



NEWSLETTER ADVENT 2018

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

"Come, Lord Jesus" is a leap into the kind of freedom and surrender that is rightly called the virtue of hope. The theological virtue of hope is the patient and trustful willingness to live without closure, without resolution, and still be content and even happy because our satisfaction is now at another level, and our Source is beyond ourselves. We are able to trust that he *will* come again, just as Jesus has come in our past, into our private dilemmas and into our suffering world. Our Christian past then becomes our Christian prologue, and "Come, Lord Jesus" is not a cry of desperation but an assured shout of cosmic hope. *ROHR*

The Community joined Jenny Tait's family, friends and colleagues at New Hall for Jenny's funeral in early November. Jenny was one of our Companions, and through her work as Librarian at New Hall over many years, was a key to the understanding and living of our legacy through the school. We will miss Jenny's wit, unfailing hospitality, deep faith and spirit of service. Jenny is buried in our Cemetery. May she rest in peace. (This picture was taken at one of our General Chapters in Belgium, where Jenny joined us for some reflection days).

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS



St AUGUSTINE

"Even so, it was not enough for God to send his Son to point out the way - he made his Son the way itself, so that we can go on our journey guided by him as he walks along his own way."

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

The Community has made the momentous decision to move the bulk of our Archives to Durham University where they will be cared for professionally and made accessible to students, researchers and anyone else interested in our history. The collection will be packed and moved by specialists in early December and includes books, manuscripts and letters dating back to the 17th Century. The collection is recognised as being of great significance to social and church history and thanks must be given to the scores of archivists over the centuries who have kept the material so well.



This picture was taken during a preparatory visit from expert archivists and conservationists from Durham who came to assess the collection and work out the logistics of the move.

NEW WORK BY S.M. STEPHEN

Four new stained glass windows were commissioned from S.M. Stephen by the Church of the Holy Spirit at Fetcham to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of this Church.

The four panels represent 'The Wind of the Spirit', 'The Tree of Life', 'The Resurrection' and 'Fire of the Spirit'.



ANNUAL MASS FOR THE DEAD

Abbot Hugh of the Norbertine Community in Chelmsford was the celebrant at our Annual Mass for the Dead at New Hall. We were pleased to welcome many friends, Old Fishes and local people to the celebration.



DUNKIRK REFUGEE PROJECT



In our last Newsletter we reported that some of the Community were going to visit the Refugee Project in Dunkirk which is supported by our African Sisters living close by. Thank you for the interest and generosity that this snippet provoked. The day was an extraordinary eye-opener into the plight of the thousand plus refugees living in the forest around Dunkirk since the destruction of the camp. We were a tiny cog in the day's work of feeding an estimated 1200 people, mostly male Syrian Kurds. We hope that there will be more visits and more to report in the near future.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?



We have had two further sessions reflecting on the question fundamental to Christian service: 'Who is my Neighbour?' The first was a challenging talk at New Hall from Bishop Roger Morris, whose presentation ended with a new way of looking at the parable of the Good Samaritan. The full text of his talk is available on our website:

http://www.canonesses.co.uk/media/45427/the_good_samaritan.pdf

The second session was held at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Melbourne where we heard from two leaders of relatively new Churches in the area - Pete Bardwell from the Oasis Church and Tim Ball from Meadgate Church. They described the social action undertaken by their members in response to the question 'Who is my Neighbour?' Both sessions were very well attended and gave us much to think about.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES



The Community in Colchester were pleased to offer hospitality to the monastic choir of St Elisabeth Convent from Minsk Belarus, for a night following a wonderful concert of their music held locally.



The Community in Melbourne were delighted to receive a visit from their local MP Vicky Ford, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and some local Councillors to talk through some of the social issues which impact life on the Melbourne Estate.

The Community in Colchester bade farewell and thank you to Reverend Annette Cooper, their local Archdeacon, who has been very supportive of the Community presence in Colchester. S.M. Gabriel (see photo) went with S. Teresa to Annette's final Thanksgiving Communion Service.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 9th December: Film for Advent 'The Ultimate Gift' at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Melbourne Avenue, CM1 2DU at 2.30pm.

Sundays of Advent December 9th and 16th: Meditative Evening Prayer at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD. Tea from 4pm, Prayer 4.30pm.

Sunday 16th December: Advent Reflection Evening at Blessed Sacrament Church at 7pm.

Friday 21st December: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

Sunday 27th January 2019: 'Who is my Neighbour?' Further reflections on this topic with Fr Michael Winstanley at New Hall, details to follow.

Wednesday 13th February 2019: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

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. 1167869



The Association website:
www.crss-worldwide.tk

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

Napier Court
Chelmsford CM1 2ED
01245 604128