



# CAIM

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

CAIM is the Celtic word meaning 'encompassment' or 'encircling'

*Trevor Miller writes:*

## A Place of Complete Surrender

On a recent visit to Roslin to see Brother John, my spiritual director, who along with Roland Walls, was a founding member of the Community of the Transfiguration, we talked about the significance of those spiritual influences that had shaped our formation and spirituality as respective Communities.



One strong influence on Roslin's way of being was the example of the former French soldier, Charles de Foucauld, whose life spanned the 19th and 20th centuries. He became a Trappist Monk and a hermit in the Algerian desert and after his death his followers established the Little Brothers of Jesus to keep his values alive. I mentioned how many of the influences on Roslin had in turn found their way into our own lived spirituality as Northumbria Community, not least their regular use of de Foucauld's Prayer of Abandonment which became our Day 4 meditation in Celtic Daily Prayer.

We talked about how challenging this prayer was and that many people found it hard to say the words. Indeed I had quite recently talked with a minister closely associated with Roslin who simply and honestly said 'I can't say it'. It reminded me of those good folk I often encountered as a pastor, who felt they were not worthy to take communion or share in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, because they were sinful and not good enough. This is, of course, an understandable error caused by misrepresenting ourselves as unworthy rather than realising that it is because we are unworthy that we can come in Jesus' Name at his invitation because he is worthy through his death and resurrection for us. Our worthiness comes from Jesus, not ourselves.

Certainly to pray 'whatever you do, I will thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all' demands integrity and faith but it is important to understand that what we know as the 'Prayer of Abandonment' is not actually a prayer that Charles de Foucauld wrote for any eventual companions, or even one he prayed himself. Rather it is his reflection on the prayer of Jesus to his Father, written while he was a Cistercian monk in Syria, as he meditated on the Passion narratives in the Gospel. Brother John explained it to me when he said, 'it is the prayer of Jesus in his Passion; it is not our prayer.' It is identifying with the Passion of Jesus, imagining what Jesus went through and the prayers, emotions and desires he expressed to his Father at this momentous time; it is following in his steps, standing in the prayer with him and all who call his Name. Brother John continued 'It's like holding on to the hanging strap while standing on a train or bus, going with the twists and turns, starts and stops of the journey, feeling its every movement.' *Cont'd on Pg3*

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*We receive many humbling and heart-warming greetings, and this one stood out:*

I serve as a missionary in Cambodia, and for the past year my assignment has been among tribal groups in the north-eastern corner of the country. It is a very rural area with people groups that, until recently, have been relatively isolated.

Among my responsibilities are the training of leaders for the villages' churches and the development of young emerging leaders. I serve among three language groups: the Jarai, the Kachok, and the Tampuan. Christianity is very young here; people first became believers here in the 1990s.

The leaders have recently been asking me about how I seek God daily and, having practiced the daily office for quite some time, we are now translating it into a couple of the local languages for local people to use. I have attached drafts of the Evening Prayer in Khmer (the national language in Cambodia) and Jarai. The young leaders have embraced the practice of the evening prayer and are teaching it to their youth groups. The Kachok language has not yet been put into writing, but the young Kachok men are so energised about the prayer format that they want to create an alphabet to translate the prayer into their language. I don't think they realise how much work that will entail!



Here is a picture of some of the young men who have helped with the translations, which are still in draft form at this point. We will continue to revise them until we feel they will endure for usage

among the large populations.

I just wanted you to know that the ministry of the Northumbria Community ripples out in far-reaching ways, and resonates in the faith-journeys of many people.

### Welcome to the Winter edition of Caim!

It's such a pleasure for us to put Caim together each season. All of life is here; encompassing the pain and sadness of parting with loved ones, to the joy of new births - and all stations in between. It's always humbling to hear how the gifts of Community touch people far beyond our immediate 'circle', and to hear about how Community folk live out their seeking after God in the midst of the stuff of life.

Would you like to contribute a few sentences...?

Enjoy this issue of Caim!

*Jeff & Ingrid*

## A (final) Northumbrian Week in Prague

Our partnership with IBTS (the International Baptist Theological Seminary) in Prague has been mutually enriching. Several Companions and Friends have been part of the 'Northumbrian Week' there in the Spring over recent years. We were delighted to welcome Lina Andronoviene who spent 10 days with us in October, based at Nether Springs. The Seminary is shortly to move from Prague.

Because this is to be the last year in Prague for the Seminary, we want to encourage as many Companions and Friends as possible to join us for our last week there. It's a great opportunity to meet, learn and listen to the stories and experiences of staff and students from other parts of the world and to deepen the bond and partnership that we share together in Christ. The week will run from **Sunday 10 to Friday 15 March 2013.**



Come and join us for a very special week. The days are built around our Daily Offices. After breakfast and morning office, there are teaching sessions and workshops till lunchtime, then free time to explore the city and valley before some optional workshops in the late afternoon and free evenings to relax over a meal or drinks together. The delightful premises are set in the lovely Sarka Valley, just 15 minutes by bus and metro from the beautiful city centre of Prague, with its Old Town Square, Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, Castle Cathedral and the riverside.

Put the date in your diary now! The cost will be approximately £265 per person to share en-suite room or £310 for single room with shared bathroom and kitchen. The price includes accommodation, breakfast and lunch and participation in the programme. Cheap and reasonable flights can be obtained from most UK airports if booked early. To reserve your place, contact Jean: [jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org)



*Cont'd from Pg 1*

We can only make the journey from the Upper Room to Gethsemane, from Calvary to the Empty Tomb and on to Pentecost, by faith, as we are united in Christ. It is the outworking of the scripture "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Our Day 4 meditation has become an important prayer for us as Companions in Community, because we are aware that we can never say it alone. We pray it with Jesus and each other because we want to grow in this spirit of abandonment uniting ourselves 'in a place of complete surrender' to his love and grace, mercy and forgiveness, as part of the mystery of faith. In monastic terms we would speak of renunciation, laying everything down in an acceptance of the will of God and our submission to it, knowing this was the road Jesus has travelled before us. To follow in his steps, is a representation of our surrender to Jesus as we continually say yes to Availability and Vulnerability.

This is particularly apt as we enter the season of Advent; as we come to the end of another year, facing an unknown future, yet knowing that whatever the stops and starts, twists and turns we will experience in 2013, we're holding on to the Lord of the Journey, moving united in Christ as Companions in Community. So what better prayer can we offer, alone and together, than to embrace the Spirit of Jesus within us and echo his words of faith:

Father,  
I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will.  
Whatever you do, I will thank you:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me, as in all your creatures.  
And I'll ask nothing else, my Lord.

Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
I give it to you  
with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord,  
and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands,  
with a trust beyond all measure,  
Because you are my Father.



*Debbie Hill from New Hampshire brought this reflection at the time of making her vows:*

**Our pilgrim journey isn't linear, but more like a spiral. As Companions we revisit the Rule of Availability and Vulnerability and live into the three questions over and over**

- not only throughout the church year, but in every season of our particular and collective lives. Our pilgrimage alone/together could also be depicted by the labyrinth, which originally brought Cyndy and me together and which I helped the folks at First Baptist to design about seven years ago. Though we pilgrims meander back and forth, our lives are always centered upon God.



Another image very dear to my heart is the table. As we experienced the beautiful Seder Meal under Anne and Bob's heartfelt guidance, my thoughts drifted back to the many meals we have shared since I have journeyed with the Community: pot lucks, Shabbats, and even a spontaneous communion meal over which I was asked to preside several years ago, where I read the passage about the disciples on the Road to Emmaus finally recognizing the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. Although we of NC in Keene do not have a fixed place where we meet, it deeply touched my heart to return to First Baptist Church. There I first met Alan and Sarah and saw her powerpoint presentation about NC with beautiful photos of Holy Island, Hetton Hall and the Northumbria landscape. It is truly a landscape of the heart.

Then, of course, there was this year's Hild Liturgy for renewing our vows. Hild was the Celtic saint whom I chose and I have journeyed with her for several years, praying for: "The right seat, the fitting task, and the willing heart." When Cyndy gave me a butterfly, I was touched and amused because the "thank you" card that I gave her also had the image of a butterfly. My journey with NC through the past five years has kept me rooted and grounded in God's amazing love and grace. On the Monday evening after our time together, I sat before the fire in our living room in Jaffrey and played Anna Raine's CD called "Ancient Paths" - which Anne and Bob had given me. In the song, "Here Am I," are the words: "And now Lord, I give my life to You completely. I trust it all into Your mighty hand. And by Your grace, I know that I will stand. And I thank You for my place within Your plan." I chose Hild because she had a talent for teaching, working with both men and women and assisting people in reconciling their differences. For me, completing the Novitiate and transitioning to Companionship is but another way point on my journey. And with humility, I await God's leading as I prepare to retire from parish ministry.

*Debbie Hill*



## *We asked Jane Perkins to tell us what's happening at* **L'Abri à Suvigny - Northumbria Community in France**

This year has seen big changes in our arrangements at Suvigny. Jane ceased teaching at Bishop's Stortford College in early July and was able to take up the role of retreat leader and site manager for the work and life at L'Abri. Sarah and others were able to come and share the life and work there, and it was possible for people to drop in with not too much notice. So it has been much more possible to offer hospitality of home and heart than before. As in the past, De Spil was part of the scene with a working retreat as well as one devoted to studying Henri Nouwen. People continue to be blessed and challenged by God while here, and for that we give thanks.



Due to the building of the new extension on the house by Ian our friend and contractor, the summer proved to be a fantastic time of community spirit and fun as well as hard work. The whole frame was being crafted in green oak and was very heavy, so aided by the Dutch group and French neighbours in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual experience much gesticulation and good humoured banter ensued while everybody contributed their ideas and skills to the whole and Ian more or less managed to keep the troops in order!



Two musical evenings were also arranged - a Taizé evening and a ceilidh of popular light music where people played their own

instruments, or manufactured ones for the purpose.

The annual gathering of the Other Houses was held at Suvigny this year, for the double purpose of celebrating the baptism of Cherrieann Barnes and the Blessing of the House of L'Abri à Suvigny.

The baptism was a very special day of blessing for all – starting with Morning Office at Suvigny, a trip to the beach where St



Columbanus is reputed to have landed for the baptism, followed by Holy Communion on the beach led by Pete Askew. Our local Normandie Community group were able to share in this lovely day. They also get involved in the fortnightly monastic retreat days that Jane can organise now that she is there the bulk of the time.

The next retreat is the Easter Weekend Retreat from 28 to 31 March 2013. Anyone interested in coming should contact Jane and Andrew: [ncinfrance@gmail.com](mailto:ncinfrance@gmail.com)

**Calling believers with courage and imagination who want to address the challenges and opportunities of post Christendom - join the Crucible Course** run by Urban Expression in association with our Community and other partners.



Crucible runs three training weekends each year to equip and resource Christians who follow Jesus on the margins. It's not too late to join two of them - for further details and to book a place go to [www.cruciblecourse.org.uk](http://www.cruciblecourse.org.uk)

### **Stream 1**

**Urban Challenge** (2-3 February 2013) examines the dynamics of mission and ministry in our multicultural urban communities, where Christendom has faded first.

**Creating New Churches** (18-19 May 2013) offers resources for pioneering new churches – and new kinds of churches – in emerging cultures, and renewing existing churches.

### **Stream 2**

**Becoming Human** (2-3 February 2013) probes the dynamics of discipleship and asks how we can become more fully human as followers of the Son of Man.

**Jesus Unplugged** (18-19 May 2013) imagines how we might re-tell the story of Jesus today in ways that connect with contemporary cultures.

*After a long illness, our friend and Companion Elizabeth Mackey died recently. Here are a few extracts from the tribute which was brought on behalf of Community at her funeral:*

A principled woman of faith who lived what she believed, she embodied in her life and ministry the values and Rule of Life that she embraced as a Companion in the Community.



She entered the novitiate process with a searching heart and an enquiring mind, taking seriously the intentionality to seek God and to serve his purposes through our Community's Rule of Life. She remained a loyal and faithful Companion through the changing seasons of the Community's life.

A person of great character and determination, she faced her illness with courage. Resolute and determined, she achieved great things in spite of her illness and whilst there will be a missing final chapter of the book she was writing, like an unfinished symphony, her life continues to be a source of great blessing to many.

*Shortly before she died, Elizabeth had sent us this contribution for Caim, and it seems fitting to include it here:*

**An offering for Caim, which encompasses the privileges and confusions of having time to pray in the hospice.**

## Praying Office

*... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord ...*

Medicines, tidy up, cup of tea. Anything else? Settle down.

Now, where were we?

*... Who is it that we seek ...?*

Two hours later and what do I want for breakfast?

Recovery time.

*do I seek him with all my strength? Amen. Lord, have mercy.*

*The house of the Lord outside the window, leaves blowing in the sunlight.*

*The house of the Lord inside the room, Sara making sure cleanliness is next to godliness.*

*The house of the Lord out on the ward, doctors and nurses balancing medication.*

Catering and domestic staff ensuring my sense of well-being. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless*

*glory!*

Now where were we?

*... Psalm, Old Testament, New Testament*

CDP too heavy to lift.

*Ps 103: Praise the Lord, O my soul ... And forget not all his benefits ...*

Now where were we?

*... All these people popping in and out think I am asleep.*

Sometimes I am...

*Old Testament:* the Sacred Space website features the Gospels, but the preparation is often food for thought. My body is a temple, but it is crumbling away like an old chapel. I don't want my family to be left with a Wailing Wall.

*New Testament:* Jesus told Thomas, 'stop doubting and believe'. Elsewhere, I respond, 'Lord, I believe. Help thou my unbelief'.

More interruptions, one with much food for thought.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart... I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

*...teach us, dear Lord, to number our days,*

*that we may incline our hearts unto wisdom ...*

Now where were we?

*Prayers for others.*

The Community list. I missed yesterday, but add them today.

The family and friends list.

The staff here and the patients, the volunteers and fundraisers.

The world outside will have to manage without me.

Now where were we?

*In the shadow of your wings, I will sing your praises, Oh Lord.*

*The Lord is my light, my salvation, Whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the refuge of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?*

Medicines, tidy up, cup of tea, anything else? Settle down.

*The Peace of all peace be mine this night.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen*

**Love and blessings to Companions and Friends.**

**God is good.**

**Elizabeth Mackey**

*The memory of a good person is a blessing indeed.*





## Lancashire Autumn Gathering

On 17 November we had our Autumn gathering in the 'revamped' St John's Church at Yealand (near



Carnforth). On a cold, grey, late autumn day the church was cosy and warm with a newly-created area for our four 'resident' musicians - Meryl, Peter, Vince, and Michael – to lead our worship. Their efforts were much appreciated by all.

After an excellent lunch together Michael Connaughton led our afternoon session on the theme 'Who is my neighbour?' (Luke 10:29). We spent time quietly in contemplation in church, working out our interpretation of 'neighbours'. As dusk gathered, prayerful and atmospheric music helped focus our thoughts.

It was a really good day - especially for Meryl whose birthday was celebrated in song, with a sharing of her cake and receipt of presents.

Do come along and join us in the New Year if you can. We'll meet at St. John's Church, Yealand on 16 Feb, 18 May, 17 Aug, and 16 Nov (meeting for Midday office followed by a bring and share lunch). More info and directions from Di Smith: [dianesmith1@me.com](mailto:dianesmith1@me.com). *Lee Johnson*

## Andy Foster is the man to tell us about Financing of the Mother House

The last two years have been a real roller-coaster ride in setting up the new Mother House at Acton Home Farm, not least from a financial point of view.



We have much to be thankful for in terms of God's provision for us, and in terms of the generosity of Community folk and others who have wished to bless us - including our landlord.

The challenge this year, and as we look forward, is the day-to-day financing of the Mother House. The costs of being at Acton Home Farm are significantly higher than Hetton Hall, but thankfully the income from folk coming to stay has been higher too. This has enabled us to continue to work on a suggested donation basis rather than charging a set fee - so anyone, regardless of means, can come to stay. From a financial perspective, the seasonal dip over the winter is the greatest anxiety, as the costs remain the same whilst income, from fewer folk coming to stay, dwindles.

This is one reason why regular giving (gift aided where possible) is so important to the Community, as it arrives in the account every month all year round. The next significant financial challenge is the building of a chapel. We already have £7,800 towards this, which is a great start - although we still need a further £12,000. In the next edition of Caim, I'll be giving a breakdown of income and expenditure for the Community as a whole. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

*Andy Foster*

*Chris Saunders reflects on a recent Quiet day in the SW of England, at the home of Malcolm & Sarah Kinch.*

### **Our quiet day, wonderfully led by Duncan and Lesley MacLean, highlighted for me the paradox of alone and together.**

We were socially together in the welcoming time of hugs and greetings and in catching up on news over a delicious bring and share lunch. We were together spiritually in Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer and the sharing of bread and wine in Holy Communion. Together we listened to the thought provoking talks, entitled 'Slow Down, You Move Too Fast' and 'Go to Your Cell and Your Cell Will Teach You Everything', given by Duncan. Then, although together in the same building, we went alone to our times of resting in God and seeking Him in the cell of our own hearts.

My focus for the quiet times was the wonder of creation in Malcolm and Sarah's garden; for the first hour or so

watching the drama of life being played out around the bird feeders. I was amazed at how peaceful I felt while surveying such a busy scene. Later, while enjoying the warmth of the sun, I concentrated on the beautiful colours of the flowers, the many fragrances, the sounds of birds, bees and, in the distance, children happily playing. I very strongly felt the presence of God during these times. In fact, I felt God's spirit with us throughout the day.

As with any Northumbria Community gathering, I came home spiritually refreshed and with renewed resolve to seek God in all the busyness of life.



*David Pott relates a summary of going*

## **Forward to the Ancient Future: The inaugural pilgrimage on the Two Saints Way**

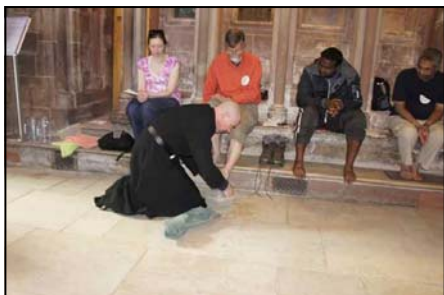
**It's quite a challenge to summarise such a momentous week, but I will do as best as I can!**



First of all we were blessed with the most amazing weather. Secondly it was a great core group who completed the journey from Chester to Lichfield; they looked out for each other and welcomed all who joined us for days or half days. Finally we received the most wonderful hospitality all the way. It can rightly be said that the Two Saints Way is a product of hospitality.

So to some of the week's highlights:

- We began in a beautiful place – having a picnic in the cloister garden at Chester Cathedral beside the beautiful Water of Life statue by Stephen Broadbent. A moving commissioning service followed before the west doors were opened for us to take our first steps to Lichfield.
- When we arrived in Wybunbury, we were delighted to see the first Two Saints Way waymarks already in place beside the leaning tower of St Chad's.
- On Wednesday the bells peeled out from St



Bertoline's, Barthomley, as we began the day's walk, then they followed us all day ringing to celebrate the opening of the Two Saints Way at St James, Audley, St Mary's, Wolstanton and at Stoke Minster at the end of the day. That was a lovely gesture that encouraged us on our way!

- On Thursday we revived the ancient practice of preaching at the two old crosses at Stoke Minster and St Mary's, Trentham. Also we were joined by two Saxon pilgrims from the Poor Knights of St Chad re-enactment group.
- Reviving pilgrimage practices was a major feature of the journey. On Friday we brought stones to Stone which used to be done to remember that the martyr princes Wulfad and Rufin were buried under a pile of stones. On the final day we walked in silence down Cross in Hand Lane carrying hand crosses made of olive wood from Bethlehem and then in the pedilavium at Lichfield Cathedral our feet were washed by Canon Pete Wilcox. All these were moving and meaningful occasions and amazing to think they had probably not been done for over 460 years!

The final event began with us walking with the Bishop of Lichfield from the cathedral by Stowe Pool to St Chad's Well, waving palm leaves and singing "To be a pilgrim." A short dedication service followed during which the first interpretation panel was opened by the Bishop. It was a great occasion and many commented on the high quality of the panel.



My lasting impression is of a grace-filled experience and of profound gratitude for all the kindness and cooperation we have received on this pilgrimage. Above all I am thankful to God, the source and inspiration for the Two Saints Way.

*David Pott*

Photo credits: Tim Saxton: Castle Ring, footwashing  
Ian Law: Bishop of Lichfield & David Pott

*Cathy Hutcheon writes:*

**Pictured here are Marion Stephens-Cockcroft with her husband Jim** and a group of Carrying Place friends and neighbours on the steps of St Andrew by the Lake on Toronto Island. We gathered on August 4th for a joyful celebration of Marion's welcome as a Companion in The Northumbria Community. Marion made her vows and used several pieces of her art work to share her story. Reflections and responses throughout the day were around 'The Beauty of the Lord'. Marion and Christine (Robertson) led us in colourful ways through which we could express our thoughts and prayers. Marion, for a goodly while, has been so much more than a casual acquaintance. It was our privilege to welcome her as a Companion.





*We asked Fran Caldcleugh to tell us about her experience of the*

## **Northumbria Week at Lee Abbey**

I thoroughly enjoyed the Community week at Lee Abbey. It was the second time that I had attended this week, and this time the leaders took us gently through the underlying principles of the Community. So we had sessions on availability, vulnerability, simplicity of life, missional living, church without walls. I have been a Friend of the Community for a few years, so I found it very interesting to hear in more detail about what these concepts can mean in everyday



life. So much of what I heard resonated with other strands of my journey, so for me this week was very timely. Certain phrases - such as 'go to your cell and your cell will teach you everything', 'hospitality of the heart', 'intentional vulnerability' - took on new meaning for me, and I was challenged by the need for inner as well as outer simplicity. We also had very meaningful times of worship.

There was plenty of opportunity to relax with other guests and explore the beautiful Lee Abbey estate. This time I decided to treat myself to a room at the front of the building, and I just loved gazing at the view down to the beach and along the coast. *Fran Caldcleugh*



*Rob & Clare Hunt told us they'd been sent on*  
**A 'rubbish mission' from Roy Searle!**  
**Summer 2011, and I was trying to figure out where to take the family for a camping holiday.**

I remembered from a cycling trip around the Hebrides that there were lovely campsites on white sandy beaches along the west coast of Scotland - but they were all full! Eventually, we found a campsite which fitted the bill, on the Isle of Arran, and yes, they had a space for our tent.

The island is described as Scotland in miniature and as we travelled on the ferry we could see its mountainous peaks to the north giving way to a more gentle lowland landscape in the south.



Our campsite in Kildonnan (from the Gaelic for 'church of St Donnan') looked out to sea and had its own beach, just as I had hoped. One day on our travels round the island Clare had a text from Jean Watson, about an upcoming Community event. Clare mentioned in passing, in her response, that we were having a lovely holiday on Arran. Soon, another text came back with instructions from Roy, that went something like this: "go to Sannox, find an old white church and quietly pray there".

This sounded interesting! We duly began our search. Sannox is a tiny village with one road, so finding the church should have been easy - but we went up and down

the road several times and FOUND no sign of a church.

Our children Ammi (nearly 7) and Daniel (8) were perplexed by our wandering up and down the road for no apparent reason. We explained that we had been given a special mission. "Oh, what sort of mission?" Daniel quizzed. "To find a church!" To which he replied "that's a rubbish mission!". The next day with OS map in hand, we discovered the Sannox church hidden down a tree lined track.

The site had the feel of a thin place, and I felt a tingle down the back of my neck as we quietly prayed.

Later we discovered that whilst we were on the island important negotiations were taking place for the church and associated buildings to be bought, with a view to them becoming a centre for prayer. Since then we have met George and Fiona Hazel, and have prayed for the developments of the Sannox centre, which has already seen some remarkable answers to prayer through this year.

This summer we felt drawn to revisit Arran, and Sannox in particular. We visited the site and prayed in the church. We talked to individuals living on the island who have been involved with Sannox and shared with them our story.

We witnessed some special 'God moments' that week, which have inspired some thoughts about how we might be involved in the future with the centre. One very special moment involved a night time fire, a boat and a mackerel..... but that's another story! *Rob & Clare Hunt*

*Watch out for more information about the significant and exciting development at Sannox in the next edition of Caim!*



*Three Companions in the Northumbria Community, Toronto Carrying Place, Duke and Deborah Vipperman and Christine Robertson, along with Novice, Karen McDonald and a handful of other Carrying Place friends set up and led a week's retreat at Camp Kahquah, Ontario this August.*

**We used offices and prayers from Northumbria Community to anchor the day,** accompanied by guitar and dulcimer. Teaching and meditations were centred on the themes of



availability and vulnerability. There were about forty of us, alone and together. The spaces were arranged using George Ling's Seven Sacred Spaces: Chapel, Cell, Cloister, Garden, Refectory, Scriptorium – everything but Chapter – which we held wherever we found private space.

There were quiet sedentary activities such as beading, water colouring, and Celtic writing in the 'Scriptorium'. Campers could swim, hike and kayak. In the evenings there was storytelling and song around the campfire. A favourite was on the life of Caedmon. Deborah (who was as nervous as Caedmon ever felt at the prospect!) sang Christine's translation of his song, while Christine wetted

the eyes of the listeners, to represent how there wasn't a dry eye in the house when Caedmon sang.

Cathy Hutcheon had brought back from her visit in July to Nether Springs, Anna Raine's Ancient Paths and a Mary Fleenon 'How to do Celtic Design' book. Both of these proved to be precious resources in the week.

There was fun and laughter. Yet deep healing. One participant spoke of how, after the week, she and her husband found that they could speak frankly and forgivingly about something they had not been able to talk about for two decades!

Roughly half of the participants at the retreat were regular attendees at what has become informally known as Grad Camp. This is because the retreat was initiated by Intervarsity people in the seventies, who didn't want to lose the pleasures of joining together at a camp



retreat, just because they had left University and it was time to be 'grown up'. One of Duke's happy slips-of-the-tongue became truly emblematic of the precious week: no longer *Grad Camp* - God has made us *Glad Camp*!

*Cathy Hutcheon*

**Do we have your correct email address?** If you change your email address, do please let Ellen know, so we can keep our records up to date. If you're not sure whether we have your current one, then just send her an email and she'll take care of everything. She can be reached here: [office@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:office@northumbriacommunity.org)

*Mary Publicover reports on a new type of meeting held in the Midlands.*

**Just at the start of Lent, twenty Companions and committed Friends of the Northumbria Community gathered at Sutton Coldfield.**

It was significant that this was called a 'Chapter' rather than a 'Gathering', for although we shared a meal and said Morning and Midday Prayer and the Chad liturgy together, this gathering was more about talking business than sharing time together, catching up, or receiving some teaching. I was quite excited from the beginning about the purposeful tone set by Caroline Ramsey, our convenor.

We were there to talk about mission, to explore what Northumbrian mission might look like in Mercia. The day was facilitated by Caroline, using methods that she has developed in her work as a management teacher. This certainly made the day feel very different from a conventional Community Gathering, perhaps leaving some Companions a bit uncomfortable because of that?

We started by writing initial ideas about mission on post-it notes, and then worked in pairs or threes to consolidate these ideas into more general topics. Our conversations roamed far and wide. Shuffling post-it notes worked well to get us thinking and talking. In the end, we focused on three topics for further discussion: contemplative activities, creative mission, and exploring the past and relating it to the present.

The conversations in the afternoon gave Companions a chance to share in groups what they were doing 'missionally', and consider new ideas. We came at the topic from many different starting places. I personally discovered again how hard I find it to really listen, especially given a task to complete. I kicked myself later for being so full of my own thoughts; I missed some chances to learn from others.

And so I hope we will have another opportunity. The day was purposeful, and I enjoyed the energy of that. We are committed to singing the Lord's song, and we have barely begun to explore what that means. Teach me to listen, Lord. Looking forward to the next chapter meeting!

*Mary Publicover*

Judith Goodfellow brings us a

## Community Resources update

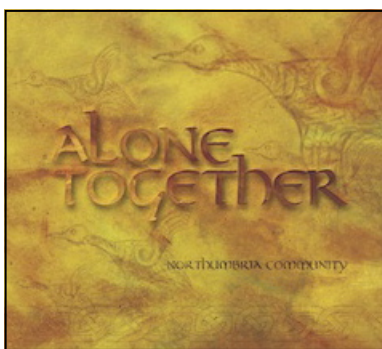


Firstly a big thanks to all of you who contacted me to give feedback following my update in the last edition of Caim and the e-bulletins that have followed it. It was great to

hear from you all and to know that you appreciate being kept in touch with what is happening in the world of Community resources.

As many of you will know from the website, and the recent e-bulletin, we now have a **new Community CD!**

Its mix of musical styles, performed by singers and musicians from around the world in languages old and new, reflects the diversity of Northumbria Community.



Entitled '**Alone Together**', it draws on the gifts of individual Community folk who, like most of us, are living out their call to Community mostly alone, and brings them together to create something that is greater than the sum of its parts.

We are very grateful to all who have given their time and talents to bring this project to completion. Particular thanks go to Martin and Bekah Neil who have travelled

around the UK and the USA to record the tracks and have spent many hours editing and mixing the recordings, and guiding everyone else involved in the mysterious processes of music production. Thanks too to Lynda Owen-Hussey for her beautiful painting that forms the background to the cover artwork. With over 50 musicians and singers taking part, not to mention all the others working behind the scenes, it would be impossible to mention everyone, but have a look at the centre pages of the booklet enclosed with the CD and you may well be able to spot some familiar faces. We only wish we could have got everyone in!

If you are visiting the website to buy our new CD, can I encourage you to have a look at the **online bookshop** while you are there? Many of you will have been aware that, following the closure of Cloisters last year, we had to reduce the number of books available by mail order and just focus on providing access to our core products such as CDP, music and teaching CDs and the 'How Then Shall We Live' series of booklets. It will take a few months to complete, but I am now starting to build the selection of books up again, so that far more of the books available for sale in the bookshop at Nether Springs can also be bought online, or by a phone-call to the office, and posted out to you.

I am also in the process of getting all the books on the current **Novitiate reading list**, that are still in print, into the shop. These are spread across the categories, according to their subject matter, but viewing them in this way will hopefully introduce you to other similar books that may be of interest, should you want to read more widely around a topic.

Many of you have chosen something from our selection of Advent books and so, in the New Year, I will be sending out another bulletin with suggestions for Lent readings. If any of you have particular recommendations that you would like to share with others in Community then please feel free to send them in to me either by email [judith.goodfellow@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:judith.goodfellow@northumbriacommunity.org) or by phone or post to the office at Nether Springs.

## Journeying with Brendan – at Easter and beyond

Planning for next year's Easter workshop resources is now underway.

Feedback received about last Easter's resources was very positive, and so we will continue with a similar format for this coming Easter to develop the 'Follow the Example' series.



It is worth reiterating that the purpose of creating these resources is not simply to provide material for gatherings at Easter, but also to encourage us all to explore together our core values as an intentional Community and to encourage one another to live these out wherever we are.

May I encourage us all to engage in this conversation. You can contribute by offering ideas, meeting up with other Community folk (virtually or physically!) to use the resource as a catalyst for prayer and creativity, sharing stories and insights arising from gathering with others, or giving constructive feedback about the material.

If you have any creative thoughts and ideas about exploring the Brendan liturgy, please email me: [anita.haigh@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:anita.haigh@northumbriacommunity.org)  
I look forward to hearing from you! *Anita Haigh*

*We asked Andy Raine to tell us the story of the Meditation for*

## Day 12 - In Returning

This piece was written by John Skinner, inspired by Isaiah 30. It emerged from the times in Newton Aycliffe when a group of people were sharing their lives together, most of them actively seeking to move up into north-Northumberland. This move north was more than a geographic relocation. It involved exploring a 'Call to Community'; the sense of being rebuilt somewhere amongst the paths the early saints had traversed, as they also modelled different ways of living out the Kingdom.

These were exploratory days. Hard decisions had to be made, which might involve all kinds of disruption - for individuals and families. These were the days of saving enough petrol-money to drive up just to scout out possible accommodation. In a way, 'in returning' was a soundtrack for the search, the journey, the settlers.

The song itself is hauntingly beautiful with a very wide range. John wondered about it being sung by a classical singer, or a choir... It speaks of a journey from exile, the rebuilding of ruined houses; but not just an outward journey - an inner 'returning' is required. *Andy Raine*



*Here are some snippets from encouraging emails we've received recently :*

"I love your site. I am part of the Seekers Church under the leadership of Bill Hockey. Your Celtic Daily Prayer gives me much comfort and many thought provoking days."

"This is just to say how much praying these beautiful offices daily has transformed my life... I do the Morning, Midday, and Evening on my own, and pray the Compline with a dear friend... it is healing, safe and life affirming... Gratitude and blessings on the Northumbria Community for the light you shine on the world."

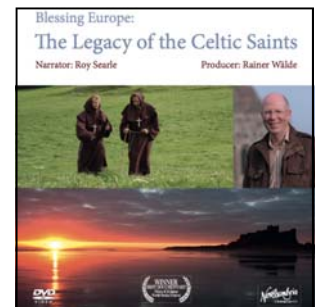
"So I have been praying the "Celtic Night Prayer" book for almost a year now, having begun it in my pastorate in Springfield, Oregon. And, having retired in July, I wait, and seek... Thank you!"

## 'Blessing Europe:

### The Legacy of the Celtic Saints'

DVD £16.99 plus p&p, available from the Community Office or website.

Following on from the success of the award winning documentary film, 'My Journey to Life', Rainer Wälde journeys through Europe in the footsteps of the Irish Saints. The stories of Columbanus, Gallus, Pirman and Magnus are presented by Roy Searle and other Community folk.



The new film won this year's World Media Award in the 'Best Documentary: Ethics and Religion 2012' category. Rainer and his wife Ilona are Friends of the Community. We commend the film to you! A short preview is available online [here](#).

**The new Programme of Retreats is almost complete.** In the meantime you can find details of the retreats for January to June 2013 on the Community's website - and the rest will follow soon.

Once again, there is a mixture of old and new. There is the chance to be creative with felt-making, willow sculpture or poetry; an opportunity for spiritual formation with led retreats, whether group or individual; or there are times to join in the life of the Mother House and simply 'be'. Do take a look!



# The newsy bit



## New Companions

**Jill Lyon** was welcomed as a Companion on Saturday 21 July at the Mother House. She is living again in England after thirty years nursing in Australia. Her mentor was Lesley MacLean.



Three new Companions were welcomed at the Keene group meeting in October: **Mary Hall, Anne Quaderer and Bob Quaderer**. Mary is a special education teacher, who lives in Massachusetts.

Her husband is a musician and is in the process of becoming a Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. Her mentor was Cyndy Geraghty. Anne and Bob Quaderer were mentored by Sarah and Alan Berry. Anne is an amazing gardener. Her husband, Bob, is an internet technician and musician.

**Marion Stephens-Cockroft** (see pg 7)

## Congratulations!

**Joshua Searle** was recently married to his Armenian bride, **Varduyi**. The happy couple were married at Alnwick Registry Office followed by a church wedding in the Ukraine where Joshua is currently teaching at Donetsk University.

## Nether Springs

After five years on the team, **Ann Brown** 'retired' at the end of June. She has two young grandchildren and is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

**Fran Race** has finished her internship through A Rocha at Nether Springs and is now settled in Dorset exploring the next stage in her journey as a conservationist.

**Daniel & Katrin Sikinger** returned to Germany after a year on team.

**Margaret & Gordon Joice** and family would like to thank everyone for the prayer support and many messages & cards they have received during this time of sadness following the tragic, accidental death of their great grandson, 4-month-old Ben.

They say they have been very touched by everyone's concern, and have drawn real comfort from it.

They are also thankful to Roy Searle, for agreeing to take part, with the Navy Chaplain, in conducting the service.

**Alan & Sarah Berry** are now the proud grandparents of **Clay** – born to Hannah (their daughter) and Tyson in July.



**Sue, Mike and Jude** are delighted to announce the arrival of **Joanna Elizabeth Eileen Heimbecker**, born 29 August in Calgary, Canada. Sue and Joanna are doing well, Mike and Jude are proud father and big brother.

Congratulations to **Simon & Ruth Coulter**, Companions from Belfast, on the birth of their third boy **Shay** - another playmate for Killian and Finnian. Shay has loads of adventures to look forward to!



**Nick, Anita and Erin Haigh** have moved to Fernhurst, West Sussex where Nick has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Margaret of Antioch. He was licensed on 17 Sept. See [www.st-margarets-fernhurst.net](http://www.st-margarets-fernhurst.net) for more information. Please remember them in your prayers.

**Rob Hunt** has started Celtic Prayer (based on Evening Prayer) at St Peters, Monkwearmouth on Wednesdays. For more details check: <http://celticnightprayer.wordpress.com>

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