise
- the world"- Cardinal Joseph
- Cardijn

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AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS

On Saturday 3rd June, our YCW group hosted an afternoon tea for the parish. Collectively: we baked scones and cup-cakes; and made sandwiches and many cups of tea and coffee. We arranged this event as a successful attempt to bring the community together, as well as to raise funds for our future projects.

The afternoon raised an impressive sum of £172. We would like to thank everyone who attended and for all of the generous donations we received.

Mark, our former chaplain, said: "It was a fantastic event which the parishioners thoroughly enjoyed and it was a credit to the young people of our parish that they worked hard to organise and prepare the afternoon for the parishioners."



WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Young Christian Workers newsletter where we will provide parishioners with all of our recent news. The YCW is a movement of young people; it is for young people and ran by young people. It is made up of people aged 17 - 30 who meet in small groups. The groups focus on their everyday experiences as young adults, reflect on them in the light of the Gospel and Church teaching and commit themselves to take authentic Christian action. In these regular group meetings, which always take place in the presence of a chaplain, young people are called out of their isolation so that they come to know their true dignity and worth, which is so often not the case in modern life and especially in the world of work. The YCW adopt a method called the See, Judge and Act, the young people are transformed and are enabled to form and grow as Christian leaders, serving, educating and representing other young people in their places of work or study and in their local communities by living out the Gospel through their actions.

We have worked hard to establish the YCW group within our community. Using the see, judge and act method we have been able to provide support for homeless youths and also support the wider community in collecting for our local food bank. In addition to these projects, we have also provided parish socials and liturgies.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOOD BANK

During the weekend of 28 and 29th January the group spoke at all of the Masses to launch the food bank project. We spoke about our beliefs as a group and motivation for this project. We believe that no one should have to face going hungry, and we were aware that the need for food banks was an increasing plea. The entire Parish made contributions to this project, donating a plethora of different foods. We raised a total of 84kg

which is equivalent to 29 Stone, and were overwhelmed by the charitable donations.

At the end of the month we took down all of this collected food and weighed it at the food bank where we helped to stock shelves and put together weekly food packages for individuals and families.

We have decided to make contributions to the food bank twice a year: in March and at Christmas



time. There is also an article published on the Diocesan website under the department for 'Justice and Peace' about the work we have done for the food bank.

UPCOMING RACE NIGHT

Friday 30th June

St. Michael's Academy, Billingham
 Doors open **7pm**
 Ticket price: **£3** (includes Pie and Peas)
 Drinks will be available on the night
 Speak to a member of the YCW to purchase tickets.

GOOD LUCK MARC

We would like to thank Marc Besford for helping to set up our group and serving as our Chaplain, and wish him the best of luck in his new position working for the National Headquarters of the Young Christian Workers in Manchester.

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YCW TRAINING AT USHAW COLLEGE

On the 25th April we went to Ushaw College to receive some training on the History of the YCW from the former International President Amelie, and about the founder Cardinal Joseph Cardijn from Phil. In total 7 of us went to represent Billingham along with some from Durham and Sunderland.



MEETING THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

On the 8th February Sarah, Callum, Tom and Marc went to Ushaw to meet with the National President and Chaplain Phil (pictured on the right) and Mgr. John Marsland. They also met with a couple of other Groups: from Durham and one from



West Denton. They shared and discussed our projects and gained insight into the ideas and work of other groups.

40 NIGHTS OF NIGHTSTOP

Depaul UK would like to thank Young Christian Workers, Billingham for raising £300 towards our work with homeless and disadvantaged young people
Thank you

Every night, young people across the UK find themselves without a bed. Their options are limited and often dangerous. Nightstop provides safe nights of accommodation for homeless young people in the homes of vetted volunteers. Each night costs just £15 which provides a safe night for a young person, paying a volunteer Nightstop host the expenses to cover a hot, home-cooked meal, hospitality and a bath or shower. We are delighted to say that we sent off £300 for this project which will support a young person for 20 nights.

“We would all like to congratulate Kate Wilkinson who takes up the office of National President from August...”



THE YCW’S 78TH NATIONAL COUNCIL

On the 1st April, the YCW in England and Wales held its 78th National Council at St Antony's Centre, next door to the Headquarters in Trafford Park, Manchester. Sarah, Callum, Tom and Marc attended. After prayers and introductions, Amelie from the National Training Team and former International President led a training session re-viewing experiences of the YCW, how members view their roles

within it and ideas for the future. There was time to discuss and share in small groups throughout the morning and afternoon, as well as the opportunity to think about how they can plan for the future. In particular, they were asked to share their ideas about how members can lead within society, the Church, the world of work and amongst other young people. Following this, the afternoon was

centred on the official aspects of the Council itself approving the annual accounts and resolutions put before the members. They also voted to approve a new National President who will take over from current President Phil in July. We would all like to congratulate Kate Wilkinson who takes up the office of National President from August and look forward to working with her in the future.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Last September, at the International Council in South Korea, England and Wales was elected as the coordinating movement of the European Commission. The European Commission supports the International Secretariat in the development of YCW across Europe. Marc attended this meeting with Phil and because Phil is leaving in July Marc has now taken over and is the Chair of the European Commission. There were members from Spain and Italy, including the Chaplain to the European Commission Fr John Ramon from Barcelona. We ask that you keep the European Commission in your prayers as they continue their mission.



ADVENT AND LENTEN LITURGIES

On the 15th December, under the cover of candle light the Advent liturgy took place. The Gospel, taken from Matthew, emphasised that we need to focus on our own actions which is the principal of the YCW. On Thursday 16th March we held our Lenten Liturgy at Holy Rosary. Throughout the liturgy we had time to reflect on who we think the Person of Jesus is and the strong beliefs of his followers. We held a coffee and cake social following the service.