



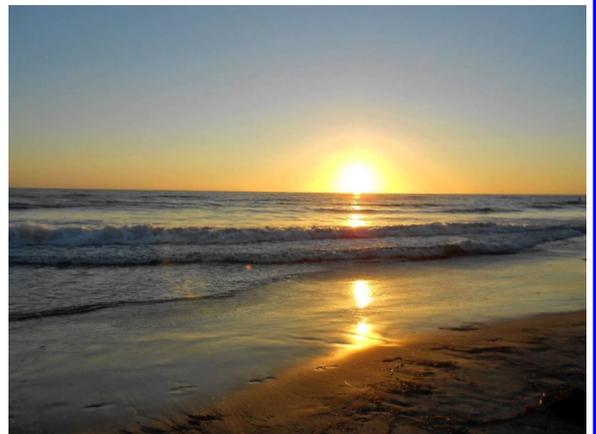
NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

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)



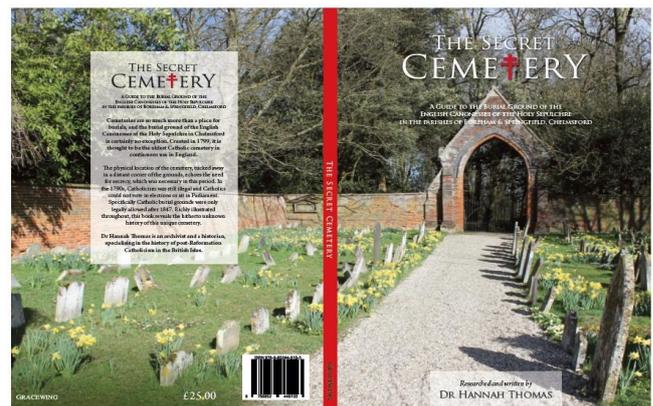
Thank you, God, for the pleasures of summer,
the bright sunny days and perfect moonlit evenings,
the smells of mown grass and air thick with rain.
For days at the lake and evenings chasing fireflies,
for holidays and festivals, picnics and barbeques, concerts and swimsuits and ice creams.
For the fireworks of thunderstorms, for watermelon sweetness,
for summer's pace and summer's grace, for all your beauty and power, faithfulness and fecundity displayed in summer.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AS SUMMER FADES



FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Dr Hannah Thomas has completed her fascinating research based around our Cemetery at New Hall. Her findings will be published in a book which will be launched on 8th October, the 375th Anniversary of our foundation. After 9th October you will be able to purchase this book via our website: [http://www.canonesses.co.uk/shop-\(plusdonate\)/](http://www.canonesses.co.uk/shop-(plusdonate)/)



An unusual burial recorded in Hannah's book:
'On March 13th 1828 was interred in the N East angle of the Burial Ground appropriated to the private use of the mansion of New Hall, the remains of a left arm, of an unknown deceased person. It had been regarded as a relic and sent in that supposition by the Hon. Mrs Butler to her niece (one of the Community at New Hall). But as no trace whatever could be found to ascertain to whom the limb had belonged, or to authorise any pious veneration due to it, it was judged prudent to dispose of it as above.'

GENERAL CHAPTER XI

Our six yearly General Chapter took place in Belgium during the Summer, and had several parts.

During the business section, we officially closed our Prioires in Holland and Brazil. This was a poignant moment for us all, as it brought a heightened awareness of our own fragility. During the reflection section we welcomed more of our Sisters and associated lay people to three full days of rich input and sharing across so many cultures, languages and experiences.



We had three main speakers during the Reflection days, with each addressing a different aspect of our Chapter theme: 'Finding Hope in Fragile Places' Dr Lea Verstricht gave a paper from a Biblical perspective. Prof Tina Beattie took a psychological approach, and Laurien Ntezimana drew on his experiences in Africa.

The liturgies during the Reflection days picked up the theme of the Chapter.

There was also an outing to Antwerp to take 'Walks of Hope' in the city, and to experience the hospitality of a catering group run to empower young people with learning difficulties.



S. Margaret Mary was warmly thanked for her leadership of the Association as Prioress General over the last twelve years and was given gifts which reflect her particular interests in liturgy and nature.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

In August the annual playscheme for local children "Summer Fun" took place on the Greenstead Estate. Members of the Community worked in partnership with local volunteers to provide activities for children during the Summer holiday, and at the end of each busy morning a hot nutritious meal was provided for over seventy children under the auspices of the national initiative "Make Lunch".



Children in Melbourne enjoyed another happy Fun Week, and also a successful visit to Marsh Farm.



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 the way they are".

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

S. Teresa Ann, S. Christina and some parishioners took part in the prayer vigil for peace at the Excel Exhibition Centre outside the arms trade fair in September. Carrying candles and banners they formed a large square on the grass area and stood there in prayerful silence from 7pm to 8pm.



WELCOMING S. THERESE

We were delighted that S. Thérèse from DR Congo was able to spend a few weeks with us before the General Chapter. She reconnected with many friends, and was able to be at the annual Garden Party which raises money for projects in the Congo. We thank Tom Willis for his hospitality and for all who helped to raise £2,000 which will complete the building of a Health drop-in centre in Kindu.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd October: Day of Prayer at Clare Priory led by S. Angela. 'Heaven in the ordinary' - George Herbert on prayer, 9.45am-4pm.

Sunday 8th October: 375th Anniversary of Foundation and launch of Cemetery book.

Sunday 29th October: Finding Hope in Fragile Places, Prof Tina Beattie, New Hall Prep School, 2pm for 2.15pm. Booking essential <http://www.canonesses.co.uk/event-bookings/>

Saturday 4th November: Mass for the Dead at New Hall, 2pm.

Wednesday 6th December: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

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

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