



NEWSLETTER October 2015

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)



Jesus, friend and brother, you know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty. You know the plight of the stranger who is made unwelcome. You know the suffering of all who have lost everything. We pray that by welcoming the asylum seeker we may show love for our neighbour and draw closer to you. Amen.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT



MIGRATION



The Community invited friends to view with them a film that touches some of the human issues connected with the current Migration questions. It is called 'Le Havre' and is highly recommended. Two other films on the same topic coming from this year's Venice Film Festival are 'Human' and 'Mediterranean'.

The Community arrived in England from Liege in 1794, but it was several years until they finally settled at New Hall. After arriving in Gravesend they began their search for a more permanent place to settle. In October 1794 the Community travelled to Yorkshire where they took up accommodation at Holme Hall, courtesy of Lord Stourton. Our archive account tells that the Community were unpopular in the village and were treated with suspicion. Within a couple of years they were back on the road again, travelling south to Dean House in Wiltshire where they arrived at the end of 1796.

OUR OWN MIGRATION

In 1798 New Hall came on the market. A generous donation from Mr McEvoy, the brother of one of the Community, facilitated the purchase.

The Community took possession of the building, with the first four Sisters arriving on 16th January 1799.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

In the Summer the Community were pleased to host an International Gathering of the Association, and to welcome Sisters from Africa and Europe for meetings. We also welcomed our Canon Lawyer Abbot Jos Wouters for two days. The Conference included a visit to the Orthodox Monastery at Tolleshunt Knights.



During the week of the Conference we welcomed many friends to an open session where we heard a very stimulating text on the issues of Migration written especially for us by Dr Anna Rowlands of Durham University. The full text is available on our Website at: <http://www.canonesses.co.uk/news-events/dr-anna-rowlands-talk/> As five of our African Sisters were with us for the Conference and some time after it, we were able to create some opportunities for many people to meet them and to hear more about their work in the DR Congo and Rwanda.

In August S. Margaret Mary and S. Moira visited our Sisters in the Congo and for the first time went to a new foundation in Kindu which is in the Equatorial Forest. The Sisters there are doing wonderful work amongst the very poorest people in their country.



We are delighted that Phoebe Lim will be in Rwanda helping our Sisters to learn English from October to April. She and her family and friends joined the Community for a moving send off and blessing just prior to her departure. This photo shows S. Teresa anointing Phoebe's hands.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

We were blessed with two wonderfully sunny days in the Summer to celebrate S. Angela's 80th Birthday with her family and later S. Ann's Silver Jubilee with her family.



A FULL AND BUSY SUMMER

In August, a group of Staff and friends from our School in Turnhout Belgium cycled from Liverpool to Tongerlo (1200km). It was very important for them to visit our Community and New Hall. They arrived at Howe Close in time for tea and Evening Prayer. This was a wonderful experience for the cyclists, ourselves and some Companions who joined us.



August also saw the twelfth Fun Week run by the Community and friends at the Scout Hut in Melbourne, Chelmsford. It was a week full of different activities for over a hundred children per day, animated by twenty young helpers (in yellow T-shirts).



On another sunny August day the Community hosted an afternoon tea and Evening Prayer at Howe Close with some of the Companions.

ARMS TRADE PRAYER VIGIL

The biennial International Arms Trade fair was held at ExCel which is very close to our house in East London. On the eve of the opening day S. Christina and S. Teresa Ann joined the Pax Christi Candle Lit one hour silent protest on the steps of the main exhibition hall. It was strategically timed as the exhibitors had to walk past the protestors as they left the hall, having put the final touches to their exhibits. There were between 40-60 participants including Bishop Thomas McMahon.



St AUGUSTINE



"Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage.
Anger at the way things are, and
Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th October Dr Hannah Thomas, St Andrews's Church, Melbourne Avenue, CM1 2DT.

7th November Dr Hannah Thomas and Mass for the Dead, New Hall School, Boreham, CM3 3HS, for sat nav CM1 6GY.

For more information and to book for both events <http://www.canonesses.co.uk/event-bookings/>

4th November Quiet Day from 10am, 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD.

28th November Beginning Advent, 74 Howe Close for Tea at 4pm with Evening Prayer at 4.45pm.

11th December Quiet Day from 10am, 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD.

18th December Advent Reflection, Blessed Sacrament Church, Melbourne, Chelmsford, CM1 2DU.

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

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