

## St John Southworth Caritas Fund Annual Report 2016-2017

The St John Southworth Fund is not an independent charity but consists of several restricted funds held by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster (*registered charity No. 233699*). It was created in 2007 by the amalgamation of a much larger number of legacies and trusts already held within the Diocese, to assist people in poverty or hardship or in danger of deprivation. Between 2007 and 2013 the Fund made over 640 awards to projects, organisations and individuals in Westminster Diocese and Greater London, to a value of over £2.4million.

In 2012 the Diocese set up Caritas Westminster as its new social action agency, with a brief to identify and address poverty and social exclusion in our communities, and the St John Southworth Fund was integrated into Caritas Westminster and renamed the St John Southworth Caritas Fund. After a period of closure, grant giving recommenced in 2015 as an arm of Caritas Westminster.

During 2016 grants were extended to the whole of the Diocese and the number of applications and awards increased. Grants of all types are now available through any Westminster parish.

**Project Grants** (up to £10,000) are available to parishes, associated groups or local joint projects based in Westminster Diocese, to help seed fund or develop local social action initiatives to alleviate poverty or social deprivation. Many parishes run social outreach projects such as homeless shelters, food banks, clubs to alleviate isolation and loneliness, debt and money management advice or welcome centres to support migrants and refugees. A relatively modest grant can be invaluable to help with the costs of projects such as these. Applications must fall within Caritas Westminster's strategic priorities, currently

- *Food poverty and debt*
- *Human trafficking*
- *Social isolation of the most vulnerable*
- *Intellectual disability*
- *The deaf community*
- *Youth inclusion*
- *Homelessness*

Grants were given in 2016 for

- Night shelter projects
- Food banks, particularly to assist food storage
- A school breakfast club
- For needy children to have a holiday
- To support young homeless into jobs and stable accommodation
- Mentoring on discharge from prison
- English courses and an apprenticeship placement scheme
- Project to reduce rough sleeping and help address its root causes

**Crisis grants** (up to £1,500) are hardship grants for individuals in need. These grants can help parishes meet the crisis needs of local families or individuals known to them, where a small sum of money could make a significant difference. We gave grants in 2016 for

- Rent, fuel bills and children’s expenses to families struggling often due to a medical crisis, house move or other change in circumstances
- White goods or furniture, often following homelessness
- Very basic needs for people with no recourse to public funds
- Rent to avert eviction and homelessness, during a period of crisis
- Other items including school lunch money, driving lessons to enable employment

**The 2016 Figures** (with 2015 in brackets)

Grants awarded during 2016 (2015)	Number	Value
Crisis grants -To individuals or families	18 (4)	<b>£18,219</b> (£2,640)
Project grants - To parishes or organisations	14 (7)	<b>£62,310</b> (£29,270)
Special grants	- (2)	-- (£8,028)
<b>Total grants awarded 2016 (2015)</b>	<b>32 (13)</b>	<b>£80,529</b> (£39,938)

Grants paid during the financial year 2016 by constituent fund	Number	Value £
Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Aged and Infirm Poor	1	2,500
The Zimmerman Trust	1	1,003
The New Children’s Fund	11	10,044
The London Poor	5	8,003
The Sister Joseph Harding Trust	-	---
The Metcalfe Fund for underprivileged or handicapped children	2	4,500
The St John Southworth General Fund	10	45,282
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>£71,332</b>

Income and expenditure 2016	£	£
Year-end balance 2015		2,447,259
Donations, legacies and other income	47,759	
Dividend income	29,239	
Fees and non-grant expenses	(27,266)	
Net other income		49,732
Capital appreciation		218,494
Total paid in grants 2016		(71,332)
<b>Year end fund balance 2016</b>		<b>2,664,153</b>

Year-end balance by constituent fund	£
The Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Aged and Infirm Poor	411,230
The Zimmerman Trust	58,384
The New Children’s Fund	1,519,173
The London Poor	113,700
The Sister Joseph Harding Trust	10,794
The Metcalfe Fund for underprivileged or handicapped children	272,067
The St John Southworth General Fund	258,805
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,664,153</b>

## Funeral grants

The death of a loved one is always a difficult and distressing time and not having enough money to pay for the funeral adds greatly to this. To address the growing problem of funeral poverty, funeral grants were introduced in September 2016. These can give up to £1,500 towards funeral costs in cases of hardship, using a specific fund set up for the purpose. Only 3 were awarded in 2016 but in early 2017 publicity to parishes about the scheme was stepped up and applications have been increasing.

## Caritas Westminster and the parishes

St John Southworth Caritas grants are supporting the strategic aims of Caritas Westminster as it increases its involvement and impact in parishes and in the wider Catholic community. More importantly they can make life a little easier for individuals and families coping day by day with poverty and hardship or with a crisis in their lives.

## Donations and Giving

We express our grateful thanks to all donors past and present and especially to the late Henry Craig Brown RIP for his generous legacy. With fewer grants given over the past 2 years, the funds are not currently depleting. However, now that we are back in full operation, and with so many needy people in London and its surrounds, the demand is expected to increase again substantially. We will depend on the help of donors to maintain these funds in the longer term so they can carry on playing their vital role in helping to alleviate poverty and deprivation across our Diocese.

If you are able to, please [donate here](#).

*More information available from* The Grants Administrator  
St John Southworth Caritas Fund  
Diocese of Westminster  
Vaughan House  
46 Francis Street  
London SW1P 1QN

[caritasgrants@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritasgrants@rcdow.org.uk)

020 7798 9063

[www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/grants](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/grants)

*Born in Lancashire in 1592, St John Southworth was ordained priest in Douai, France, in 1618. Returning to England, Fr. Southworth ministered in Westminster, in the area close to where the Cathedral now stands. During the plague of 1636, he tended the sick with outstanding devotion and courage. The casket containing his body lies in the Chapel of St. George & the English Martyrs in Westminster Cathedral, the parish where once he laboured for the Lord.*