



NEWSLETTER Advent 2014

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)



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Hospitality is at the heart of the Advent season.

Caryll Houselander describes the Annunciation as the Spirit tapping on the door of Mary's heart: "It was as if the human race were a little dark house, without light or air, locked and latched. . . . But one day a girl opened the door. Seas of light swept through it, and the light remained in it; and in that little house a Child was born."



WELCOME

We are very pleased to introduce you to Hannah Thomas who will be working with us for the coming two years as a Post Doctoral Research Student in conjunction with Durham University Centre for Catholic Studies. Hannah will be working in our Archives with S. Mary Magdalene, and some of her work will focus on the history of our Cemetery. We are looking forward to hearing about her discoveries over the course of the coming year.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

We were sad to hear of the death of S. Hildegard of Maarssen, former Prioress General. Some of you will remember her from her frequent visits to New Hall in the 1980s and 1990s. S. Mary Gabriel, S. Mary Magdalene and S. Margaret Mary were able to represent us at her funeral on the 18th October.

CELEBRATING WITH OUR DIOCESE



On Friday, 21st November, for the Opening of the Year of Consecrated Life there was a Day for Religious at Brentwood. Hospitality and informality surrounded the formal times of the Bishop's address, the Celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Alan Williams, SM, presiding, the **one minute** contributions of each religious 'family' and the closing prayer. The Community was well represented among the more than a hundred Religious who gathered, and we were encouraged and inspired in our respective vocations.

SEEKING GOD'S BLESSING ON COLCHESTER

Some members of the Community attended a Thanksgiving Service in St Botolph's Church, Colchester on Sunday, 16th November to celebrate ten years of the Ecumenical Group, "Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester."

There were displays by groups who offer many forms of caring for our neighbours, appropriate now as in Gospel days, and Bishop Roger Morris spoke inspiringly with missionary energy about the future.



S. MARY STEPHEN'S NEW COMMISSION

S. Mary Stephen is pictured here with a painting which was commissioned by the Society of the Sacred Heart for their Centenary celebrations. It is hung in the newly established Meditation Unit at Roehampton University.

S. Mary Stephen explains her painting:

"The general colour scheme has been chosen to echo the colours of the nearby stained glass windows. I have added to this the greens of new growth, I find the green shoots of spring such an expressive symbol for life. Hildegard of Bingen says, "God is green... God is growth, the rising sap... the greenness of life-giving breath.""



EXHIBITION IN CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL



S. Ann, helped by Pam Emerick, mounted a fascinating exhibition of memories of life in Chelmsford over the last seven decades. It was displayed in Chelmsford Cathedral over a lunch time and visited by many interested people.

MASS FOR THE DEAD

Fr. John Harvey celebrated Mass for the Community and friends at the beginning of November at New Hall, praying especially for people who had died over the last year. We particularly remembered S. Pauline who died in April and for whom New Hall was a very special place.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTION



The Community was joined by many Companions and friends to reflect on a paper by the Dutch theologian Lieve Troch. The paper was entitled: "Living on the Boundaries and at the Crossroads: the Encounter with the Divine." Lieve challenged us to meet Sofia God on the margins and amongst the powerless. The discussions were profound and fruitful.

QUIET DAY

Several people came to Howe Close for a Quiet Day in October on the theme of "Sharing God's Gifts". They were able to enjoy the quiet of the garden as well as the tranquillity of the Prayer Space.



CONCERT AT STOCK

Thank you to everybody who supported the Africa fundraising concert in Stock. Particular thanks to Tom Willis who generously organised the event. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening of music and it raised £1,400 for our Sisters' work in the DR Congo.



Some members of the Community were fortunate to attend days of reflection led by S. Joyce Rupp during her Autumn visit to England from the USA.

S. JOYCE RUPP OSM

"Wisdom is a unique manifestation of God, a catalyst for transformation of the human person's life into one of light and goodness."

St AUGUSTINE



"The Word Who is God before all time became flesh at the appointed time. The maker of the sun was made under the sun. He Who fills the world lays in a manger, great in the form of God but tiny in the form of a servant." (Sermon 187)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 6th 3pm	Showing of the Film of the life of Nelson Mandela "Mandela: Long walk to Freedom" Tea and Evening Prayer - 74 Howe Close
December 7th 4pm	Tea followed by 4.30pm Evening Prayer for Advent - 74 Howe Close
December 14th 4pm	Tea followed by 4.30pm Evening Prayer for Advent - 74 Howe Close
December 19th 10am - 3pm	Quiet Day - 74 Howe Close, Colchester
December 19th 7pm	Advent Reflection - Blessed Sacrament Church, Melbourne

All welcome to any of the above - for details and booking please contact crssuk@canonesses.co.uk or phone 01206 867296

Contact us:-

74 Howe Close
Colchester CO4 3XD
01206 867296

43 Anderson Avenue
Chelmsford CM1 2DA
01245 604108

www.canonesses.co.uk
Charity Registration No. 229288



The Association website:
www.crss-worldwide.tk

71 Cundy Road
Custom House
London E16 3DJ
020 7476 5490

22 Anderson Avenue
Chelmsford CM1 2BZ
01245 604128