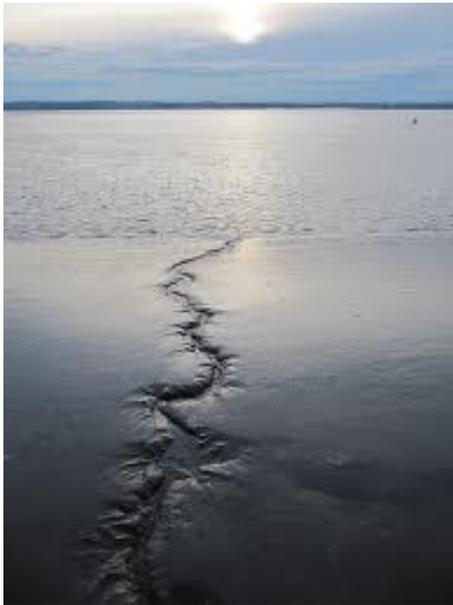




NEWSLETTER Advent 2011

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.
(Margaret Mead)



Days of heavy clouds stifling the sunlight; the world burdened by greyness and gloom;
Chillness that seeps deep into bones, hearts and spirits rigid with frost-hardness;
souls wrapped up against coldness and loneliness.
Trees - branches bare against the steel skies, stems crumpled under weight of frost - weight of snow;
last year's leaves - blackened and slippery underfoot - nature oppressed by wintriness - yet resting - awaiting rebirth.

Open our souls, Lord, to the warmth of your coming; melting the hardness that keeps us from you and from each other.

Cherish our hearts, Lord.

Oppressed by wintriness - assure us of your coming, of your call to new life.

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOUNDATION DAY OCTOBER 2011



To prepare to celebrate Foundation Day at New Hall, several members of the Community spent a day with the Year 12, animating a Day of Reflection centred around the spirituality and founding vision of the Community. In addition S. Teresa led whole School assemblies about the Foundation.



We ourselves celebrated Foundation Day together in Melbourne, with an afternoon meeting doing some follow up work from the General Chapter, with about fifty other interested friends and contacts. We then read the account of our Foundation and had a special Evening Prayer celebration together.

On 5th November, we spent the morning at The Barn at New Hall, reflecting with others on the nature of solidarity, based on extracts from the film 'Des Hommes et des Dieux' which tells the story of the martyrdom of some Trappist Monks in Algeria in 1996.

In the afternoon we welcomed more friends to our Annual Mass for the Dead in New Hall Chapel, where we prayed for all our deceased relatives, friends, Community and School Members.



BEGINNING ADVENT



We began Advent together in Colchester with a time of quiet reflection and prayer. We were pleased to welcome several Companions and local friends for an Evening Service of readings, prayer and music.

There will be another Reflective Service at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Melbourne on Wednesday the 21st December at 7:00pm. Please join us.

S. Mary Thérèse recently went to a Training Day for Hospital Chaplains held in Chelmsford Chapter Room. She writes: 'There were about sixty to seventy of us there and Reverend Katy Hacker-Hughes, Chaplain to the Hospice, spoke to us from heart and head and was encouraging as well as challenging. What impressed me from the workshop groups that followed was the living and vibrant faith of all of us gathered there: so full of prayer and conscious contact with the living Lord in Himself in every single person we meet'.



LAUNCHING OUR NEW WEBSITE



After months of hard work and creative energy, the launch of our new Website is imminent. We are aiming to give you positive news of its launch by the start of January 2012. The web address remains www.canonesses.co.uk

QUIET DAYS



A group of about twenty people enjoyed another Quiet Day at Howe Close to reflect on the Advent theme: 'Wait and See'. Why don't you join us for the next one which is on 2nd March 2012 and will have a Lenten theme.





The Wisdom group, organised by members of the Community in Melbourne, enjoyed a morning of seasonal cookery - mincemeat scrolls and chocolate Christmas puddings - and were then featured in the Essex Chronicle 'Surviving the Winter' series.



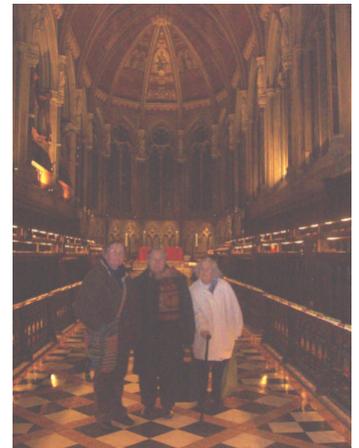
Two members of the Greenstead Coffee, Cake and Company group - Beryl and John - celebrated sixty years of married life, and are seen here enjoying their letter from Her Majesty the Queen.

ASSOCIATION NEWS



S. M. Gabriel's most recent visit to the Community in Zaragoza in October coincided with the Feast of Maria Pilar when all the town was on holiday - the photo shows the statue of Our Lady of Pilar atop a mountain of flowers in the main pedestrian area of the town.

We were pleased to welcome Z. H el ene from Turnhout for a few days' break - which included a visit to Cambridge and Evensong at St John's College (pictured here with S. Ann and S. Margaret Mary).



You may remember that at our General Chapter in the Summer, Rwanda was created as a full autonomous Priory of The Association, and that the new Priory was given a gift of a pregnant cow to mark the occasion. During the months following the Chapter, the fields had to be prepared to ensure that the cow would have enough to eat (see picture above). When that was done the cow was bought and called UBUSABANE, the Kinyarwanda word for Solidarity.

JUSTICE FOR AFRICA

Caravan of Hope

In the lead up to the UN's climate change talks in South Africa, we are invited to join the TransAfrican Climate Caravan of Hope on a bus journey of more than 4,000 miles through 10 countries to highlight the impact climate change is already having in Africa. One of the stops in the early part of the journey was Kigali in Rwanda where some of our Sisters live.



Presidential Elections in DR Congo

We have been following the run up to and the Election process with our interest and prayer. There has been a lot of Election-related violence, and allegations of corruption and fraud. Let us pray that this new Government helps to bring greater peace, justice and stability to this war-torn land.

St AUGUSTINE



"Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand."

St Augustine.



PREPARING TO CELEBRATE 370 YEARS

We are grateful to the many people who are working tirelessly on the different Committees to prepare an exciting programme for 2012-2013. You will be receiving full details in the New Year. This will also be detailed on the 370th Anniversary page of the new Website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For further details of any of the events below, please email admin@canonesses.co.uk or telephone 01206 867296.

Blessed Sacrament Church Melbourne Preparing for Christmas: A time of quiet reflection and prayer Wednesday 21st December 2011 at 7:00pm followed by seasonal refreshments. All welcome.

Quiet Days 2nd March 2012 and 4th May 2012 10:00am to 3:00pm at 74 Howe Close, CO4 3XD. All welcome.

Contact us:-

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