



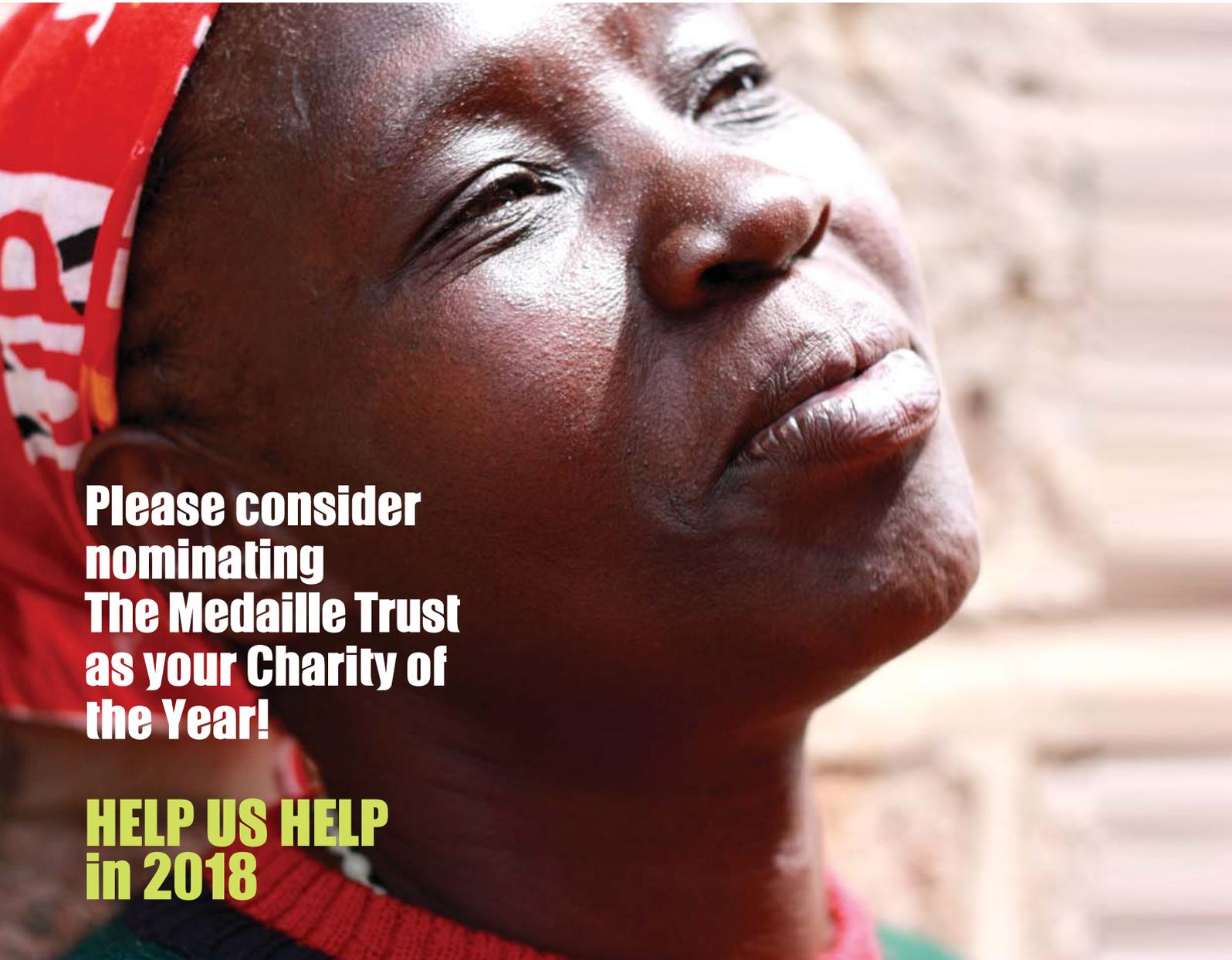
# The Medaille Trust

A Light Shining in a Dark Place of Human Trafficking

PLEASE PASS ON THIS MAGAZINE TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE

Easter 2018

The largest provider of Safe House accommodation to victims of  
Modern slavery in the country



**Please consider  
nominating  
The Medaille Trust  
as your Charity of  
the Year!**

**HELP US HELP  
in 2018**

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 [twitter.com/MedailleTrust](https://twitter.com/MedailleTrust)

“Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!”

Psalm 40



## Dear Friends

As our 12th birthday approaches it is very encouraging to reflect on the support Religious Orders gave from the beginning and continue to give to ensure the healthy state of Médaille.

We could never have opened 11 houses to help victims of human trafficking without their generosity and the continued financial support that is coming through. Donors are not keen to be named and while we respect this position we would not want to forget them or take things for granted. Every contribution is appreciated.

This time of Lent lends itself to linking the sufferings of our house residents to the passion and sufferings of Jesus that will lead us to the Easter Resurrection. I hope we are all able to relate to those who physically and mentally helped Jesus through his journey up to Calvary. Lives of suffering will give way to hope of a renewed way forward going from the Crucifixion to the Resurrection. We want our house guests to move forward from their appalling Calvary experiences to the hope and joy of the Easter life. Staff in our houses are the prime movers in this change of experiences leading to a settled and happy way of life. May we all be touched by the Easter hope and love.

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome **Garry Smith** as our new Chief Executive Officer, only the second in our eleven year history. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of modern slavery and related scourges of modern times, having worked across several charities in his professional career to date. He is very passionate to tackle the evil of trafficking by ensuring the highest possible care.

We are now looking forward to his vision and leadership following many years of managing people. His communication skills will be appreciated in our safe houses. We wish him many years of success as our CEO and we assure him of full Board support as well as our prayers.

**Bro. Francis fic**  
Chair of Trustees

# Introducing Our New CEO - Garry Smith

Let's get to know him a little better...

Interview with Garry Smith CEO of Medaille Trust.



## Big job, how do you feel about it?

"I feel incredibly honoured and privileged to be given the role of leading the Medaille Trust in the next stage of its development. The charity has come a long way in its short history and is now **one of the biggest providers of specialist safe house beds for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery in the world**. My task is to build on the great work already achieved and ensure that we continue to provide the best quality support for survivors."

## What experience do you have that will help you achieve your goals?

"I have been working in the charity sector, on and off, for over 20 years now including a previous period as a charity CEO and several years at a senior level in a global NGO. I have also been involved in anti-trafficking work since 2003 when the department I managed at The Salvation Army set up their first safe house in the UK.

I ran a consultancy business for over 10 years and during this time worked for a number of leading charities working in the modern slavery sector including Migrant Help, Stop the Traffik, ECPAT, Victim Support as well as the Medaille Trust.

In my spare time, I also helped to found the Active Community against Trafficking group in my home town."

## What is your vision for Medaille?

I recently set out my personal vision at a meeting of our Trustees. Firstly I want to support and encourage the great **team** that work and volunteer for us. We have nearly 100 employees now, mainly working in our 9 safe houses. The work they do is often challenging and I want to ensure they are fully supported to achieve what they need to do, that they know they are appreciated and that they in turn will support and encourage each other. Secondly I want to improve the **visibility** of the charity - I said to someone the other day that **"Medaille is the best anti-trafficking charity you've never heard of!"** and I want to change that. We need additional resources and therefore we have to make ourselves heard in an increasingly congested market for charitable funds. Thirdly I want to ensure we have a **strategic focus** for everything we do. There is sometimes pressure to do everything and this can lead to us spreading ourselves too thinly or not doing things to the highest possible quality. I will help us keep our focus on what we do best. Finally I would like to see a period of **measured growth** - sadly there is still a rising demand for more support and accommodation for victims of modern slavery. We have an excellent reputation of doing this and therefore I would like us to do more, but growing in a measured way to ensure that we still keep up the high quality for which we are renowned.



## Faith?

I am a committed Christian and a lifelong member of The Salvation Army. I am involved as a volunteer member at my local church in Chelmsford and as a lay preacher elsewhere locally when required. I am a member of the worship planning group and have recently finished a 3.5 year stint as Bandmaster which included serving on the leadership team for my local church.

## Family?

I have been married to Tania for over 23 years, she works as a nurse specialising in diabetes care in a busy local GP practice. We have two adult children - Elliot is 22 and in his 4th (and final) year at the University of Southampton where he is studying Spanish and Portuguese. Georgia is 20 and in her 2nd year at the University of Nottingham where she is studying English.

## How do you like to relax out of work?

I am a committed (and long-suffering) supporter of Southend United Football Club, I am a season ticket holder and attend most home games and as many away games as I am allowed. I like to watch most sports - especially cricket (Essex and England). I also enjoy (and endure) long-distance running - I have run 5 full marathons, 12 half marathons and countless 10k and 5k runs - I am a keen member of the parkrun community and most Saturday mornings can be found completing my 5K somewhere, I hope to get my 250 t-shirt this summer (currently 228 completed parkruns and counting!).





# MAMA MARGARET'S

A GIFT WITH A DIFFERENCE, WHICH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As part of the Medaille Trust outreach program we support a project run by the Salesion Sisters called Mama Margaret's. Based in a slum in Dagoretti, Kenya. The project supports women who live in the slum and who the Sisters have identified as particularly vulnerable. The women are given the opportunity to improve their circumstances and gain skills and paid work by making handcrafted items.



The women who work for Mama Margaret handcrafts are often victims of abuse, have succumbed to drug and alcohol addiction and are victims of extreme poverty. This project not only helps them to overcome the daily life struggles they face, but provides them with safe, fairly paid work and the opportunity to provide a better life for their children. Life in the slum is very challenging, sanitary conditions are very poor, clean water is for only those who can afford it and children spend their days playing in the street with the mud and litter, as their Mums cannot afford to send them to school.

When witnessing the living conditions and poverty in the slum, one can easily see how the vulnerable could fall prey to the temptation that traffickers offer; naive to the fact that life would be even worse if they were to be trafficked and forced into a life of slavery.

The Mama Margaret project in many ways has similarities with the work of the Medaille Trust. Both charities work with the most vulnerable individuals, and have a direct and profound effect on improving people's lives, who through no fault of their own, have been subjected to abuse, poverty and exploitation.

The Medaille Trust supports the Mama Margaret project by offering free consultancy and business advice and buying the handcrafts they make, to sell here in the UK. We often sell items following our talks and appeals; however we now also have a shop on Ebay. When we receive new items, we update our stock, so it is worth visiting our Ebay shop regularly to see what lovely new products the Mamas have been creating. The handcrafts make beautiful unique gifts, we have religious items, such as handmade rosary beads, nativities and crucifixes, along with fashion and home ware items, such as scarves, bags, cushions and boxes in

the striking African wax-printed Kitenge fabric. The Mamas are particularly proud of their bead work, which is a very traditional craft in Kenya.

So for a gift with a difference, that also makes a huge difference to the quality of a vulnerable person's life, please consider buying something from our Ebay shop and support the Medaille Trust and this very worthy project in Kenya.



## CASE STUDY

MY NAME IS

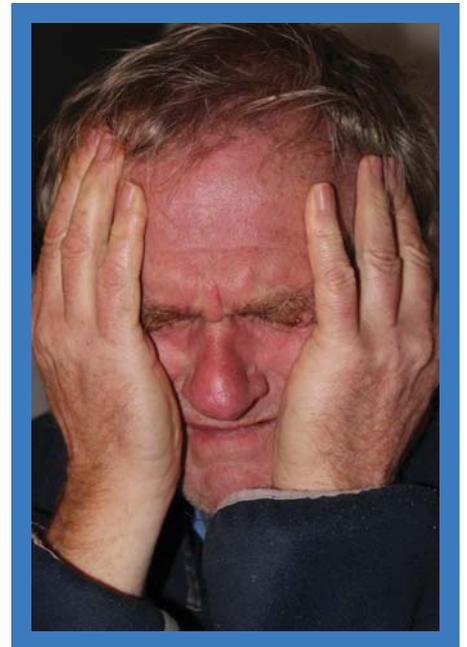
# ALBERT

My name is Albert, I have never married and enjoy working hard in a cleaning business and living with my mother. When I was 57 my mother died and everything went wrong for me. I was unable to cope and became homeless. I was approached near the night shelter by 2 men - I was offered work, food, accommodation and alcohol and I said "Yes".

I was made to share a damp caravan with 3 others and had to do landscaping work from 6am to 10pm, 6 days per week. I never got my money. I was frightened of the men, they beat me up. They moved me on to another caravan site when they were bored with me... for four more years I had to live like that!

I was helped by the Police and The Medaille Trust looked after me at a safe house. I now know more of what happened to me and realise that the group who had me sold me on several times. They also were claiming benefits for me illegally and pocketing the cash themselves. There is hope, I'm rebuilding my life.

The thing that might surprise you about me is my nationality... I am British.



**Invite a speaker from the Medaille Trust to speak to your community about the signs of human trafficking in your area.**

"Inviting a speaker from the Medaille Trust seemed like a natural progression from some of the work we are doing locally already for disadvantaged people. I wanted to ensure that all of us - clergy and parishioners - were well informed about what was happening on our doorstep. As a town centre parish, we see some of the signs of trafficking around us.

On the weekend of the Mass appeal, the parishioners really responded to the information, listening with great interest and concern, asking questions and taking literature. I'm informed that some have even contacted the Trust to ask about volunteering. I know there are so many demands on us for appeals, but I would heartily recommend inviting the Medaille Trust to come and talk at Sunday Mass in your parish."

**Fr Dave Heywood**

St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's, Warrington



# Inside The Medaille Trust by Clare Freeman

It's 1.30am and I'm woken by a knock at the door. On the cusp of falling asleep, I'm startled but - like other nights at the Medaille Trust, a safe house for victims of human trafficking - this isn't my first night shift to be interrupted.

At the door a small, slight Vietnamese woman stands with another older Vietnamese lady. "She's been bleeding," the older lady says. I ask for her notes and call the maternity unit at the hospital to get their advice. Like many other women at this safe house, this lady is pregnant. She's also only 18 and speaks no English. We get into my car and I drive quickly through the twisting country lanes to the hospital. The girl remains silent but you can see in her eyes that she's petrified. I stay with her a couple of hours and then take the other lady back, but I can't stop thinking about how scared and alone she must feel, in labour, in a unfamiliar country with no support, unable to even communicate with anyone.

The Medaille Trust in Kent is a safe house for women who have been trafficked and have faced - often with their children - many

harrowing ordeals including forced prostitution, verbal and physical abuse, and exploitation. The women and children who stay here are predominantly from Albania, but there are also women from Vietnam, Nigeria and even some who are British. Many don't speak

any English and the majority are pregnant or with babies or young children. They come to the safe house after being identified as a potential victim of trafficking and entering the NRM (National Referral Mechanism), a system set up by the Government to identify and

“As we celebrate International Women's Day this March I want to draw attention to these women who, despite so much hardship and pain, are staying so strong in even the most desperate situations.”

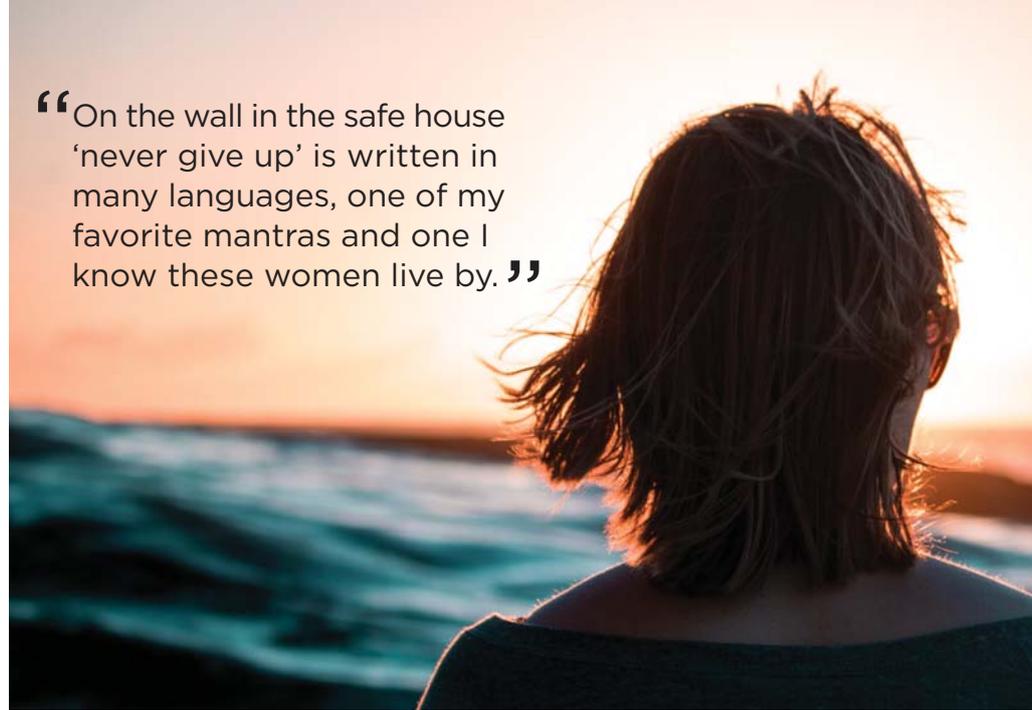


refer potential victims of modern slavery and ensure that they receive the appropriate support. Once identified by the NRM they are entitled to support for a period of at least 45 days while their case is considered, giving them access to organisation such as The Medaille Trust where they receive housing, legal advice, medical treatment and support from a round-the-clock team of staff.

Being a support worker here has exposed me to a world that is often shocking and saddening. One of my regular tasks is to drive the women to the Home Office in Croydon to support them through their interviews if they are claiming asylum. Sitting on the second floor of Lunar House and seeing people with nothing - just from the luck of where they are born - is truly humbling. The waiting area is grim, with nothing to read, nothing to look at, no where to buy food except two vending machines selling chocolates and canned drinks, and you can't use mobile phones or anything electronic. People sit for hours waiting to be seen. Often the 'appointment' is booked at 10am but we aren't seen until 4 or 5pm.

Some of the people obviously try to dress to impress: on one occasion I spot a man, with a wife in a hijab and two young children, who is wearing an England football t-shirt. On another I see a young man wearing a smart jacket and bow tie. Some try and sleep on the metal chairs, whilst others simply sit, staring into space. Many of the young men I have encountered are polite and well-mannered. A young man from Syria gives up his seat to myself and the pregnant woman I'm with during one visit. "Women

“On the wall in the safe house 'never give up' is written in many languages, one of my favorite mantras and one I know these women live by.”



first” he says with a smile. “Women always first.”

The men try to be strong but you can see the pain etched on their faces. On another occasion I hear a man from Sudan break down in tears in the interview room next door. I can see tears well up in the eyes of the male Albanian interpreter opposite, just like mine.

At the safe house, no shift is ever the same. Some can be fun and enjoyable: playing with the children on the trampoline in the garden, teaching the women English, joining an impromptu dance class with the women in the lounge. Others can be upsetting, and even shocking. One Saturday night recently I found myself driving around and searching beaches alone in the dark and pouring rain. I was looking for a 21 year old girl who had become hysterical, slashed her face, arms and legs and run away. The girl had been trafficked for years, forced in to prostitution, and had previously been in a psychiatric hospital for 9 months. She eventually returned on her own accord, but then ran away again.

The issue of trafficking is a bleak one, but I am often touched by the bravery and resilience of the women and children that I encounter here. As we celebrate International Women's Day this March I want to draw attention to these women who, despite so much hardship and pain, are staying so strong in even the most desperate situations. On the wall in the safe house 'never give up' is written in many languages, one of my favourite mantras and one I know these women live by.

If you feel you are able to help by way of donations or would be interested in working for the Medaille Trust, please visit their website at: [medaille-trust.org.uk](https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk) for further information and contact details.

**Clare Freeman**

## CASE STUDY

MY NAME IS

# MARIA

My name is Maria. I got to know two men who offered me a good job in the UK as a cleaner. I thought it would be an opportunity to improve my English.

Within two weeks my flight was booked and I travelled with one of the guys, Marius, and another girl that he had offered a job to. I was really excited. When we arrived I gave Marius my passport and my birth certificate so that he could arrange the job with an agency. The next morning when I woke up there were three men at the house that I had not seen before. Marius told me that I was now working as a prostitute, and these men were my first customers. I tried to get out of the front door but it was locked. Marius hit me across the face, he told me I would have to work for him before he would let me go home. The men took it in turns to rape me, and after this I was locked in the bedroom.

This was now the life I had - the pain was not the hardest thing to deal with, it was the emotional hurt that left me feeling numb.



## CPL Aromas

CPL  
AROMAS

**We would like to say a very big thank you to CPL Aromas for the wonderful fragrances and toiletries donated to the women within our safe houses. Our senses are extremely powerful tools and it is important to appreciate the entirely personal experience that a new fragrance can bring. Invoking precious memories that can be remembered forever.**

**Our wish is that these new scents will help create a happy memory for our residents that forever reminds them of freedom.**



# Why Saint Bakhita Day?

The Medaille Trust chose to take the 8th February each year as its special day to pray for the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. There are a number of interesting days during the year such as 'anti slavery day' which we could have focused on but why do we choose this date? It is the feast day of **St Josephine Bakhita**, canonised by the Catholic Church in the year 2000.

As a young woman who knew nothing but the slave markets of Africa and struggled herself to settle into polite European society of her time even having won her notional freedom - she provides us a real example for our reflections, even in 2018.

## Who was she?

She was born around 1869 in the village of Olgossa in the Darfur region of Sudan. Sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold at least twice during the gruelling journey. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name.

As a slave, her experiences varied from fair treatment to cruel. Her first owner, a wealthy Arab, gave her to his daughters as a maid. The assignment was easy until she offended her owner's son, possibly for the crime of breaking a vase. As punishment, she was beaten so severely she was incapacitated for a month. After that, she was sold to the Italian Vice Consul, Callisto Legani. He was a much kinder master and he did not beat her. When it was time for him to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed. She was given away to an Italian family as a gift and she served them as a nanny.

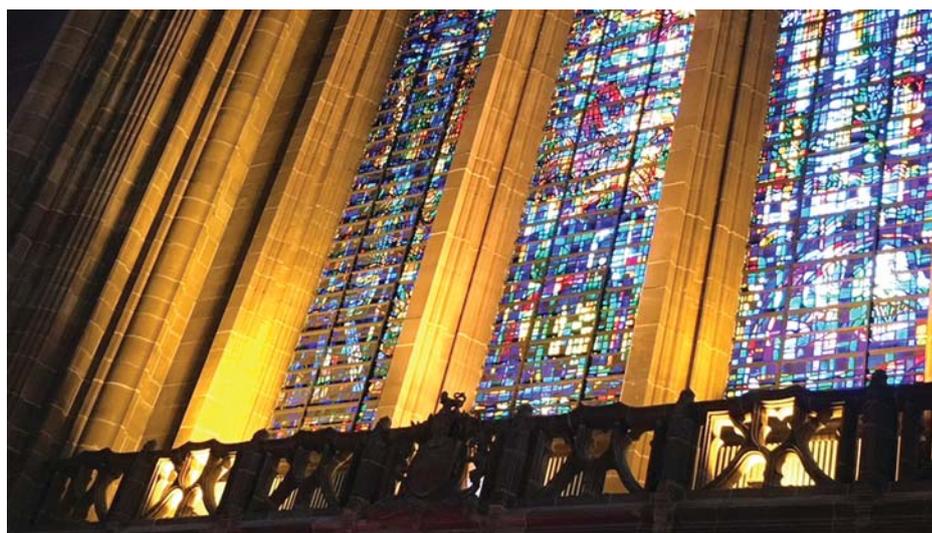
Her new family also had dealings in Sudan had when her mistress decided to travel to Sudan without Josephine, she placed her in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. While she was in the custody of the sisters, she came to learn about God. According to Josephine, she had always known about God, who created all things, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ.

She was baptised on January 9, 1890 and took the name Josephine Margaret and Fortunata. (Fortunata is the Latin translation for her Arabic name, Bakhita). Three years later Josephine became a novice with the Canossian Daughters of Charity Religious and took her final vows in 1896. She was eventually assigned to a convent in Schio, Vicenza.

For the next 42 years of her life, she worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent. She also traveled and visited other convents telling her story to other sisters and preparing them for work in Africa. She was known for her gentle voice and smile. When speaking of her enslavement, she often professed she would thank her kidnapers. For had she not been kidnapped, she might never have come to know Jesus Christ and entered His Church.

"The Lord has loved me so much: we must love everyone...we must be compassionate!"

**St Josephine Bakhita**



*I fell in, but I know You Loved me*

## What did we do this year?

This year the Medaille Trust held its event to mark the day in the stunning surroundings of Liverpool Cathedral. Designed by architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott it stands at one end of the aptly named 'Hope Street' from the Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral and their work together in the city and the region is inspiring. Thanks must go to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral for hosting us. Caroline Virgo, the national project officer of the Clewer Initiative read the scripture from the Gospel of Luke and Medaille CEO Garry Smith gave a talk. The anti-trafficking coordinator in the Diocese of Liverpool, Rev'd Christel Erving led the service along with Richard Owens from Medaille's Diocesan Rep team. It was a joy to have a live performance of Amazing Grace (my chains are gone) and an uplifting report from the 'faith in action' group at St Edwards College in Liverpool on what this next generation of anti-slavery activists are doing.

After Medaille's event Bro Francis Paterson cfc, our chair of Trustees and several staff members and guests stayed on in the Cathedral for Choral Evensong with the girl's choir. In a unique gesture in an Anglican Cathedral, the prayers were led by Rev Christel and were on the theme of St Bakhita Day and modern slavery.

# Charities should to be more transparent, but should not all be vilified



Many questions should be asked about the Oxfam scandal and the impunity of certain of its senior management and non-disclosure by those who had knowledge of their actions. However, such impropriety is not a new issue in the charity/NGO/peace-keeping sector. Where circumstances of poverty, disaster and a lack of structure exist, exploitation will arise, even from those who are meant to protect and serve.

Impunity can occur as many charitable and non-charitable organisations (Carillion for example) are not transparent or held accountable enough for the use of funds - whether these are public or private. Kids Company was an example of mismanagement of funds, a lack of transparency and trustee management and raised several questions as to what trustees' obligations were and should be.

As a trustee of the Medaille Trust, I am privy to how hard the the board of trustees work to ensure that there is transparency of actions and the way that funding is used. Trustees need to understand what the ethos of the charity is, what the objectives to be achieved by a management team are

and how these are to be funded and must not be fearful of raising issues that may question a management team's ethical and moral stance. The trustees of the Medaille Trust make great efforts to ensure that they meet this criteria and is helped by having a multi skilled and informative board.

We must not become cynical about charitable endeavours and the good that charities do. Globally and domestically, there are many small (and large) charities that are committing funds to promoting the welfare of others; to providing a secure retreat/refuge when required. Some of these charities are extremely unsung organisations and yet continue to forge ahead on limited budgets, staffing and

are subject to similar accountability just as their bigger sister charities are (and the larger ones should be subject to greater accountability). Oxfam and the like must be scrutinised and reprimanded for their actions and those in the senior echelons should be questioned but we must not vilify the basic premise of charities and even Oxfam itself. When steered correctly, such organisations produce incredible results in fighting impunity and injustice - we should not let the impunity of certain individuals in Oxfam and like organisations colour these successes and the impact on lives.

**Sharon Benning-Prince**  
Trustee, The Medaille Trust & Talitha Arts

## Communications Volunteer

Are you a graduate in graphic design, marketing, new media, journalism or other subject area? Do you have skills in these areas? Do you want to join the Medaille Trust at an exciting time in its development and help to produce materials which truly get the message out to people about modern slavery and human trafficking?

Would you like to volunteer for the Medaille Trust part time to fit around your other work commitments. You could be based in either North West England or South East England . For an informal discussion contact: [enquiries@medaille-trust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@medaille-trust.org.uk)

## Here comes Summer - fundraise for us

Whatever your tipple whether it be coffee or tea or some refreshing Pimms and lemonade - could you run a simple event at home, in your locality or a church hall? Coffee mornings bring people together and raise much needed funds for the Medaille Trust. Perhaps you could run a 5 or 10k race for us and collect sponsorship.

There are many organised events across the spring and summer which you could get sponsored for. Every pound counts towards our ambitious targets to provide quality and wholistic care and therapy to even more men and women freed from slavery.



# The Medaille Trust

## Pledge your support today *giftaid it*

### Donation

**Please complete the form in block capitals**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation of:

£100     £50     £20     £10

Other:

Please make cheques payable to: **The Medaille Trust**

I do not require an acknowledgement for this donation

### Regular Giving

By completing the following section, your bank will pay us automatically.

You can donate monthly, quarterly or annually.

**Please pay to: The Medaille Trust Limited**

Account No. 43966674 Sort Code: 20-25-29

Barclays Bank plc, 31 High Row Darlington, Co Durham DL3 7QS

**The sum of:** £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Each month / Quarter / Year** (please circle)

until further notice and debit my account

Acc No: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Manager of (bank name and address)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Aid

Declaration Form for Past, Present and Future Donations

Today     In the past 4 years     In the future

Please tick all boxes that apply

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the Charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6th April 2008.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the Charity if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

### Further Information

Please tick if:

You would like to receive regular (free) copies of the Trusts newsletter.

You would like to receive information about leaving a legacy to the Trust in your will.

You would like to be removed from the mailing list.

**Alternatively you can donate on line via our website:**

**[www.medaille.co.uk](http://www.medaille.co.uk)**

**Thank you for your kind donations and continued support.  
Every £ makes a difference.**

Please return this form to: Medaille Trust, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP



**The Medaille Trust** is a Charity founded by Catholic religious congregations to work for the **eradication of human trafficking** and to offer **support** to those who have been trafficked.

Believing in the **intrinsic dignity** and **worth** of every individual we provide **safe housing** and **specialist services** for rehabilitation and **raise awareness** of these modern forms of slavery.

The Medaille Trust is a member of **RENATE**, **COATNET**, **Your Catholic Legacy** and **CSAN**



# *The* Medaille Trust

**Medaille Trust, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP**

Registered Charity Number: 1117830

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