THE PARISH OR OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING
GROUP: MAIN THREADS (updated 15 August 2015)

Medaille Trust Fundraising

As a representative of Medaille in the Diocese of Salford I value being associated with, and able to publicise, a Catholic charity. So far we have raised the profile of Medaille via their magazines and in our talks. It isn't possible to say how much money is generated by individual talks but Medaille note that overall, talks are followed by an increase in subscriptions.

We did a very successful Traffik Jam concert which raised well over £2,200 for the Medaille Trust in October 2014 and my folk band (the Garage Band) has done two bucket collections at the De-Lacy in Whalley, very much supported by the landlord.

Medaille have appointed a Diocesan Funding Representative for the dioceses of Salford and Liverpool. Richard Owens will have overall responsibility in our Diocese for talks and appeals in church.

Schools

Mary and I did four sessions with Year 10s on a Faith and Justice Day in Corpus Christi school, Preston last November. On June 18 we did four sessions with Year 8s in Christ the King, Preston which went down well with lots of input from the pupils. Steve Watkin, the Chaplain has indicated an interest in further input over a period, following pupils through the years.

The Medaille Trust has produced an Education Pack which is free standing so doesn’t need any external support. Each lesson plan is designed to link a specific area from within the Catholic RE syllabus with a key subject from the national curriculum (English, History, Music and Drama). We have had meetings with Kevin Quigley, Director of Education, Salford Diocese and Lorraine Leonard, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator to discuss how the Pack supplements the Salford Caritas in Action curriculum and how we might establish links with the Caritas Ambassadors. We hope they will be our allies in: “keeping the school up to date with what is happening regarding social justice issues both nationally and locally.”

Roisin Bowes, who teaches at Corpus Christi in Preston (Lancaster Diocese) passed a copy of the Pack to a colleague who reviewed it favourably. Roisin has also been very helpful with suggestions for activities in schools and suggested we approach Anthony Finnerty who is Secondary RE Advisor, Lancaster and Middlesbrough dioceses.

We met Anthony who asked us to speak at his meeting on 26th June with the heads of RE from the eleven High schools in the Lancaster Diocese; and also to Heads of RE from eight high schools in the Middlesbrough Diocese on the 24th. During these talks we shared the Medaille Education Pack with them for possible futures use making a link between the Education Pack activities and Roisin’s suggestions for Anti-Slavery Week. Following on from that, two Education Packs have gone out to each secondary school, one to the Head and one to the Chaplain. An accompanying handout (Appendix 1) covers the material in the talks and seeks interest in using the Education Pack as the basis for competition ideas for Anti-Slavery Week and Year of Mercy (see below).

Police

Working with the Police is key and is part of the Santa Marta group and the Bakhita Initiative. We are fortunate in having DCI Sion Hall, who heads trafficking and CSE in East Lancashire in our group. Sion keeps us up to date with local trafficking issues and spoke with me at a
recent Deanery meeting. The aim is to raise awareness as widely as possible so that people can be the Intelligence for the Police in seeking out victims of trafficking.

**Lobbying**

We have ideas for the future. Via Caritas Salford and Mark Wiggin we are linked with the Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN) and CSAN has a Parliamentary Liaison Officer. On the recent Right to Life walk I asked David Alton how we could best help parliamentarians and he gave some good advice:

- there is nothing at present on trafficking but the problems for trafficked people arising from the Immigration Bill will be coming up;
- be aware of what is currently happening in Parliament and alert to lobbying opportunities (i.e. be more focused than simply responding to numerous petitions);
- groups like ours have greater potential for lobbying than individuals;
- try and get a group of Salford Diocese MPs to lobby as a whole;
- concentrate on one thing – in our case, trafficking.

These are ideas we will pursue.

**Publicity**

We are fortunate in having Margaret Parsons, News Editor for East Lancashire Newspapers who has produced a series of four articles relating to trafficking: – Our Parish Group; Sion Hall and the work of East Lancashire Police; The Medaille Trust; and Caritas Salford. The first of these articles appeared on 18 June in the Clitheroe Advertiser followed on 19 June with the Burnley Express, Colne Times, Barnoldswick and Earby Times, Nelson Leader and Padiham Express. Over 4 weeks all articles will have appeared in all the newspapers, except the Medaille article which has yet to appear in the Clitheroe Advertiser. The Lancashire Evening Post has also published all the articles. The newspaper websites link to other newspaper websites beyond East Lancashire and the total number of people looking at these sites is huge. City Beat Radio Station 103.2 fm picked up the story and invited me to speak on their Live Lunch programme, 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm on July 6. Sam Baxendale of the Medaille Trust joined me.

On a much smaller scale, I put things in our Parish newsletter, on the Parish website and am doing pieces for Good News for Sabden. I am building up to the idea of producing our own newsletter.

**Communication**

We believe in using as many communication vehicles as possible. Since our group started in January we have sent out over 40 emails. When we started the group we said that the only requirement was to be open to receiving information. There was no obligation to attend meetings or do anything else. The group is 50 + strong now with perhaps half not directly associated with the Parish. We put the emails out selectively. Without pressuring anyone we now have enough support to do much more.

As the number of people we are in email communication with grows I am exploring the possibility of two media I have never used – Facebook and Twitter. For email correspondence the email addressee lists are now hidden.

I also want to develop the website and make links with other websites.

We spend a lot of time networking and talking to individuals which has greatly increased our activities and plans for Anti-Slavery Week, Year of Mercy, Interfaith working and our work in schools. In addition to talks mentioned elsewhere we have spoken to Love Clitheroe on 20 May, and Clitheroe Christians in Partnership on July 15.
Bishop's support

On 4 February we wrote to the Bishop seeking his support for our group and got a very positive reply dated 17 February: “I would be very pleased to add my voice to your project in whatever way you think most suitable.” We met with Parish members of the OLOTV Combating Human Trafficking Group on July 21, in preparation for our meeting with the Bishop which took place on the 23rd. This was an extremely positive meeting with great support and encouragement from the Bishop (see Appendix 2)

Caritas

Mark Wiggin, CEO of Caritas Salford is one of our Parish group. We work closely in developing our thinking on the Group, what we can achieve and how. Apart from that we are developing a direct link with Caritas and, through it, the CSAN network. The Medaille Education Pack is one thing but we also have a three year plan which we have shared with the Bishop.

Year One (setting the example via a model of working)

Within the Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Raise awareness via:

- the parish website and dissemination of regular news or topical items to interested parishioners
- news media - Good News for Sabden and local newspapers
- working with East Lancashire Police Operation Proteus
- input in schools and other young people’s venues
- involvement in ecumenical groups
- working with the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Within the Diocese

- Parish awareness raising within the Deanery of St. John Southworth (25 parishes)
- Replicating parish awareness in other parishes and schools within the Diocese
- News media – Diocesan website updates on diocesan and national and developments through Bishop’s Conference etc.
- Networking with CSAN and identifying charities within the Diocese networks that have a vested interest in collaborative working

With Caritas Diocese of Salford

- Establishing a Caritas Combating Trafficking Arm using volunteers and reporting directly to the Caritas Chief Executive
- Linking to Caritas Diocese of Salford and other Diocese of Salford Episcopal departments

Year 2 (encouraging other parishes to emulate our model and spread awareness wider within the Diocese)

- Establishing Combating Human Trafficking groups within other parishes in the Diocese based on a successful Year One model
- Human Trafficking Parish groups to network and learn from each other (Diocesan networking event at the Cathedral Centre)
- Conducting an audit of charitable works within parishes within the Deanery and resources permitting throughout the Diocese
• Networking and liaising with Combating Human Trafficking groups in dioceses throughout the country

Year 3 (Salford Diocese a Model for other dioceses)
• Salford Diocese as a model for other dioceses to establish their own initiatives
• Developing and supporting resources that promote reflection on the subject in the light of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching
• Consolidation of practice with sufficient volunteers for an established and self-sustaining Combating Human Trafficking mission in the spirit of St Bakhita

Anti-Slavery Week

Anti Slavery week is October 18 to 24:
• On October 20, we have It's Not Fair a Rhema production which features two actors/musicians and a series of trafficking cameos http://www.theitsnotfair.co.uk/about/the-show/, funded by the Lancaster Foundation at the Grand in Clitheroe.
• On October 23 there will be a Question Time type of event on the theme of trafficking at St Michael and St John’s Parish Hall, Clitheroe. We have: Mike Emberson, Project Director of Medaille; Sue Cawley, Head of Public Protection, Lancashire Constabulary; Hannah Flint, Regional Development Executive, North of England for the International Justice Mission; and hopefully Lord Alton.
• On October 24, Chicago gospel singer Ella Harris performs at the Grand in Clitheroe, organised by Bill Hampson of Epiphany.
• Also on October 24 the Garage Band play at Whalley Village Hall and will donate their fee to the Medaille Trust.
• Also on October 24 my daughter will do a sponsored sky dive for the Medaille Trust. See the YouTube for her last one https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZDNTVq1_nw
• Possible school things – debating competition, leaflet/poster competitions, non-uniform day. These could be throughout the dioceses of Salford, Lancaster and Middlesbrough.
• We had a very positive meeting with Kevin Quigley, Director of Education Salford, on 3 July to discuss possibilities and ways of working and we will meet with Salford Diocese Heads and Heads of RE in the autumn.
• In the interim Kevin suggested we approach two Salford Diocesan secondary heads – Michael Wright of St Augustine’s, Billington and Richard Varey of Blessed Trinity in Burnley. Both responded very positively but for Salford Diocese there is probably not enough time to do much for Anti-Slavery week and a more realistic focus is Year of Mercy.
• We have spoken with Donna Kiernan, Assistant Director of Education about ideas for primary schools and will follow up with a meeting when she returns from holiday.

Year of Mercy (December 8 2015 to November 20 2016)

'I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy! This Holy Year will commence on the next Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception [December 8] and will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.'

You need to read the Bull of Indiction https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html
to get the full gist but I like the way mercy is linked with, rather than detached from, Justice and that message fits well with our belief that safeguarding and rescue should be priorities, before prosecution.

For the Year of Mercy (December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016) our Deanery, St John Southworth is to adopt trafficking as its Social Justice activity. I hope there will be mass appeals for all, or most, of the parishes in the Deanery and spread throughout that year. Sion Hall and I addressed priests or representatives from five parishes in the Deanery on 8 July and hope to speak to a bigger Deanery group in the autumn.

Some of the ideas for Anti-Slavery week will spill over into Year of Mercy where there is more time to plan and more scope to think bigger. Michael Wright, Head of St Augustine’s is proposing to do something in their “Values Week” commencing 25 January 2016.

One idea beyond those listed for Anti-Trafficking week is a play by playwright Donna Worthington whom we met at Tabor. Donna will be seeking an Arts Council grant to tour the play. Thanks to Lily Perrin for introducing us to Donna.

Jo Howson of Lee House near Chipping has used audio visual road show material, as well as in situ simulation experiences, to raise awareness on asylum seekers and we are planning to rework the material on a trafficking theme. The material is bulky and needs to stay on site for a period as it is labour intensive to erect. Whether we will be able to do anything for October depends on how interested we can get the school heads.

Other charities we are working with

We were part of the team that did the Travel Safe event at Manchester Airport earlier this year. That was with the International Justice Mission and Stop the Traffik, charities with whom we remain in touch.

We recently met Bill Hampson of Epiphany which is a charity that works mainly abroad and has a strong anti-trafficking agenda. We attended their “Curry Night” recently and were fortunate to meet a woman who had been trafficked and was seeking asylum in this country. We hope to develop a strong link with Bill to make the most of Anti-Trafficking week and to develop our work lobbying MPs.

Interdenominational/Interfaith

We have a good contact in the form of Nigel Rix who leads Clitheroe Christians in Partnership (CCP) – the ministers of the various churches in Clitheroe. We met with CCP on 15 July. We went to a Love Clitheroe meeting on May 20 and made our input on trafficking which was well received. Love Clitheroe is the banner under which CCP brings together the charitable work being done by people within the different church communities.

On Interfaith, one of our group – Lily Perrin – is the contact for the local interfaith group and we hope via Lily we can make some contacts there. We have also been exploring Building Bridges, Pendle and Burnley and have a couple of contacts which should aid introductions.

Anthony Brown
5 August 2015
APPENDIX 1

THE MEDAILLE SCHOOLS PACK AND SOME COMPETITIONS FOR ANTI-SLAVERY WEEK, OCTOBER 18 TO 24

This note is intended to supplement the ground covered at York and Lancaster on 24 and 26 June.

Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking

There are more slaves in the world now than at any time in history. Worldwide the figure has been put at nearly 30 million but it is impossible to have any real idea of the actual numbers. Some of these people are literally locked up but the majority are held through fear or debt bondage. Typically they are lured by promises of a better life and become trapped by having their documents taken, huge debt from money paid to traffickers, and fear for self or family if they try to escape.

Human trafficking encompasses slavery but is a broader term which includes all those involved in luring, transporting and harbouring people for the ultimate purpose of extracting services from them. These services include enforced labour, domestic servitude, cannabis factories, sex services, begging, shoplifting and organ harvesting. The misery these people have to endure ranges from a lifetime of hard labour, with a return that is never sufficient to repay a huge debt, to being a women locked in a room to service men who want the most abusive kind of sex. Equally shocking the plight of those blinded by having their corneas removed by organ traffickers. Human Trafficking is the second largest organised crime, second only to drugs trafficking. It is the nastiest, most despicable crime that ever existed.

In the UK the National Referral Mechanism statistics for 2014 had 2,340 people referred of whom 60% were female, and of those nearly half were for sexual exploitation. It is believed that 60% of potential victims don't go through the NRM so the real figures will be much higher, but not all referred are ultimately judged to meet the criteria for trafficking. The latest estimate for the number of slaves in the UK is 13,000, more women than men and many working in brothels.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation

Trafficking for sex shouldn't be termed prostitution. It is rape. Since 2009 a man who has sex with a woman held by intimidation or force commits a crime even if he does not know that the woman is trafficked. Some of these women from Eastern Europe or the Far East are trafficked to this country in the full knowledge that they are coming to work as prostitutes where they can earn better money than they can in say Romania. What they get is slavery, debt bondage and no escape. Many women think they are coming to genuine jobs in respectable service industries only to realise the grim truth when they are held captive and "broken in". These women are moved around to thwart detection. The DNA of a woman rescued in London was matched with DNA in a room in Northern Ireland where the same woman had scratched deep into the door with her finger nails to try and escape.

A woman, aged 28, we met who had been trafficked from Albania to Belgium and escaped to the UK was seeking asylum. She had been doing so for 2 years on the grounds that if she returned to Belgium she would be picked up by the traffickers and
if she returned to Albania she would be killed as an honour killing for running away from marrying a 70 year old man.

Other forms of trafficking

But that is only a proportion of the UK's slaves. Many trafficked people work in agriculture, in car washes, takeaways, cannabis factories, garages or in domestic households. Many are free to leave in one sense but have no documents, little language, nowhere to go and live in fear of retribution.

The Catholic Church

In April 2014 there was a conference in the Vatican between the leaders of most of the world's religions and law enforcement officers of the world in an attempt to forge a link that would result in the perpetrators being recognised by an informed public. Pope Francis has said: "Every citizen of every country must be made aware of human trafficking and join the fight against it."

A second conference followed in London last December leading to the Bakhita Initiative, headed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) aiming to: provide specialist training and make awareness-raising available to law enforcement agencies, local authority professionals, frontline volunteers in the parishes, teachers and schoolchildren.

Other attempts to raise awareness

Such attempts to raise awareness are not new. In 1995 Hilary Clinton made a ground breaking speech about discrimination against women, focusing particularly on abuse, female genital mutilation and human trafficking. David Alton and Baroness Cox have been fighting the cause for years and in 2015 the Anti-Slavery Bill became law. In the UK alone there are over 80 charities with trafficking on their agenda. Some like Stop the Traffik, International Justice Mission, Hope for Justice, Medaille Trust are solely about trafficking. Others like the Salvation Army are better known for other things but it is the Salvation Army that got the government contract to provide safe houses, something they have subcontracted to 12 other charities.

Barriers to the eradication of slavery and human trafficking

Given the scale and horrendous nature of human trafficking and the number of organisations and people fighting it, why is it so difficult to eradicate? Professor Kevin Bales, a human rights professor, argues that the task should not be problematic and cites three obstacles that do not need to be overcome: the laws exist everywhere in the World, no-one but the perpetrators have any doubt about its evil, and it is not economically necessary. Kevin Bales argues that there is an economic solution: “the estimated cost of not just freedom but sustainable freedom for the entire 27 million people on the planet in slavery is something like 10.8 billion dollars -- what Americans spend on potato chips and pretzels.”

Organised crime, corruption and the skill of the traffickers at keeping their trade underground make detection difficult but the main reason is lack of awareness and lack of coordination between those fighting it. The Pope’s initiative of uniting the Christian and Faith communities with the law enforcement agencies of the world is a big step, but there are some who criticise the Pope saying he should get his own
house in order before embarking on a mission to end human trafficking. On Anti-
Trafficking Day the charities will all be trying to entice the public into giving them
money in a spirit which is more competitive than collaborative. With money in short
supply competition is inevitable, yet charities realise that working together and
avoiding wasteful duplication has to be good. With this in mind the Human
Trafficking Foundation exists solely to foster communication and collaboration.

But the biggest obstacle to progress is ignorance. In the early 90s, Kevin Bales was
astonished to learn about human trafficking when he of all people should have been
well informed. It didn't come into my awareness until perhaps two years ago and
although the Internet is brimful with trafficking, as is the media and even television
series, most people have very little notion of what is going on. If it isn't ignorance it is
denial. Press stories are seen as one-offs rather than symptomatic of something
much more widespread.

So what can we do?

For Catholics, what the Pope has initiated is a good start. The Catholic Bishops
Conference of England and Wales' Bakhita Initiative is a top down approach aimed
at reaching down to Parish level. In January 2015 we turned our local mission and
aspirations into a group based on the Parish of Our Lady of the Valley, Clitheroe and
Sabden – the Combating Human Trafficking Group. Starting with ten minutes at a
Parish Forum we invited people to put their names and email addresses on our list
with no more commitment expected from them than to receive emails and be aware
of what we were trying to achieve. Since then we have over 40 names and we are
interdenominational, interfaith, non faith and we go far beyond the boundaries of our
Parish. What we are trying to do is bottom up, starting at Parish level and working
up through the Deanery to the Diocese and into other dioceses. Our belief is that
change will have to come about by massive awareness and a feeling of personal
responsibility to be alert to the signs of trafficking. Beyond that we can donate and
lobby but mainly it is at a personal level that the authorities need people to act and to
notify them of anything suspicious. But major change will only come about at
generational level which is why our current focus is schools. Change can be
achieved best via the Justice and Peace mission of the Church in secondary schools
and perhaps in primary schools too. But schools are tied by the curriculum and the
achievement of targets. The trick must be to make trafficking integral with the
curriculum, Justice and Peace, school activities and indeed the life of the school.
Education in trafficking cannot work if it is something that involves more work with
nothing in return.

The Medaille Trust

The Medaille Trust is a Catholic charity with its main work being the provision of safe
houses for victims rescued from trafficking. These houses are funded for the
statutory 45 days from when someone is identified as a victim of trafficking. After
that, the Medaille Trust depends on voluntary donations and it is also dependent on
voluntary donations to fund working with the more difficult clients, many of whom are
deeply traumatised and have turned to drink or drugs. The awareness raising aspect
of the Medaille’s work ultimately leads to more donations and a greater capability to
do more but like all organisations fighting trafficking, what it is really striving for is the
end of trafficking.
The Medaille Trust Education Pack

The Medaille Schools Education Pack aims to introduce students and young people, within Key Stage 3 (age 11-14), to the subject of human trafficking and slavery. Each lesson plan is designed to link a specific area from within the Catholic RE syllabus (Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life of Christ) with a key subject from the national curriculum (English, History, Music and Drama). The student and teacher guide are relevant to every lesson, and alongside this there is the ‘Using RE directory’ column to supplement key themes from within the Catholic RE curriculum directory. This design gives the teacher of these lessons the flexibility to decide how best to deliver the session to their class/group and to what extent to include the Bible passages and prayer ideas provided. Each lesson is designed to be an hour long but also includes a ‘Call to action’ which will take place outside of the initial lesson so it is at the discretion of the teacher to decide how long to spend on this.

Four lessons doesn’t seem to amount to much but it is enough to bring home the stark realities of trafficking in a way that also meets curricula requirements. Each of the lesson plans contains an activity leading to a tangible product – a poem, a piece of art or a song. These artistic endeavours are powerful both in their creation and in their display. They can impact on the individual and they can impact on the school so it is much more than the lesson that the children take away.

Schools and Anti-Trafficking week, October 18 to October 24

So far so good but what more can we do? In October we have Anti-Trafficking Day on the 18th and for us that is the start of Anti-Trafficking Week which will end on the 24th with gospel singer Elsa Harris performing at the Grand in Clitheroe.

Look at the Pack carefully with Anti-Trafficking Week in mind. Could you motivate your school to submit poems, pieces of art, original songs to a Diocesan wide competition? The schools would select one or a small number of entries in each of a number of categories for external assessment by judges. The Medaille Trust has agreed in principle to support with certificates, prizes and the best entries published and publicised in the media as part of a big awareness raising effort. The details would have to be worked out, judges and sponsors sought, and media interest tested, but first we need expressions of interest. If enough schools will partake the rest should follow.

Please discuss with your head teachers and chaplains for initial thoughts before the end of the school year with a view to a final decision at the start of the autumn term.

Anthony Brown
29 June 2015
Meeting between Bishop John Arnold and representatives of the Our Lady of the Valley Combating Human Trafficking Group, 23 July 2015


The Bishop listened carefully to our summary of how we saw our activities falling within the Church’s missionary and evangelising aspirations, our ultimate aim in our Pope’s words: “Every citizen of every country must be made aware of human trafficking and join the fight against it”. We explained what we were trying to do in schools, with the Police, and with Caritas Salford.

The specific proposals we had put to the Bishop prior to the meeting, on how he might add his voice to our work, are listed below:

- Medaille magazines in parishes throughout the Deanery and beyond
- Appeals in church for the Medaille Trust throughout the Deanery starting with Our Lady of the Valley
- Lenten competitions in schools, building on lesson exercises from the Medaille Education Pack which supplements the Caritas in Action Curriculum
- Posters in churches to raise awareness of trafficking, list some of the signs to look for, and provide contact details for more information.
- Pastoral letter for the Year of Mercy to make a link with trafficking
- Media coverage, preferably TV, when the opportunity arises. The Bishop of Stockport had a TV appearance at the Stop the Traffik/International Justice Mission Travel Safe fortnight at Manchester Airport which we were an integral part of. There will be a similar event in 2016
- Linking our OLOTV website and its trafficking page with the Diocesan website
- Working with Caritas Ambassadors and linking them with our local group
- Working with East Lancashire Police via DCI Sion Hall in the spirit of the Bakhita Initiative
- Making the OLOTV/Caritas Salford Three Year Plan a reality

We went through the items either individually or as clusters agreeing those which were for us to pursue initially and those where the Bishop felt he could make an immediate commitment.

The outcome of the meeting (not in strict order as above) can be summarised as follows.

The Bishop asked that Fr John draft a letter for the Bishop to amend to his own style and send to the Deanery priests advising on how they could make their contribution to the Trafficking theme adopted by the Deanery for the Year of Mercy. This will include an Medaille appeal in their parish and encouraging uptake of Medaille magazines. Not mentioned in the meeting but an addition to the list would be giving out St Bakhita prayer cards after Mass on the feast of St Bakhita. A key part of awareness raising is information on the signs to look out for in potential victims of trafficking and we agreed the best way to do this would be via a poster in church porches linked to leaflets for parishioners to take away. The poster would have a named contact for more information, the contact ideally being a parish representative but failing that a Medaille Trust Diocesan Representative. The poster itself needs to be designed by our group and approved by the Diocese. It should attract attention with a graphic picture and just enough words to encourage people to take a leaflet. Posters and leaflets could be printed locally with no central administration cost incurred. The “signs” listed in the leaflet can be taken from a number of websites but need to be culled and refined selectively for our own purpose. This is an exercise for our group.
Bishop John has a Pastoral Letter planned for September and will include a reference to trafficking.

Bishop John was happy for media coverage in newspapers/TV but warned that the press tended to be negative in publicising the activities of the Catholic Church. The specific media example discussed was the Stop the Traffik/International Justice Mission Travel Safe fortnight at Manchester Airport in 2015 which featured the Bishop of Stockport. There will be a similar event in 2016 and Anthony Brown will seek to see if Bishop John might be linked to the event. At the same time he will explore if IJM and Stop the Traffik would consider including a Salford/Medaille addition to the partnership, given that last year we gave a significant number of volunteer hours and fielded a total of 6 volunteers. In considering media coverage it is for our group to explore how this might be achieved. Margaret Parsons, our East Lancashire News Editor will advise.

We agreed that the Our Lady of the Valley website trafficking page should be linked with the Diocesan website and our planned Year of Mercy page also be linked and vice versa. The appointment of a Diocesan Information Officer will improve communication between our Parish and the Diocese.

Bishop John encouraged our work with Mark Wiggin and the aspiration to have Trafficking as an additional Caritas operation linked with our local group and serviced by volunteers. We see the initiative having a minimal resourcing cost for Caritas, the operation being largely by our group and Medaille. He was pleased with what we had already written into our Three Year Plan and that Trafficking would get a mention in the Caritas Salford Annual Report.

We talked about branding and agreed that Our Lady of the Valley Combating Human Trafficking Group was an unhelpful and ambiguous title. We should rebrand as, for example, the Bakhita Group, subject to approval with Westminster. Sister Bridie will put us in touch with Sister Cecilia of the Bakhita Initiative. Bishop John acknowledged that our working with East Lancashire Police via DCI Sion Hall is in the spirit of the Bakhita Initiative and to be encouraged.

Bishop John felt that there was a strong Medaille/Salford link already established and linking the Medaille Education Pack with the Caritas in Action curriculum was something for further discussion in schools. He acknowledged the positive discussions already had with the Director of Education and Assistant Director of Education, and the Diocesan Youth Ministry Co-ordinator. We discussed Lenten competitions in schools, building on lesson exercises from the Medaille Education Pack which supplements the Caritas in Action Curriculum, and working with Caritas Ambassadors and linking them with our local group. This is for us to pursue further.

Bishop John referred to vacant premises which could be used for safe houses. We talked about the financing and running of these and he was open to the idea of Medaille managing them and paying a peppercorn rent. We understand that Medaille would have no problem at all in helping to establish a further safe house in the Salford area together with the Diocese – it could be called St Bakhita’s house and promoted as a Diocesan initiative. Medaille are just interested in doing the face to face work.

Anthony Brown
26 July 2015