

## Spiritan Community Carfin

### Community Project 2017

#### General Overview.

Carfin is the northern outpost of the Congregation. The Carfin community has existed here since 1973 but was previously established in nearby Uddingston since 1956. Since that time Scotland has given, to my estimation, 19 Scots to minister in the Congregation. It sits in the middle of the most densely populated area of Scotland and is the focal point of support for the Spiritans in the North of the UK.

Our domestic community, our Spiritan family home, consists at present of 5 permanent members: **Andy O'Sullivan, Paddy Gaffney, Terry Donnelly, Philip Marsh and Bernard Waave**, hailing from Nigeria North East.



#### ***Ted Holmes RIP***

*The death of Ted during the year has had a profound effect on the community. His wise gentle presence was an inspiration.*

*May he continue to inspire our hearts from heaven.*

Through contacts with numerous families of our Spiritans from Scotland, through parish communities in which we have given support for generations, through mission appeals, and through pastoral ministry to those who knock on our door, I estimate we have a core support of 800 to 1000 people. Carfin acts as a **Spiritan macro-parish** extending over the whole of Scotland dedicated to the mission of the church in caring for the most needy and poorest of the world.

#### FINACIAL SUPPORT

Last year the Carfin community, from its pastoral ministry in parishes, from appeals and from various donations generated about £100,000. The people of Scotland are very generous and appreciate the work we do in their midst and throughout the world. Rightly they have a particular attachment to their own culture and value the physical presence of a mission house of the Spiritans in their local church.

We are required to oversee and supervise the increasingly busy **Little Flower Hall** at various times in the week. After deducting running costs, income from the hire of the hall topped £5,000 in 2017 as well as generating much more from the following fundraising events organised during the year with the help of our Spiritan friends committee:-

*A race night in February raised £4000*

*The Pentecost dance £900*

*A car boot/table top sale £450*

*The Little Flower Hall Quiz Night £950*

*Plus our **annual summer raffle** generated £7,900*



## House renovation

We are grateful to the province for the aid of £12,000 to renovate our poor bathroom facilities. Fr Andy and Paddy now have their own en-suite rooms plus a new bathroom for the community. Our thanks to Lyn Sutcliffe for drawing up plans which enabled us to get 3 new bathrooms from the space where there were originally only two. In the next financial year we hope to improve the kitchen, washing room facilities.

## Staff re-organisation

With the death of Fr Ted the workload has decreased and the pension from Ted has ended. This brought about a re-think on how best to care for the house and its members. After a process of consultation, our staff have agreed to reduced hours and a more flexible timetable which greatly helps.

## The Province Archives

On top of our other responsibilities we are trusted with the housing and administration of the Province Archives. Fr Bernard has been appointed Province Archivist and has begun his work after a short handover from Fr. John McFadden. He has been active in contacting expert Archivist advice from the national Catholic archivists office and the Diocese of Motherwell. A new secure electronic shutter door has been installed to give the needed security to the Archive room. Grateful thanks to our Spiritan Friends committee who have paid for the door through fundraising activities.

## General activities.

It is a house of unusual energy and activity. Apart from the usual internal responsibilities for staff, fabric and finances, running a promotions office, the archives and fundraising events etc etc. Here is a typical week:

**Community life:** prayer at 8.00am lunch at 12.45 evening prayer at 6,00pm

Typically, one or two of us are called to **supply local parishes** each morning or masses in local schools.

From Monday to Saturday there is a **public mass in our little chapel** attended by about 35 to 45 people.

We are also spiritual directors to two permanent **deacons in formation** in Motherwell Diocese and one seminarian.

We have regular **callers at the door** for confessions, Mass intentions, blessings and vulnerable people needing social support.



We have initiated a **family ministry programme** supporting families who were previously attached to the Carfin youth group and/or 100 mile pilgrimage walks to Whithorn

The house and hall are used for **various group retreat days** during the year, (eg Catholic Mens Society, Lourdes group, and the Phillippino *Couples for Christ*) with the lay Carmelite group meeting once a month.

We provide facilities in house for the **First Step counselling** service which provides independent counselling support for local people.

We offer a **large car parking space** mainly used by the local Catholic primary school and sometimes as an overspill for those visiting the Carfin grotto for pilgrimage events. This requires maintenance and supervision.

### Regular events.

These activities occur on the following days and need our ministry and/or supervision:

**Monday:** After schools club in our Hall 3pm to 5pm. In the evening a charismatic prayer group meets in our chapel

**Tuesday** afternoon the hall is used by a cheerleaders young dance group.

Evening: the St Anthony's novena group have benediction and devotions.

Also Fr Andy is the chaplain to the Knights of St Columba and they meet every first and fourth Tuesday.

**Wednesday** After schools club in our hall 3pm to 5pm. Monthly a small ladies mission support group have a Mass in our chapel. They have raised regular funds for the missions for over 25 years

**Thursday:** the dance school uses the hall from 5pm to 8pm

**Friday:** After schools group in our Hall. 3pm to 5pm

**Sunday:** 2 groups from Alcoholics Anonymous use the hall from 12.00 to 3.00pm and from 7pm to 10pm

**Weekend bookings** in the hall are becoming more regular and need attention when they are booked.

**Weekend supplies or mission appeals** are common. We do about 24 appeals per year. Paddy Gaffney also assures a regular supply in the parish in Hamilton.



At the good age of 91 Fr Andy O'Sullivan continues to be active as chaplain to the **Knights of St Columba**. The Knights organised a fundraising event for the Spiritans during the summer and presented us with £900. They meet monthly in our community house.



### Spiritan Friends House Committee.

From left to right

Marianne Ferguson, Ellen Smith,  
Paul Gaffney, James Langton, Tom Knight  
and John Mckinstry (missing from picture)

Meet regularly and work tirelessly to support  
our house community and our mission

### Final remarks

As well as Terry Donnelly's appointment to replace John McFadden as community leader, we are grateful for the arrival in our midst of Bernard Waave. Fr Bernard will become increasingly involved in training for and administration of the Province Archives, housed here in Carfin. Our pastoral ministries need a lot of energy. We could easily accommodate a 6<sup>th</sup> permanent member of the community to assist in this important ministry of mission animation throughout Scotland. Perhaps also a placement for one of our Spiritan students would help us?

Finally a big THANKYOU to John, he was a superior of great patience and pastoral care both for the elderly members of the community and external affairs with local parishes and organisation. The Generalate house in Rome is fortunate that we are so generous with our personnel to them over the years!!

We take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and assure you of our prayers.

May the Christ child grow within us all

Terry Donnelly, Philip Marsh, Andy O'Sullivan, Paddy Gaffney, Bernard Waave  
And Paul Hopper (external member and a welcome monthly visitor)

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