

St Mary Magdalene Covenant with the Poor – 2018

In scripture, a covenant is an agreement entrusted to us as a gift from God. Our response is to act out of love and respect for God and all creation through consideration of the needs of ourselves in the world. In this Covenant, we, as a parish community, promise to use our time, talents and almsgiving to demonstrate a commitment to social concern and a more equitable distribution of wealth in our world today.

We undertake to review our covenant on a yearly basis.

These are areas of responsibility/initiatives where people use their talents;

The Mill Hill Missions through the use of home collection boxes, collected twice a year, as well as a church collection on Mission Sunday.

The CAFOD partnership with the Third World, promoting and celebrating the annual Lent and Harvest Fast Days, responding to emergency appeals and national and global campaigns –such as Share the Journey, in support of the refugee crisis.

National and local appeals through retiring collections and speakers eg for Life, the St Bernard's Lesotho fundraising initiatives, Rotherham CSE survivors support at Swinton Lock

The St Vincent de Paul group meets fortnightly (Maltby and Wickersley) offering financial, practical (furniture etc) and personal support through visiting local residents. Money from our votive candles supports the group's work.

We recognize that poverty includes those who are socially excluded, lonely, spiritually bereft and economically deprived. Safe guarding initiatives and procedures are followed with leaders receiving training and updates to protect the vulnerable.

We re-dedicate ourselves in support of the following groups

Faith and Light-a Christian group for people with learning difficulties, who meet monthly for liturgy and friendship.

Visitors to the housebound-SVP, Eucharistic ministers and many committed individuals.

St Mary's Primary School (Lenten Fundraising) and St Bernard's High School (Lesotho Project)

The Over 60s group (meeting fortnightly).

The Lighthouse hostel in Rotherham, providing Sunday evening meals 3 times per year-funded by the parish.

The Friday Foodbank-providing food (some donated and paid for by the parish), companionship and debt advice.

We would like to move forward by providing more of a platform for issues such as Modern Day Slavery, new Universal Credit impact and creating awareness of influencing change through on-line organisations such as 38 Degrees, change.org, ww.one.org

We undertake through liaising with prayer writers/liturgists to include intentions for the poor in bidding prayers at each Mass and, where appropriate, in children's liturgies.