

# **A Parish Anti-Trafficking Model**

**the ingredients plus examples of how those  
ingredients operate in the  
Parish of Our Lady of the Valley**

October 2020



## **A Parish Anti-Trafficking Model: the ingredients plus examples of how those ingredients operate in the Parish of Our Lady of the Valley**

*In view of the success of our parish based anti-trafficking service the Santa Marta Group requested we produce a Parish Model that might provide guidance and inspiration for others. This version was produced for the October 2019 In Plain Sight Conference and is updated from the 2017 original*

### **1. Inspired by and part of a bigger organisation within the Catholic church**

- We are inspired by the Santa Marta Group and work with them in developing diocesan initiatives and strategy. In keeping with Pope Francis' messages about the Church's role in fighting human trafficking, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to end Human Trafficking by 2030, our main aim for the future is to work in partnership with others to end Modern Day Slavery in Salford Diocese by 2025.
- We are part of Caritas Salford which links us with the Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN).
- The Medaille Trust is the charity we support and we operate in close association with them.

### **2. Listed as a parish group but essentially a network or loose affiliation of people**

- Starting from a Parish Forum agenda item we collected names and email addresses of people who were concerned and would support us to the extent of receiving regular information. There was no commitment beyond this or an expectation to attend meetings.
- The Parish network is an informal affiliation of interested parties. Beyond the Parish it extends to include people: within our Deanery and throughout the Diocese; in the local Christian communities; people who have attended our talk and conferences; and interested people living in other parts of the country and abroad.
- Within the Parish we have:
  - A leader who is prepared to take action, coordinate and communicate
  - A parish priest who was also rural dean and has supported us both within the Parish and within the Deanery.
  - The Caritas Salford Director, who has made many helpful inputs and suggestions, oiled wheels, linked our parish activities with his charity and made many introductions and links.
  - A Detective Chief Inspector (now retired) who led an East Lancashire trafficking team of eight. We are in touch with the DCI who has taken over and who keeps us updated on trafficking instances in East Lancs. The retired Detective Chief Inspector now heads the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP) with which we are active members.

- A newspaper editor, now retired, but still with influence and who still submits articles for us.
- A website specialist who trains and supports efforts in keeping our webpage up to date.
- A teacher who was able to get us into communication with the dioceses of Lancaster and Middlesbrough and was instrumental in her school delivering a full day trafficking worship.
- A health visitor who has worked with a victim of human trafficking.
- A designer and printer of signs who provided two very large durable posters to publicise our Traffik Jam concert in 2014, and more recently designed, printed and placed the signs for the PLASP Freedom Bus.
- Individuals who alert us to items of topical interest in the media and keep us in touch with Vatican announcements.
- Individuals who will hand out prayer cards and magazines to parishioners.
- A young persons' representative who communicates with around 20 young people on trafficking information.
- Within the network but beyond the parish we have:
  - A graphic designer who has designed our posters, leaflets and prayer cards.
  - A trainer/teacher/facilitator who has designed and produced a mobile trafficking exhibition – Journey to Freedom.
  - A playwright who has written a play to highlight the issue of modern day slavery.
  - A Face Book enthusiast who initiated our Face Book.
  - Representatives from many of the organisations and groups mentioned below.

### **3. Linked with other parishes, charities, organisations, groups**

- Our Parish Group was subsumed under Caritas Salford as Caritas Salford Anti-Trafficking in 2015 and we are working with them and other partners to end modern day slavery in Salford Diocese by 2025.
- Together with the Santa Marta Group, the Medaille Trust, Caritas Salford and Lancashire Police we produced 50,000 cards with signs of human trafficking for the 2018 Day for Life – theme Human Trafficking.
- Our own Parish Priest was Rural Dean for St John Southworth Deanery. The Parish Priest for St Mary's in Burnley was Rural Dean for St John Vianney Deanery and extremely supportive of our work. We have met with five of the other Rural Deans and we have spoken at four deanery meetings.
- Our most important link is with the Lancashire Police, initially with the DCI responsible for human trafficking and since 2017 with the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership. Lancashire Constabulary funded our awareness raising poster and leaflet campaign with all the parishes, first in our own Deanery and then in the other East Lancashire Deanery.

- We have 12 anti-trafficking representatives in 17 churches in St John Southworth Deanery.
- In addition to the Medaille Trust and Caritas Salford we are linked with, or signpost, many other charities, church organisations, forums and groups.

#### **4. Prayer**

- We have distributed nearly 10,000 prayer cards in two diocesan deaneries and nearly 1,000 in seven other local Christian churches. These prayer cards have some of the signs of human trafficking listed on the back. They carry the logos for Caritas Salford, Lancashire Constabulary, the Lancashire Constabulary Community Action Fund, and the Medaille Trust.
- We have used trafficking bidding prayers at Mass when doing appeals in church for the Medaille Trust.
- For the last two years during Lent we used the booklet *Way of the Cross for Trafficked Victims* for Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Sabden, and also in Clitheroe in 2018.
- For the Feast of St Bahkita, February 8, 2018, Fr Peter Hopkinson celebrated a Mass for us at St Mary's Burnley.

#### **5. Communication**

- We sent out around 150 emails to people in the network. These emails were updates on what we do or items of local and national topical interest. Few emails go out now with much more dependence on the webpage.  
<http://www.olotv.org.uk/parish-groups/trafficking> and the Caritas Anti-Trafficking webpage which has a link to its Facebook <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/caritas-anti-trafficking/>
- Events are posted on the Parish website and emailed to the wider Christian community in Clitheroe.
- We communicate via the Parish newsletter which has a circulation beyond the Parish. We have also featured in *Good News for Sabden* which is a monthly interdenominational newsletter for the town of Sabden.

#### **6. Publicity**

- We have so far published five feature articles in six East Lancashire newspapers, most of which were also picked up by the Lancashire Evening Post.
- We had a major article in the Christian Science Monitor.
- We have had features in the Catholic press.
- We have had a number of smaller articles in the local press.
- We have had three one hour local radio slots.
- We have contributed to four Freedom Days organised by PLASP

#### **7. Awareness raising and education with adults and in schools**

- We have responded to invitations to speak from Rotary, Probus, Women's Institute, Soroptimists, Tabor, Baptists, Anglicans, and of course a number of Catholic churches.
- We set up a pledge at one church which attracted 76 signatures to *Play my part in ending in human trafficking by 2025*
- We have spoken at diocesan meetings of secondary school RE Heads and primary school cluster leads.
- We have delivered talks and workshops in eight secondary schools, varying from 20 minutes to a full day.
- We have used the Medaille Education Pack as an example of introducing the subject of human trafficking into the existing curriculum in secondary schools – an idea taken up by one school with a full day of lessons.
- We have used Salvation Army primary school material to advise heads to introduce trafficking sensitively at an early age – an idea taken up by two schools.
- We have observed the Just Enough primary school workshop in one school with a view to exploring its wider use in diocesan schools.

#### **8. Lobbying**

- We launched two petitions from one secondary school to our local MP seeking his support for a transparency in supply chains bill.

#### **9. Victim Support**

- We have raised funds via appeals in church for the Medaille Trust, raising awareness of the issue and what the Catholic charity is doing to support victims of human trafficking. We also fund raise via stalls at fairs.
- We have raised funds for the Medaille Trust via a concert and via a sponsored skydive.
- We have provided assistance to three trafficked victims, either by referring to agencies or directly by accompanying to their solicitor or tribunal. We have offered advice to the case workers of a further two. By being linked in with different agencies involved in cases we are well placed to refer and signpost.

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