



Saint William's Church

Our Covenant with the Poor

18th November 2018

St William of York

Our Jubilee Covenant with the Poor

This covenant is a constant reminder of our commitment to act in favour of the poor and a symbol of God's everlasting Covenant with us.

Local Needs

We will try to be aware of the needs of others and respond in action.

We will:

- support destitute asylum seekers through **ASSIST** (Asylum Seekers Support Initiative Short Term) through monthly collections and individual regular giving. (Mike Reynolds 266 9464)
- support the **Grace Food Bank** in Lowedges by bringing items of food each time we come to Sunday Mass and delivering them on Mondays.
- continue our involvement with the work of the **Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** supporting the isolated, sick and housebound and those with spiritual, social and financial needs. (David Miles 07952986532)
- organise the **Soup Run** in King Street providing food, company and basic needs for the homeless, and provide toothpaste & soap for the Christmas Party. (Padraig 0798 556 1807) (annual cost £600)
- support by annual subscription **StopGap** where Soup Run refers clients and which provides night shelter accommodation for rough sleepers or those in danger of rough sleeping by paying for bed and breakfast facilities.
- run the **St William's Lunch Club** serving the elderly in the parish and surrounding area. (Nicky Percival 236 7556 / Jenny Allen 236 3552)
- support the **Hallam Caring Service**
- support **St Wilfrid's Centre** and advertise opportunities for volunteering. (Wayne Hoyle 255 5720)
- keep supportive links with **Church Action on Poverty (CAP)** through annual membership and newsletters. (Mary Salvadori 266 4500)
- respond to initiatives from our **Hallam Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission** as we are able (Richard Watts 266 7437)

World Needs

We will work in partnership with the poor of the Developing World and elsewhere through our prayer and liturgy, raising funds and enabling a greater awareness of the needs of the poor. We will:

- support the work of **CAFOD** through Lent & Harvest Fast Day collections, monthly retiring collections & awareness-raising. Collections may be taken for disasters & emergencies as they arise. (Moir Priestman 266 1291)
- support fair trade by selling **Fairtrade** goods at St William's monthly stall and promote fair trade during Fairtrade Fortnight each year. Saint William's is a Fairtrade church and we use Fairtrade coffee and tea at parish functions. (Carolyn Ashforth 268 3999)
- support **Friends of the Holy Land** which seeks to relieve the increasing suffering and poverty of Christians in Palestine, Israel and Jordan by raising awareness of their plight, prayer and fund-raising to provide a sustainable future. (Ann Hawley 266 9441 / Sandra Brinkley 230 4286)
- support missionary societies promoting Christian leadership in the Third World, in particular **Missio** through the annual collection, Red Collection Boxes and annual membership scheme. (Gerard 236 4836)
- hold a **Shared Interest** account (current balance £1,500) which benefits Third World producers and provide information about what Shared Interest is and does. (Mike Reynolds 266 9464)
- participate in the Link to Hope **Christmas Shoebox Scheme** which sends essential items to desperately poor families and the elderly in eastern Europe. (Francis Thomas 418 2075)
- pray and work positively for peace and support the work of **Pax Christi**.

Prayer, Liturgy and Awareness Raising

- We will remember the needs of the poor and the victims of conflict in our prayer at home and in the prayer of the community.
- We will try to raise our awareness of the issues concerning peace and justice in the world today.

Additional Giving & Annual Review

- The Parish will set aside 5% of parish offertory income or £5,000, whichever is greater, to meet needs related to poverty. The amount for 2018 is £5,000.
- We will hold an open annual Parish Meeting to review progress and decide on the distribution of the 5% of our parish offertory income/£5,000.

Distribution of Funds 2018- £5,400 (including underspend from 2017)

- ❖ 1,000 to Sheffield City of Sanctuary Welcome Centre
- ❖ 1,000 to Friends of the Holy Land
- ❖ 1,000 to St Wilfrid's Centre
- ❖ 600 to Soup Run
- ❖ 500 to The Snowdrop Project
- ❖ 500 to Aid to the Church in Need
- ❖ 300 to Pax Christi
- ❖ 300 to SCCCC (Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care)
- ❖ 25 to StopGap Membership fee
- ❖ 25 to CAP Membership fee
- ❖ 150 in reserve

Covenant Renewal 2018

Signing the Covenant

At the end of Mass the Covenant will be signed by Covenant Group Representatives, the Parish Priest, the Deacon and the Chair of Finance.

A Prayer read by all during the signing of the Covenant.

**Lord God, Father of all,
through the Good News of Jesus your Son,
open our eyes
to the needs of those suffering and oppressed
here in our own city;
open our ears
to hear the cry for justice within our society;
open our hearts
to the challenges posed by our divided world;
so that inspired by your Holy Spirit
we may have the understanding, discernment and courage
to respond generously.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**

Parishioners are asked to sign a copy in the foyer as a sign of our commitment to St William's Covenant with the Poor. The Covenant is displayed in the foyer.