

Keeping Christian Communities in touch.

Welcome to edition 18 of *Touching Place*. Thank you to all those who have written in support of this newsletter. We wish you all a Happy Easter. We are expecting lambs from our 4 ewes at Easter, as well as a delivery of some Berkshire weaners. The Berkshire pigs will take up residence in the new pig pen which has moved from the chicken enclosure to the bottom of the meadow so they will have more space and some shade from the trees. Pilsdon at Malling will be open in June for the Open Gardens Day as well as for other events throughout the Summer. Further details to follow and will also be displayed on our website:

www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk.

Donations to cover the cost of producing this newsletter are welcome. Please make cheques payable to 'Pilsdon at Malling' and write 'Touching Place' on the back. If you are a UK tax payer we can reclaim the tax paid on any donations made under the Gift Aid scheme send your name and address with your donation, stating that you wish it to be Gift Aided.

Roberta and Pam, editors.

Community Focus

The Society of the Sisters of Bethany

By prayer and activity, the Sisters seek to share in the work of reconciling the divided Churches of Christendom and the whole world. At the heart of each Sister's vocation is a call to prayer. Praying in the Spirit which unites us all to Christ, for the wholeness of broken humanity, for the integrity of creation, for the peace of the world and for the Kingdom of God.

The Community prays daily for the unity of Christians. The intention of the Eucharist every Thursday is for Unity and is followed by the Office of Unity. On Fridays, a three-hour Prayer Watch is kept before the Blessed Sacrament, and in addition each Sister has her own special intentions.

Each Sister makes the offering of herself in the hidden life of prayer within the Community, in the belief that God desires and accepts the offering. They are encouraged to persevere by some words of Abbe Couturier with which he concluded one of his letters to the Community: "In Christ let us pray, pray, pray for Unity." The Community motto is: 'Silentium et Spes' - In the Quietness and Confidence - Let us pray to the Lord.

The Society of the Sisters of Bethany was founded in 1866. In the 1980's the Community was



invited by the then Bishop of Portsmouth to be a praying presence within his Diocese, (there being no presence of the Anglican Religious Life within the Diocese). The House of Bethany at 7 Nelson Road, Southsea was first opened in 1986, and since 1998 it has been the home of all the Sisters.

The main active work of the Sisters is to offer hospitality to those who want to "Come apart" for a while, or for a time of quiet. A number of Sisters have received training in Spiritual Direction, and different aspects of retreat work, which includes leading Quiet Days and preaching. Other

work of various kinds is undertaken including missions, parish work and Girl Guides.

The House of Bethany itself is a resource for the parishes.

The Sisters welcome those who join them in their daily worship in Chapel, they provide

a prayerful environment for meetings of church groups of various kinds, parish away days, prayer groups and Julian meetings. The Sisters host a monthly programme of Open Quiet Days which always welcomes newcomers. The library is available to those who wish to use the resources and study - it houses the library belonging to the Readers' Training Course.

Under the patronage of the household at Bethany, the Sisters seek to live a life that is the expression of a shared concern to love and serve God and one another after the example of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

For more information please visit

www.sistersofbethany.org.uk/

or www.portsmouth.anglican.org/spirituality/sisters_of_bethany/ **or write to** 7 Nelson Road, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 2AR **or phone** 02392 833498



Left to right; Back Row: Sisters Joanna Elizabeth, Constance Mary, Mary Joy, Rita-Elizabeth, Ann Patricia; Rev Mother Gwenyth; Sister Margaret Faith. Front Row: Sisters Katherine Maryel, Florence May, Ruth Etheldreda, Christina Mary

Events



The Sisters of St. Andrew
'The Centre'

Saturday 28th June

A kaleidoscope of Prayer

10am - 4.30pm Suggested

Donation £15

A day of workshops exploring a different way of praying followed by an optional barbecue at 6pm.

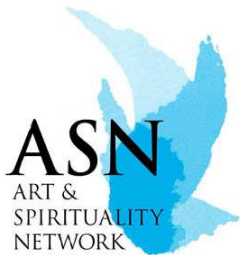
To find out more about these events or to request a program please visit:

www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com or write to Sisters of St. Andrew, 'Eden Hall', Stick Hill, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5NN; phone 01342 850388 or email thecentre@sisters-of-st-andrew.com



The Priory of Our Lady of Good Counsel have moved.

The new address is Priory of Our Lady, Dove Cottage, Kingston Ridge, Kingston-near-Lewes,, East Sussex, BN7 3JX. As we have now moved to smaller accommodation we are unable to host larger groups. We are hoping that, in time, we will be able to welcome individuals on a daily basis. **For more information please phone 01273 486677.**



The Art & Spirituality
Network

Saturday 30th May
'The Fool'

10am - 5pm, £25

A workshop led by Maria Lancaster, drawing on the

practice and teachings of Cecil Collins, at London Interfaith Centre.

The fool represents that innate, inviolate primordial innocence which perceives directly and clearly, the recovery of which constitutes for me the object of all real culture, and all real education and civilisation.

Inspired by the vision and teachings of the late Cecil Collins - whose centenary is being marked by a display at Tate Britain ('Cecil Collins and William Blake') - this workshop offers an opportunity to experience some of his teaching methods. A short video on Cecil's vision of the Fool will be shown in the morning, followed by a drawing workshop, working from the model in a series of short poses, working with movement and music, and using a wide range of drawing tools.

The afternoon will be dedicated to developing paintings

from some of the sketches from the morning session.

- ◆ All materials are provided and no prior experience is needed.
- ◆ Cost includes drinks and all materials.
- ◆ Please bring lunch to share

For further enquiries about the workshop please email maria.lancaster@waitrose.com

Saturday 4th July
**'Creative Workshop at a Gallery/
Museum'**

11am - 4pm

Led by Tomo Williams and John Harley (venue to be decided)

For more details please visit www.artandspirituality.net/ or email artandspirituality@gmail.com or phone 02089 468365

Christian Aid are

running a campaign to encourage Tesco supermarkets to continue running the Divine Chocolate brand. "Divine is both your brand and the farmers' brand. It is so much more than fair trade—through farmer-ownership, it bridges the gap between producer and consumer, and ensures that farmers share in the wealth they are indirectly creating. Let Tesco know that you still want the choice. You can help make change happen." **Please download a request postcard at www.christianaid.org.uk/stock-the-choc.**



The Well at Willen

~ Quiet Days ~

Thursday 9th April
Maundy Thursday

'Footprints in the Dust'

2pm - 5pm £10

A journey through Holy Week, an afternoon of quiet reflection and meditation on the five senses, followed by Agape Meal 6.00pm. Meal only – donation.



Saturday 16th May

Events cont'd.

'Living in the Light'

10am - 4pm £15

An exploration of Quaker values in contemporary life.
Simple lunch provided.

~ Holy Week and Easter ~

Friday 10th April

Good Friday

Open Table followed by service in the Round Room.
Meditative Labyrinth in Room A all day.

Saturday 11th April

Vigil for Peace

6.30 pm to dawn

At the Medicine Wheel - if wet in the Round Room.

Sunday 12th April

Easter Day

6am

Dawn Service at the Medicine Wheel, followed by
breakfast at the Well.

8.30pm

Compline in the Round Room.

~ Special Events ~

Saturday and Sunday 2-3rd May

Open Weekend & World Music Day

Saturday 10.00am – 9.00pm

Stalls, refreshments and Library, evening entertainment.
Cost - Donations

Sunday 12.30pm buffet lunch followed by an
opportunity to walk our Labyrinth or walk around the
Peace Park.

Cost – Donations.

Sunday 24 May

Mikron Theatre

7.15 pm, Tickets £10 (concessions £5.00)

A performance on the Paddock from their 2009 season.

~ Regular Events ~

Writing at the Well – 7.45pm – 27th April & 11th May

Art at the Well - 7.30pm – Alternate Mondays to Writing
Group. Call for details.

Circle Dancing – 2.30 – 4.00pm – 3rd Sunday of the Month
(Except April, June, August & December)

Labyrinth Walks – 1st Sunday of the Month (Except January
& August)

Healing & Wholeness - Dayspring Meetings at Willen Priory
on 1st Friday of the Month 10.00 – 12.00pm & 3rd Thursday
of the Month 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Monthly Healing Service – Held at Mary Magdalene at 12.00
noon on last Wednesday of the Month, followed by a
simple lunch at the Well.



The Well at Willen

Creating Community, Making for Encounter

Friday - Sunday 15th - 17th May

The Beautiful Life Retreat

Friday 7.30 -9.30pm Sat 10.00 - 5.00 Sun 10.30 -
3.30, £75

A time for inner adventure - reflection, guided meditation,
discussion, play and silence around Simon Parke's book
'The Beautiful Life' (ten new commandments because life
could be better). The book encourages us to discover an
authentic spirituality and calls us to life in the present
moment.



Simon has been
writing
professionally
for 25 years. He
is an engaging,
humorous and
sensitive
speaker and
retreat leader.
He was a priest
for 20 years and

went on to work in a supermarket. He currently works
freelance.

Find out more on www.simonparke.com

The Breathing Space yurt is a
unique, naturally beautiful and
comfortable space. The
weekend will centre around
the yurt but there will also be
access to a small, light-filled
chapel, art-room, gardens and
a spacious and homely
kitchen. Delicious home-
made lunches are included
using organic ingredients,
other homemade
refreshments, fruit and drink
available throughout the
weekend.



For more information please visit

www.breathingspacearts.co.uk **or write to** The Yurt, 28
Abbotts Rd, New Barnet EN5 5DP. **To book please**

email

amanda_miles@btconnect.com

or phone 02084 41 8903 **or**

07970541875. » cont. »

Spaces are limited so early
booking advisable. It will be held



Events cont'd.

at the Breathing Space yurt, a unique, naturally beautiful and comfortable space. It is not residential but arrangements can be made for overnight accommodation on request - on an individual basis according to preference and need.

New Creation Christian Community

The New Creation Christian Community is at the heart of the UK-wide church movement, the Jesus Army. Only about 25 per cent of Jesus Army members actually live in NCCC, but it represents a vital strength in our church's mission.

NCCC draws inspiration from the first Christians. We seek to emulate their common life by pooling possessions and incomes, and living together. Singles, married couples and their children, and committed celibates live together in houses ranging from ordinary three-bedroom ones to a former hotel with room for sixty people. (Many other Jesus Army members who do not live in NCCC also aim for a lifestyle of sharing, hospitality and openness.)

Something of our story

Since our beginnings in the charismatic renewal of the late 60s, NCCC has grown and spread. Now there are around 80 community houses spread over much of the UK (though concentrated in the Midlands).

In the early days, as we laboured to restore old houses that were becoming our homes, we realised that working together was a good thing. Vision was born for several businesses, owned by and staffed from the Community, which could provide a service and bring in an income for mission. We founded various businesses; today over 200 of our members are employed in them.

It became apparent that if we were to survive long-term we would have to get organised! Gifted administrators formed the structure that we still have today. Our Community Trust is responsible for the houses, furniture, equipment, vehicles and the businesses; day-to-day running costs are met from common purses at each house. There are separate funds for charitable activities.

A serving community

Community members aim to serve the ever-growing membership of the wider church – and beyond that, to serve the many people who are met and helped through Jesus Army outreach (including Jesus Centres in various cities). In turn, other church members bring life to the Community by keeping its horizons broad and its members rooted in the real world!

Our Community doesn't exist for itself. People often come and stay a while with us. Our street outreach to the disadvantaged can be backed up by the offer of a time of restoration in a family atmosphere. And Christians searching for a simpler, more authentic lifestyle, and for true Christian brotherhood, also come and stay in our houses.

All our community houses have a "friendship evening" every Thursday: anyone who would like to come for a meal and fellowship is invited. You're welcome!

For details please visit www.newcreation.org.uk **or write to** New Creation Christian Community, New Creation Farm, Nether Heyford, NORTHAMPTON, NN7 3LB **or email** info@jesus.org.uk **or phone** 08451 235550

Places



Mount Saint Bernard Abbey Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance (Trappists)

Mount Saint Bernard Abbey is situated in Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. An area of particular natural beauty in the very heart of England: 3 miles from Coalville, 6 miles from Loughborough, and 12 miles from Leicester.

We are a community of Cistercian Monks following the Rule of St Benedict according to the traditions of the Cistercian Order.

Our life is a community one, lived in a spirit of simplicity, silence, and solitude. The day is made up of a careful balance between prayer and work.

"The Cistercian Order is a monastic institute wholly ordered to contemplation. The monks dedicate themselves to the worship of God in a hidden life within the monastery under the Rule of St Benedict. They lead a monastic way of life in solitude and silence, in assiduous prayer and joyful penitence as defined in these Constitutions, thus rendering to the divine majesty a service that is at once humble and noble."

There are now 8 bedrooms available to Guests.

For more information please ring the Abbey on 01530 832298 **or visit** www.mountsaintbernard.org/ **or write to** The Guestmaster, Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 5UL

