



Touching Place Touching Place

Issue No. 12, October 2007

Keeping Christian Communities in touch.

Welcome. In this issue we focus on the community at the Well at Willen especially as they are celebrating their tenth anniversary this year and our selected 'Place' is Les Cotils Christian Retreat and Conference Centre in Guernsey. If you have any ideas for these articles or would like your Community included please email or post your ideas and news to us.

We have been enjoying a fruitful time at Pilsdon at Malling with many pumpkins harvested and other veg still coming in from the garden. We had a wonderful grape harvest this year. We managed to eat a lot of them but also sold a great many. As well as our own fruit, vegetables and meat we are also blessed with an increase in Community Members along with George, a Labrador and Roxy, a little Jack Russell. We are about to receive some more battery chickens to increase our free range egg production too.

We enjoy an 'Open House' tea, Eucharist and Supper on Sundays so all are welcome to visit us here in Kent. Despite the darker evenings and colder nights there hasn't been a decrease in the number of interesting events happening throughout the Communities. It is well worth visiting the websites or contacting them by phone for a full programme of events.

Some of you will be receiving this via email for the first time and we are expecting the inevitable teething problems. Please email us if you do have any difficulties and we will do our best to resolve them. If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter then please email us at touchingplace@googlemail.com or write to us at the address below.

Community Focus

From The Well at Willen

Although we find it hard to believe, the Well is 10 years old this year and of course we are celebrating. On 6th October we held a Thanksgiving Service, and a dedication of the Willen Library with the Bishop of Oxford, threw open our doors, put on exhibitions and ended with a meal and concert. It was a fitting thing to do for an organisation that 'Creates community.... Makes for encounter'

Over the past few weeks good wishes have been pouring in from people involved in the Well in one way or another and we would like to thank everyone

for those good wishes and for the work that made the possibility turn to reality 10 years ago.

Much has happened in those 10 years, we have suffered growing pains, we have learnt what works and often at some cost what doesn't. What we have learnt about most of all, is the infinite variety of humanity and how much communities are needed in our society today.

These days we are able to do many more things thanks to the generosity and trust placed in us by others. Recently we have improved and developed the Library, we now have a Librarian and (when completed) a computerised Catalogue, well worth a visit and well worth joining, we are also about to embark on a Ministry of Healing and Wholeness have taken up the reigns from Harmony House Christian Healing, and we continue to offer hospitality, respite and a fully developed spiritual and social programme of events throughout the year. We are also very pleased to welcome visitors to stay for short or longer periods of time.

In conclusion we would especially like to thank SSM (Society of the Sacred Mission) for believing, trusting and supporting the vision to the point where in January 2007 we became an official work of the Society, without them this could not have happened.

For further details please contact:

Rev Liz Baker, The Well at Willen,
Newport Road, Willen, Milton Keynes
MK15 9AA or email

liz@thewellatwillen.org.uk

or phone: 01908 242190.



Events

**Llangasty Ecumenical Centre, nr
Llangorse, Brecon
6th and 7th November**

Women Walking Together invite you to
meet **Professor Ursula King**

for a series of workshops to discuss women's world-wide involvement in interfaith issues and peace. **For more info please phone: 01600 716202**

Touching Place Editor, Pilsdon at Malling, 27 Water Lane, West Malling, ME19 6HH
Tel: 01732 870279 email: touchingplace@googlemail.com

Events cont'd.

Events at Sisters of St Andrew, Edenbridge

Saturday 3rd November Exploring and Praying the Labyrinth

10am - 4.30pm Fees: £15-£20

Please bring your own picnic lunch (drinks will be provided) and walking shoes if you want to explore the grounds.

The day will be led by Jean Kirkpatrick (RSCJ) and the Team. Jean is a Sister of the Sacred Heart living in London. Her ministry includes spiritual direction, using massage, labyrinth workshops, and circle dance.

Saturday 1st December A Time of Waiting

10am - 4.30pm Fees: £15- £20

Please bring your own picnic lunch (drinks will be provided) and walking shoes if you want to explore the grounds.

The day will be led by Maureen Roberts, Pat Murphy (RSCJ) and the Team. Maureen is a wife, mother, and grandmother and Pat is a Sister of the Sacred Heart. Both have engaged in Ignation Spirituality, retreats, and spiritual direction, over a long number of years.

For more information on any of these events at St. Andrew's Edenbridge please contact 'The Centre' on 01342 850388 or

email thecentre@sisters-of-st-andrew.com

Sisters of St. Andrew

'The Centre'

Eden Hall

Stick Hill

Edenbridge

Kent

TN8 5NN



The Well at Willen Sunday 11 November Caim - a capella Celtic duo

Fees: Worship, tea and concert: £25; Concert only £5

9.30am Morning Service at Willen Church

2-4pm Workshop exploring the use of music as a tool for worship.

7.30pm concert to launch their new CD 'God of the Elements' - please book by 31 October.

Friday 23 November Praying Advent

Sister Kate Holstrom, of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, uses Handel's Messiah to illustrate aspects of Advent.

Contact details on front page.



The Othona Community,
Burton Bradstock

Thursday to Sunday 1-4 November Enneagram II – Subtypes and Es- sence

£60

An advanced workshop with Karen Webb, for those who attended the introduction (8-11 March) or already know the Enneagram and their own type. Understanding the subtleties of our subtype lets us confront what really holds us back from awareness of our Essence, thus aiding our spiritual growth.

Tuesday to Monday 6-12 November Open Space

£33 per day

Classic Othona 'time out': restful days in an inclusive community context with an option of simple glass painting with Ruth Frazer.

Thursday to Sunday 15-18 November Metaphors We Live By

£15

Roy Bayfield and Jennie Barnsley return by popular demand with another taste of the Quaker Applesed method. Led meditations are followed by simple arts-based response activities (requiring no skill whatsoever!) Without coercion or intrusion, this method seems to unlock creativity and insight in a diverse range of people.

Friday to Monday 30 November - 3 December

Human Dignity, Divine Vulnerability

£99 per day

What's a human being worth? It's a key question. Especially now we can unravel DNA and mimic intelligence in machines. The implications are personal, spiritual, and political. How is the Christian idea of Incarnation relevant? We reflect on this together, at the start of Advent, through music, discussion and worship. Guest speaker(s) to be confirmed.



Friday to Sunday 7-9 December Santa's Global Take-away!

£70 per day

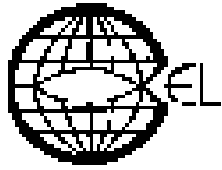
Fresh ideas for non-traditional Christmas food from around the world. Together we'll cook and eat, guided by *members of Othona's core community*. Then you *take away* the recipes for use at home.

Note that prices shown are standard adult, for other prices please refer to the Othona website.

For further details for these events contact: The Othona Community, Coast Road, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4RN **or phone** 01308 897130 **or email:** mail@othona-bb.org.uk

Events cont'd.

Christian Ecology Link at
The Chaplaincy Centre,
Lancaster University



**Keeping the Ark Afloat: All
Hands on Deck**
- a conference on -
Environmental Justice

Saturday 3rd November

Registration 10am-10.30am. Day concludes at
4pm. Fees: £8 waged, £5 unwaged

Organised for all by: **Christian Ecology Link** and the
Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission
CEL is a multi-denominational UK Christian organisation
for people concerned about the Environment

Speakers:

Ellen Teague - consequences of climate change
Ellen Teague is Editor of "Vocation for Justice" the
publication of the Columbans.

Sr Margaret Atkins - theologian - reflection

Sr Margaret Atkins taught theology at Trinity & All Saints,
Leeds and joined the community at Boarbank at Grange
over Sands in 2005.

There will be approximately 10 workshops and they will be
a mixture of practical action and theological reflection.

They will run once only:

Chris Walton - Inspiring children to live green

Jo Rathbone: -Eco Congregation

Paul Bodenham - Operation Noah

Barbara Echlin - LOAF/food

Judith Allinson - Biodiversity

Other workshops offered will include:

Water (WDM), Ethical investment, Interfaith dialogue,
Nuclear power, Models of Happiness, Recycling/energy use/
carbon footprints (Lancaster City Council), Plus a Visit to a
local council house that has been renovated to be an eco-
house.

*Participating organisations, and local organisations, can bring
materials for a stall - This must be booked beforehand.*

Contact: Margaret McSherry **by email:** lfj@fish.co.uk **or
write to:**

Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission

St Bernadette's Parish House

Bowerham Road

Lancaster LA1 4HT

Tel 01524 383081

or Laura Deacon by email: info@christian-ecology.org.uk

or phone: 01524 33858.

More details online: www.christian-ecology.org.uk/ej



People who would like to make a weekend of
the event, or to stay overnight on Friday or
Saturday, are invited to contact Laura Deacon,
who will be able to give them more
information nearer the time.

Events at the Guy Chester Centre, London

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th November
Divorce Recovery Workshop

Fees: £120 / £90 NR

DRW is run by volunteers who have attended the
workshop and is a course that deals specifically with
helping individuals come to terms with a relationship that
has irretrievably broken down. Suitable for anyone of any
age, at any stage of separation or divorce. **Visit**
www.drw.org.uk **or contact Morfa on 02088150069** for
more information.

Saturday 3rd November
**Understanding Loss, Bereavement
and Grief**

10am – 4pm Fees: £50

Gain confidence to journey alongside others in the grieving
process. Including:

- Exploring our own loss
- Discovering what helps and what doesn't
- What is 'normal'?
- Understanding the processes and tasks

Tuesday 20th November
Film Night

Cost: £10

Enjoy a good movie? Then try out our film night. Good
food and a good film, with the opportunity for discussions
afterwards.

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th December
Advent Retreat

Cost: £110 / £60 Non Residential

Treat yourself to a pause in the pre-Christmas rush. The
retreat is for you wherever you are in your spiritual life. It
is an opportunity to explore your relationship with God at
this special time of the Christian year.

**For more information on any of these events, or
the work of the Guy Chester Centre please contact
the Programme Office on 020 8883 8204, email**
admin@chestercentre.org.uk **or take a look at our
website** www.chestercentre.org.uk



**CLIMATE CHANGE SERVICE IN
LONDON ON 8 DEC - CAN YOU HELP?**

In previous years Christian Ecology Link has organised a
Service about Climate Change at the Demonstrations held
in London during the time of the Climate Talks. We would
like to hold a service this year and are keen to hear from
people who may be there or who could help. **Please**
contact Ruth Jarman ruth@sjarman11.wanadoo.co.uk

Events cont'd.

Scargill House, Yorkshire

Friday to Sunday 16-18 November

The Fairground Mirror

- a weekend engaging with the media

Fees: £122

Every day TV, radio and the internet tell us scores of unconnected stories. Like a distorting mirror in a fairground they amuse and confuse us, telling us something like the truth about the world we live in. How can viewers, listeners and surfers survive the digital story-storm and learn to engage with the media and even grow through it? The course is led by Andrew Greystone, a programme maker for BBC1 and BBC Radio 4. He is also the Director of the Churches Media Council. The weekend is for viewers, listeners and programme-makers alike. It begins with a meal at 7pm and concludes at 4pm on the Sunday.

Monday to Thursday 19-22 November

The Word Became Flesh

Fees: £158

Avoiding the sentimentality of the approaching Christmas season, we ask what 'incarnation' has to say to the suffering world. How does God taking on human flesh motivate us to be bearers of good news? We'll listen to and learn some of the songs of freedom from across the world and consider what a contemporary theology of liberation might have to say to us in our search for justice and peace. The course is led by Geoff Weaver & Dilly Baker. Who is it for? For all who suspect there is a harsher reality to the message of Christmas than the one we often encounter and who are prepared to be challenged by it.

Monday to Friday 19 - 23 November

The Tree of Life - an experiment with textiles

Fees: £205

Taking the 'Tree of Life' as the primary source of inspiration, experiment with textile techniques e.g. fabric painting, appliqué, mark making and 3D treatment of fabric surfaces. Understand more of the symbolism of colour and create your own response to the 'Tree of Life'. This course is both for beginners and those with some experience in creative textiles. It can also be of help to those who would like encouragement to take a few risks and develop their own style in textile work.

Contact Scargill by email: info@scargillhouse.co.uk,
phone: 01756 760234 **or write to:**

Scargill House Ltd.
Kettlewell
SKIPTON
North Yorkshire, BD23 5HU



Contemplative Fire

Contemplative Fire is a movement, a community and an adventure, celebrating life in all its fullness on the Way of Christ and is holding events on:

2007: Sep 8th, Nov 10th

2008: Jan 12th, Mar 8th, May 10th, and July 12th.

Living the Mystery:

The way of Christ the Contemplative

6 Saturdays over 10 months

9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees are a recommended minimum contribution:

£210 for all 6 prebooked or £40 per session.

Travel to the heart of Christian Spirituality on an experiential journey led by Philip Roderick, Jo Rowbotham and guest presenters in Thame near Oxford
Prebooking is essential.

To ensure a place, please register by contacting:

Contemplative Fire,
The Old Smithy,
Hawridge Common,
Chesham, HP5 2UQ

email: info@contemplativefire.org **or phone:** 01494 758878 **or visit:** www.contemplativefire.org

Places

Les Cotils Christian Retreat and Conference Centre, Guernsey

Set above St Peter Port, one of Europe's most picturesque harbour capital stands Les Cotils Christian Retreat and Conference Centre in Guernsey. Surrounded by 12 acres of gardens this elegant Victorian house has stunning views overlooking all of the Channel Islands and the French coast beyond.

Les Cotils Guernsey retreats provide comfortable, affordable St. Peter Port hotel accommodation for individuals or groups in a peaceful and relaxing environment. Twenty-eight bedrooms offer a choice of single, twin, double or family rooms. Some rooms have sea views.

The Andrew Mitchell Library has many excellent references - books, videos and audio cassettes.

The new purpose-built Guernsey Conference Centre facilities cater for: business meetings, exhibitions, seminars, wedding receptions, conferences and banqueting, seating up to 200 delegates or guests.

Contact Les Cotils on 01481 727793 or visit their website at <http://www.lescotils.com/>

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St. Peter Port
Guernsey
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