



NEWSLETTER Summer 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)



S. PAULINE CROWTHER RIP - GOOD FRIDAY 2014



S. PAULINE VISITING RUSSIA IN 1998



S. PAULINE IN RWANDA 2009

We have been overwhelmed by the messages of condolence and the appreciation of Pauline since her sudden death on Good Friday. So many people thought so highly of her, with her generous openness and friendship. Her appreciation of her many years at New Hall were summed up in her own words as she left there in 2006.

".....And it is not the end. One day in the fullness of time I will be placed in the Cemetery. A fitting resting place among friends for someone who believes in the Resurrection and who owes more than can ever be repaid to this place and all it stands for." And from Fishy Tales Pauline wrote "My years at New Hall have left me with an inner serenity and a deep sense of belonging."

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"There is no area of life that now falls outside the presence and activity of God. In the cross, God is found to be active and present in the midst of suffering and death - drawing good out of sorrow, salvation out of suffering and death ... In its own way the cross of Christ captures the paradox of life that those moments in which God seems most absent can be recognised as moments in which God is most present ... Instead, silence and signs, darkness and light, suffering and joy are now equally the location of God's creative presence and activity." *Daniel O'Leary*

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WEAVING DAYS IN MAARSSEN

Five members of the Community and four Companions journeyed to Holland for three days of input and reflection around the theme of water. As this came so soon after the flooding in the UK, it was a particularly topical theme.

In June some of the people who had been part of the days cascaded the experience to the rest of the Community and some Companions. The input was fascinating.

This photo shows Frances O'Dowd giving her reflections on the days.



The Weaving Days Group with Sisters and Lay People from all the European Pories.



SOME INTERESTING FACTS FROM THE MAARSSEN WEAVING DAYS

Availability of fresh water in the world: 0.3%

An average person's water footprint: visible water consumption: 8%

hidden water consumption: 92%

Examples of hidden water consumption. It takes 10,000 litres of water to make 1 kg cotton; 2,500 litres of water to make a T-shirt; 7,000 litres for a pair of jeans.



FIRST EVER GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING ON AFRICAN SOIL



In June S. Margaret Mary and S. Moira joined other members of the General Council in the Congo for an historic meeting of the General Council at Mirhi. This is a most important moment in the evolution and transition of the Association. S. Véronique and S. Thérèse, recently returned to the Congo after two years in England with us, were part of the meeting and sent many greetings to their friends in England.

S. Margaret Mary and S. Moira visited the recently completed Nutrition Centre which will serve the many orphans who are drawn to the Priory for food and support.

BUCKFAST MURAL UNVEILING



This is a photograph, taken at the occasion of the unveiling of this mural in "the Grange" at Buckfast Abbey on 2nd April 2014. It was commissioned by Buckfast Abbey as part of their celebration of one thousand years since the first monastery was founded there in 1014. The subject, at their request, is the building of their monastery from 1907-1937 by the monks themselves. The activities of the monks are taken from photographs taken at the time.

The mural was designed by S. Joanna Jamieson OSB and painted with the assistance of S. Mary Stephen CRSS. In due course we will have a better photograph to show you.

LIVING EASTER SERIES

We were pleased to welcome S. Gemma Simmonds cj to lead an evening session with us on: 'Women of the Resurrection - a Biblical Reflection.' The Community was joined by about sixty friends and Companions who were led and inspired by Gemma's thoughts on forgiveness as the first gift of the Resurrection, the importance of tenderness, and an awareness of the essential element of Thanksgiving in our Eucharistic experience. Those of us who remembered her inspiring Homily in Chelmsford Cathedral were not disappointed by this new contribution; in fact at the end of the evening people were asking for; 'more Gemma!'



CHELMSFORD DIOCESAN CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



Two of the Community in Melbourne, Chelmsford, were very pleased to be present at an evening in Chelmsford Cathedral, hosted by Bishop Stephen Cottrell with a main talk given by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. The theme of his talk was the importance of Partnership, and he encouraged all Community Leaders to work together, and to prioritise collaboration in the service of the most vulnerable members of our society.



"*Resurrectio Domini, spes nostra* - the Resurrection of the Lord is our hope."
(*Sermon 261:1*).

St AUGUSTINE



**SUMMERY
SNIPPETS**



The Community in Colchester were grateful for a wonderful day of sunshine for the very hospitable and generous lunch party for the Wisdom Group in June.

S. Hélène of Tongerlo visits a cookery class in Melbourne.



Toddlers and Wisdom summer visits to the farm.



A thank you to New Hall Prep School who raised a thousand pounds for their twin school in the Congo.



S. Ann is now back in Melbourne having spent six weeks in Colchester recuperating from a cataract operation.



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