



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)



We are full of a yearning for what is beyond us. There is a deep desire to be more than we are, to experience life and love more fully. We want to shine like the stars, to fly like the birds, to love like the greatest lovers. There is a lust for 'life to the full' in most of our bloodstreams.

The human heart is full of the instinct to reach out beyond itself, to bring joy and justice everywhere. There is a restlessness in all of us, a searching that is very hard to truly satisfy.

All of this has to do with God. God's seed is within us when we are born, the mystics tell us and, as we grow, so does the seed. This relentless yearning is written into the DNA of life as it is in the story of our inner spirits. It is God's incarnate, authentic signature. We know that all true human longing is God's longing. *Daniel O'Leary*

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

The Summer Edition of the Newsletter is perhaps an appropriate time to feature old photographs and extracts from the Archive of Community gardens.

Gardens have been an important part of Community life since the very beginnings. In Liège the Community grew and sold produce. Gardens continued to be an important part of life at New Hall; for 'Recreation' (the 'Little Gardens') and growing produce for Community and School (the 'Great Gardens'):
<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/archives/community-gardens/>



The Community were pleased to hear an update from Dr Hannah Thomas on her research into the Community history, with particular emphasis on our cemetery. Later in the year there will be opportunities for a wider audience to hear the fascinating stories that she has uncovered.

(See Dates for your Diary on page 4).

An update on Hannah's research can be found on her blog at:

<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/research-blog/>

ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Prioresses' Conference this year took place in our Priory in Maarssen, Holland. As you will see from the photo both Véronique and Thérèse were present and sent their love to all their friends in England. This is the last Association Conference which will take place in Maarssen.



CONFERENCE IN ROME



As Prioress General of our Association, S. Margaret Mary joined eight hundred other General Superiors for a Conference in Rome. The highlight was a ninety minute audience with Pope Francis, who warmly entered into dialogue without any of the trappings of formality of his office. You can get a flavour of the meeting by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFwD7Tq9_C8



EVALUATION VISIT

We were pleased to welcome Z. Hannah and Z. Liesbet from Belgium for a five day Evaluation visit, which takes place every six years in each Priory. Their visit ended with a Reflective Liturgy and a celebration meal.

St AUGUSTINE



"People go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering."
Saint Augustine

RECENT EVENTS

Sunday 8th of May was truly a May Day at Howe Close. Community members, Companions, and their friends gathered to meet, listen, discuss and pray. The sun shone, the garden, full of birdsong, was at its spring best and there was a sense of peace and thankfulness. Jennifer Salisbury spoke on Mary's role in the Incarnation, using as a springboard a lovely 15thC Russian icon of the Annunciation. *Valerie Quinlivan*



Many thanks to all those who organised and attended the Spring Concert in St Margaret's Church in Downham which raised money for our Sisters' work in the Congo. The next fundraising event is the Garden Party for which there are still tickets available.

(See Dates for your Diary on page 4)



PILGRIMAGE ALONG THE CAMINO TO SANTIAGO

The thirty seven Pilgrims who walked several stretches of the Camino in April all returned energised and enthusiastic after their wonderful experience. Photos and reflections from the pilgrimage are available on our Website:

<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/news-events/pilgrimage-along-the-camino-to-santiago-de-compostela/>

RWANDA VOLUNTEER PROJECT

It was good for the Community to hear from Phoebe Lim about her experiences teaching English to our Sisters in Rwanda so soon after her return in April. There will be a chance for you to hear from Phoebe in September. (See Dates for your Diary on page 4). We are currently interviewing for the next volunteers to follow Phoebe.



NEW CHURCH HALL AT ST ANNE'S

The Community living in East London have been watching with great interest their new Parish Hall being built. It is due to be opened officially this Summer and will provide a much needed community space for the Parish.



BLESSED SACRAMENT JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP



The Community in Melbourne were pleased to host one of the Parish Lent Lunches for CAFOD, organised by the Justice & Peace Group. The same group also organised a quiz night to support our Sisters in Africa and this raised six hundred pounds. We are grateful to them for both initiatives.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd July Bradwell 4:30pm join us with your picnic then 6:30pm Evening Prayer, to finish off the Festival weekend.

10th July Fundraising Garden Party in Stock 12:30pm for 1pm:

<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/news-events/africa-fundraising/>

22nd July Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

28th August Feast of St Augustine, details to follow.

3rd September Phoebe Lim speaks of her experiences in Rwanda, details to follow.

25th September Dr Hannah Thomas updates from her research, details to follow.

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