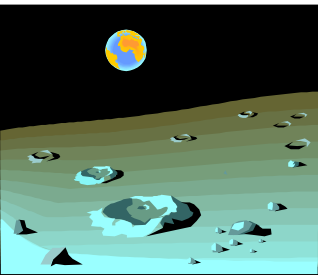


# CAIM



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**Norman Cumming  
boldly goes to take a  
look at life at the  
Nether Springs**

## Star Trek - The Next Generation?



The Editor illustrates Norman's story!

Grace... to live without frontiers. These are the voyages of the Mother House, Nether Springs, her continuing mission to seek the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind and strength, to sing the Lord's song in a strange land; to boldly take the heretical imperative.  
(With apologies to Gene Rodenberry, creator of Star Trek)

What is it like to be part of the monastery team at the home of the Northumbria Community? The experience reminds me in some ways of Star Trek - hence the introduction above.

To begin with, I feel I have travelled to a new world, unknown to me until comparatively recently. It is the world of Celtic spirituality and of 'a new monasticism'. It has its own language, which I am slowly learning to understand and to speak - the language of the inner journey. I am beginning to explore with wonder and trepidation my new surroundings - the landscape of the heart.

Also I am quite convinced there are aliens among my fellow crew members. No one who has met Rob could seriously doubt his Klingon ancestry. Then there is Lorna, who clearly comes from a planet where everyone is called Fred and kippers are the staple diet. I did pass a tricorder over Trevor, but what can I say except, in the immortal words of Dr 'Bones' McCoy - "It's life, Jim, but not as we know it!"

But, to flirt with seriousness again for a moment, there is another parallel with Star Trek. At first it seemed I had come to a place which was an immovable rock of stability and permanence. The age and character of Hetton Hall conspire to underline that impression. But in fact, like the Starship Enterprise, we are really in motion, on a journey. There is, of course, a wonderful and liberating sense of security in the rule of life which we have embraced, and in the daily structure provided by the monastic rhythm. But paradoxically that same way of life propels us into a dangerous adventure, a perilous journey.

This has been brought home to us recently, as we have had cause to wonder, along with all our friends here, how the plans of our new landlords may affect the Mother House. Could we be in for a bumpy ride? Already we hear that they intend to redevelop and sell the row of three cottages (one of which is currently our home) and build others close by. Will we soon be facing major decisions regarding the mother house of our Community? Will those words of William Stringfellow come to the fore in a fresh way - "dynamic and erratic...visible here and there, now and then but unsettled institutionally"?

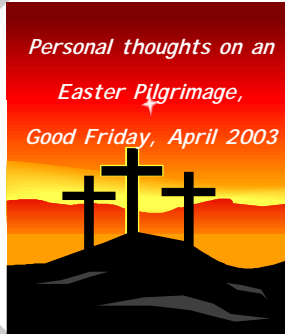


Humanly we struggle with times of uncertainty and the prospect of unlooked-for changes. Our professed faith is put to the test and uncomfortable questions are asked of us - about where our security really lies. The old hymn, recently revived in some circles, reminds us - "On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." However, before this turns into a three point sermon (old habits die hard!), I shall sign off in true Star Trek fashion with a Vulcan blessing, so... to all of you, my companions alone and together:

**"Live long and prosper."**

## Stations of the Cross

Holborn Grange to the cairn above Cuthbert's Cave



### Jesus is condemned to death

Where pilgrims gather  
To ascend the holy hill.

### Jesus receives the cross

His silent companions follow  
And a little child shall lead them.

### Jesus falls for the first time

By a gnarled old elm  
Where the nettles grow.

### Jesus is met by his mother

And another mother runs  
To shepherd her wayward son  
Back to the flock.

### The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

Eager children wait their turn,  
"Can I carry the cross?"

### Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

See her descendent with palm  
crosses  
And still there is balm in Gilead!

### Jesus falls the second time

The wind keen and cool on the left  
side  
The sun bright and warm on the  
right side.

### Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

But now the women follow silent  
Only the shuffling of shoes on the  
soft green turf.

### Jesus falls the third time

And we enter the cathedral of  
pines –  
Hallowed precincts, hushed the  
breeze.

### Jesus is stripped of His garments

A congregation of daffodils nods  
As we process up the nave.



### Jesus is nailed to the cross

In the hollow of the high altar  
The place of sacrifice.

### Jesus dies upon the cross

The mediator helps us over the style  
Out of the wood to a spacious place.

### Jesus is taken from the cross

Hear the song of love and sorrow  
On this bittersweet day.

### Jesus is laid in the sepulchre

Strangers gaze across the wall,  
"What mean these things?"

### Jesus is Risen

On the Cairn, a Golgotha of rock on  
the west  
But a green sward on Easter side  
And the promise of the Holy Isle  
Of everlasting joy and rest.

*David Pott*



## Trespassing in Paradise—on Wenlock Edge

The  
Telling  
Place



**Epic Telling of MARK**  
16th and 17th October  
Sandfield Theatre  
Nottingham

Further information from  
The Telling Place office.

Responding to Dave Robertson's urging to visit a storytelling festival (in the Spring issue of The Telling Place Newsletter) we visited the Festival at the Edge which, under its title this year 'Trespassing in Paradise', was held from the 18th to the 20th of July at Much Wenlock in Shropshire.



Because of prior commitments in Glossop we could only be there on Friday evening and Saturday until teatime - but we wished we could have stayed longer; it was brilliant! There was a lot going on - 'more stories than the tallest tower and more tales than the biggest bag of coins' - with many talented storytellers, story concerts, storygrounds, storywalks, bonfire sessions, as well as workshops, a pub quiz, a wide variety of music, and a great diversity of crafts, with food and drink of course; and it was well, but unobtrusively, organised.



We enjoyed it so much, with stories from Wales, the Marches, Hebden Bridge to name but a few; and we'll never forget The Luck Child, told by Daniel Morden, threaded through with the strains of Oliver Wilson-Dickson's violin; Sian James singing and playing her harp so beautifully; and most amazing of all, one of this year's Festival commissions, Rhiannon, gathered - from the Welsh saga Mabinogion - and told by Katy Cawkwell, when a marquee full of listeners was totally spellbound for an hour and a half!

See you there next July?

John and Jenny Cooper, Glossop

Thankyou,  
Geoff!



After coming to work for an initial three year period, but actually working for The Telling Place for the last five years, Geoff Boston has left us at the end of September .

Geoff was instrumental in setting up The Telling Place and has, more recently, been responsible for developing the Network of Storytellers.

The remainder of the team and the wider Community would like to thank Geoff for his contribution over the years. Please join us in praying for Geoff - his future employment is, as yet, far from settled.

### The Telling Place Beginners' Storytelling Workshops

Queen Street Methodist Church  
Whittlesey, Peterborough  
Saturday 22nd November 2003 Cost: £20.00  
With Pam Pott



Tanterton Christian Centre  
Kidsgrove, Ingol, Preston  
Saturday 22nd November 2003 Cost: £20.00  
With Pete Sandford



#### Information/bookings from:

The Telling Place, St Wilfrid's Enterprise Centre,  
Royce Road, Hulme, Manchester M15 5BJ  
Tel: 0161 227 0377  
Email: [thetellingplace@bigfoot.com](mailto:thetellingplace@bigfoot.com)

# Cell and Coracle



News of Mission and Monastery

## Hetton Hall: A Call for Prayerful Discernment

Trevor Miller  
writes:



This time last year we were beginning to prepare for our Thanksgiving Day that would celebrate 10 years of our Mother House being at Hetton Hall. We wondered if the next 10 years would be as eventful. This has already proved to be a huge understatement and we haven't gone much past 10 months.

In September 2002, we had a change of Landlord as Hetton Estates were sold to Lilburn Estates and we were able to negotiate a further 5-year lease on the Hall and its surrounding cottages. However in conducting a routine inventory of the premises in June of this year, our new Landlord queried whether or not we had obtained the appropriate permissions for the substantial work we have done in restoring both the Hall and the stable block. This was exacerbated by the fact that Hetton Hall is a part listed building and as we didn't have any written documentation from our previous Landlord it meant that we had not only to apply retrospectively for planning permission and building regulations approval but also for listed building consents.

As a result, at the end of last month we had a detailed inspection from the appropriate authority and although we have yet to receive their initial report, we have been told that we are facing extensive internal changes to the Hall to reflect its perceived 'business' use, especially in relation to Fire Regulations and Health and Safety issues. This process will 'take many months, even years' to complete. Fire protection and precautions will mean that we will have to install numerous fire doors throughout the house; overhaul or replace the current Fire Alarm system to accommodate the relocation of sensors and embark on major improvements to the structures of many rooms, corridors and ceilings. This has already meant that we have had to close the Tower area, losing the use of its 3 bedrooms and have limited use of other areas. The requirements will also affect the use of the stable block in the future, which may mean a relocation of both the Cloisters Office and the Mission Office.

This is an anxious time for us not least because the cost of the improvements will be substantial and although our Landlord has indicated that they will view sympathetically our lack of funds as a small Christian Charity, we may not be able to begin to meet the required costs. Moreover the time it will take to actually physically do the work will necessitate partial or complete closure and at best will not be conducive to quiet and retreat. We simply don't know the full picture yet and although speculation is unhelpful, it is also inevitable.

A further difficulty (and a huge disappointment) is that we have already been informed that the Hetton farm steading adjacent to the Hall and including the cottages used by the Community are to be redeveloped with seven new cottages built. This means that the people living in those cottages will have to be relocated by September 2005.

As a Community we have always accepted as part of who we are, a life that is risky and uncertain. We also know that changing circumstances whether wanted or unwanted, invited or uninvited are God given opportunities to reflect on and rethink who we are and what we are about as a Community. So the bottom line in all of this is to ask - what is God saying? Why now? What are the options open to us? In this we ask for the prayerful discernment of the wider Community.



### Caring for Creation



From this..  
...to this!



## COME AND GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY North Bransholme, Hull

Our estate is partly on land drained by the monks of Meaux Abbey in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and they did a pretty good job. Unfortunately in the last 20 years some of our neighbours have been undoing their good work.

Old Main Drain runs the length of the estate for about a mile. In parts it's beautiful. Reeds grow, butterflies and dragonflies swoop about, there's even the odd fish. But in other parts of the drain - where there is easy access - there are burnt out cars, old cookers, carpets, beds, clothes and garden rubbish.

At a recent meeting of a church youth group I challenged them to work with us at doing something about this. I was shocked by their responses. "It's the Council's responsibility", "I t'll only be filled up with crap again", "people don't care". I've spent more time recently trying to get them to the point where we can assume responsibility to do something positive about the problem, instead of simply casting blame and negativity about.

This week I met with local councillors, environmental activists and local people and we have set a date to do something positive about this small part of our estate. It will be a chance for us to show our commitment to the fact that we are the stewards of God's creation and that together we are capable of taking a pile of sh\*! and turn it into a piece of Eden.

We would love to give the chance for any Community folk to join in for the day. You wouldn't need to be able to lift a burnt out Ford Fiesta, we need people to make sandwiches, run errands, deliver publicity about recycling and all sorts of things. If you want to stay over we can put you up. We'd love to hear from you.

The date for getting your hands dirty is  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2003, 10 am - 4 pm.

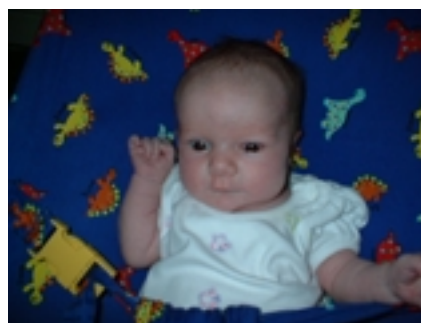
Jonathan and Lynda Roe,

## New...and not so new...babies

Joy and Justin Dunne, of Wakefield, are extremely pleased to announce the arrival of their new baby boy. His name is Joel and he was born 19<sup>th</sup> September at one minute past midnight. He weighed in at 8 lbs 5 oz.



David and Wendy Ward, of Stockport, are very happy to announce the birth of Susannah Lorna May, born 15<sup>th</sup> July and weighing in at 6 lbs 6 oz.





Continued

### Easter Workshop 2004

After giving the opportunity for wider comment and feedback from Community Companions it was decided by the new Community General Chapter to hold next year's Easter Workshop over the weekend after Easter. There will still be the opportunity to gather on Holy Island, on Easter Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, but that the Easter Workshops next year will take place in other places from Thursday or Friday, 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> April. As we go to press, we are exploring holding simultaneous Workshops in Ireland, Manchester, and Evesham or Wales. More details in January's CAIM, but book the dates in your diary now!

### Heroes of Community Roy Searle

On a recent Community mission trip I had the opportunity to pass through Harrogate and take a trip down memory lane. Armed with camera, I retraced places of significance from my secondary school days, teenage years and my wedding. As I drove down one of the streets in Harrogate, I passed the house of a couple who twenty nine years ago had played a significant part in my earliest days of faith.

This couple, now in their eighties, welcomed me - a young and unchurched new believer - and the rapidly burgeoning youth fellowship that grew amazingly in a matter of months, into their home after the evening service every week. Simple, ordinary folk, welcoming and hospitable, they served countless mugs of tea, coffee and orange juice and allowed us, without leading or controlling, to share, pray, explore, laugh, cry, agonise and say the most ridiculous things, take risks and make mistakes in the exploring our new found faith. Their open home reflected their open hearts, which gave expression to the love and care they poured out upon us.

I felt the impulse to stop and ring the doorbell and see if they were still there, only to be welcomed with open arms and a recalling immediately of my name. Over some tea, [I had become a 'respectable' adult, a status that conferred upon me a cup and not a mug!] we shared memories and caught up on our respective stories.

I was deeply moved by their recalling our shared experiences of what was, in hindsight a real move of the Holy Spirit among young people in the town. But it was the photos on the mantelpiece, [me with a full head of curly hair and my beloved Shirley with very long hair!] and the realisation that these folk had prayed for us through the years since we last met that made the greatest impression.

As I reflected on this heartening incident I wondered about our life in Community. Here we are in a season of transition with the history and story of the Community being told and passed on to succeeding generations. The names of the Founders and the Few trip off the lips of many as our story is told, as do those who have a more public profile or who are well known either through our Mother House, their involvement in mission or because of the 'seat' they occupy in the Community which results in their being known and written about. But let us never forget the men and women who in the quiet and unseen often unrecognised places, hold the Community before God in their prayers. Their part in the unfolding story of God's purposes for the Community cannot be easily known or told but nevertheless is cause for much thanksgiving.

As is common to many movements of the Spirit there is usually to be found the place of the pray-ers and intercessors who have been seeking God and supporting his people in the quiet of their own hearts and homes.

To them / you and to the Lord whom you seek - thank you and pray on!

## Developments in the USA

It was a joy and thrill to welcome Ken and Nancy Bergstrom from Wisconsin to the Nether Springs in September. They met some of the leadership team and stayed on for a Community Weekend. Nancy, with the help of Ken, is going to work with our Companions and Friends in America in overseeing the communications of the Community in the States.

These are important days for the Community in America and Trevor and Freda Miller are travelling out to spend a week in October to be with friends old and new and together with them discern ways forward in the transition and development of Community across the Atlantic.



## On Fire - Harrogate



*Friday and Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November*

A Community team will be leading worship and speaking at some of the sessions in Harrogate. Why not come along? For further information and booking form contact the Community Office or email [mission@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:mission@northumbriacommunity.org).



*Peter Sutcliffe and Roy*

## "May the peace of the Lord Christ..."

Gordon and Margaret Joice accompanied Roy Searle when he spoke at the Bradford Diocesan Clergy Conference in Lancaster last month. It was their great delight to meet up with several friends of the Community and in particular meet Peter Sutcliffe, who was the writer and creator of the blessing, 'Peter's song for Marygate' which is of course the blessing at the end of our Morning Office. Peter is now an Anglican Priest in Yeadon, Yorkshire and it was a privilege and joy to share with him how his blessing, which he gave the Community, has been and continues to be a blessing to thousands who use and receive it.

## Iona Retreat - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2003

Why not join us at Bishops House on Iona for a Community retreat looking at Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the renewal of the church - as well as lots of time to be alone and together. We have a two more spaces available than previously envisaged and it would be good to have you join us. For further details contact the Community Office ASAP.



## Alone - Together

Diane Sekuloff of Abbotsford, Canada, writes

'But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.' Eph 2:13

HOW THEN  
SHALL WE LIVE  
...experiences  
of a dispersed  
Community.

What does it mean to live a life of vulnerability and availability from afar, as opposed to, from nearby? My experience in living in the UK tells me that many people there have quite a different idea of what afar really means. As the Community encompasses more and more people who live on other continents though, I am sure that I am not alone in considering what it is to journey as part of, and yet far from it.

When I first came back to Canada, after living in Tyne on Wear for a year, I asked myself, and Roy, what the experience of the Community meant in this different context. This is a rich country, and a young country. I had to ask what relevance the ideas of rebuilding holy places had in a nation whose history barely scratches the surface, by comparison, at 136 years of age. There are lots of Christian communities around North America - what makes the Northumbria Community so different that it makes some difference in my life to travel alongside them, as opposed to anyone else, anywhere else? Ultimately, I had to answer those questions starting from the relevance the Community had had for me, and would continue to have, as I sought to live a Gospel life in some authentic ways.

Mostly, it was just a matter of getting on with it, and the answers to some of these questions get answered in the unfolding of time and events. There were dear friends who asked questions, in the natural sharing of our lives, about how to keep a daily discipline of prayer and scripture - especially on those dark cold winter mornings on the prairies, when one's bed seems so much more inviting than a quiet time in the cold living room! There were several with whom I shared the helpfulness of CDP as a meaningful place from which to start praying, at whatever time of day. There were friends who discovered CDP and made contact with me to tell me about this wonderful resource they had found. Mistakenly, I thought, for about two years, that perhaps God would draw a Community Group around my area to encourage and challenge one another. I was wrong - and remarked, as yet another friend moved away from here to Edmonton, where several of them seemed to be congregating, that 'Alone - Together' for me seemed to mean that people became encouraged and connected with the Community and got together in Edmonton, leaving me alone in Abbotsford!

My eyes gradually have been opened to a deeper ethos of the Community however, as I realized that the people I was together with, were a mixed bag of sojourners - some Christian, and others not - but there are always people seeking to live more fully, and more authentically in response to God, or Life, in some way. The call to be available and vulnerable has become more meaningful to me as I have let go and sought to see as God sees, a loved, desirable person in each one I meet.

The production of the CD for the offices was a great boon to me. It creates a sense of being with Community members in prayer, even when I am alone. It also has allowed me to share more of the ethos of the Community through dance, and through leading retreats and workshops - inevitably, it is something about those old prayers that speaks deeply to the hearts of other seeking souls, and sharing Jesus with them, and some of the resources of the Community becomes a part of their journey as well.





My Anglican parish decided to do a new church plant in our city. It was with joy that I recognized in the mission statement of 'sharing the signs and story of the Gospel with fellow sojourners' something familiar that rang true from my experience with the Community. It is helpful to know that we aren't the only ones who are trying to live church without walls, but that even in our own generation, there are those who have gone before us, and shown us at least a part of the way. In that way, the friendships I have with many in the Community have been a signpost and an encouragement in sharing the vision with others, especially through some difficult months in the life of the church. We have been encouraged by the faithfulness of others in the Community, to continue to seek God's face, and to follow Him, and trust that He will use us, in our frailty – and in our mess!

As for rebuilding the holy places, my eyes were opened to a history that long preceded the establishment of Canada as a country – to the holy spaces of the first peoples of our land – and the reality of their spiritual legacy. I have discovered that there is much in their cultural history that speaks of the journey to live in relationship with the creator. When Christianity first was brought to this country, there were many groups who recognized in the story of Jesus the fulfilment of their own story, and embraced the Gospel wholeheartedly. While in every place we deal with powers and principalities, there are many sacred places here that pre-date the arrival of white men to these shores. I discovered one of them this summer on the far west coast of Canada, in the Pacific Rim National Park. I had needed a retreat, and had the freedom to take part of my holiday alone, so decided to spend a week on the coast. I camped on the land, and found my 'Inner and Outer Farnes' in the rocks and tide pools off shore. It was a time of wonder to remain on these rocks as the tide came in and left me available only to God. Since it was in July, as the readings were leading me through the City without a Church – there was a sudden light go on for me about what it is to just believe that God loves me, and in that context, give all that I am and have to creating the kingdom of God on earth as in heaven. It was greatly refreshing, and inspiring.



The gift of email has also allowed for relationships to continue, even when separated by half the earth. It is a gift to be connected by prayer with others walking our common journey of faith. Often it strikes me as an ordained act to say Compline late at night, realizing that those rising in the UK are just saying Morning Prayers, and somehow, the full circle of our prayers, from near and afar, encircles the earth with God's presence in a mysterious way. This is even fuller as I consider Miriam and others in Australia, another third of the way around the globe, also encompassing our small corner of creation in prayer.

I thank God for the companionship of like-minded friends, even from afar, in the journey to our real home in heaven – and look forward to the day when we are truly all together in the Kingdom!

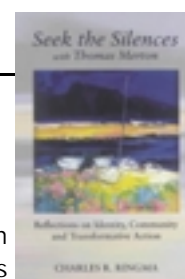
SEEK THE SILENCES with Thomas Merton.

Reflections on Identity, Community and Transformative Action by Charles R. Ringma

SPCK (£9.99) ISBN 0-281-05604-8

Reviewer: Trevor Miller

I approached this book with great excitement and anticipation for two reasons; the first that I am an avid fan of all things Merton and secondly I had read previous and similar books by this author (who is Professor of Mission and Evangelism at the renowned Regent College in Vancouver), on both Henri Nouwen and Jacques Ellul: both of which had proved equally challenging and enriching. This book exceeded all expectations and I cannot recommend it enough. There are 230 pages packed with teaching of rare spiritual depth that makes this an absolute goldmine of insight and wisdom. This is not another collection of quotes from Merton, rather Ringma's own reflections on an incredible range of subjects linked to Being, Being and Transcendence, Being With, Being Against, Being For, Being and Hope all enhanced by Merton's thinking as a 'conversational partner' on these subjects but powerfully applied to contemporary living through personal story and spiritual insight. The often neglected truth that mission comes out of contemplation is a primary theme as the links between identity; Community and transformative action are explored. These are outlined as the 'interrelated themes' of "who I am before God; who I join with in Community, and the way in which I engage the world in loving service and prophetic challenge." A book to be prayed through, reflected on and used as a major resource for preaching and teaching but most of all for living the spiritual life.



## CLOISTERS AND THE COMMUNITY

I an Corsie

Many readers of Caim may not be aware of the history of the Community's trading company, Cloisters, and its relationship with the Community as a whole. I hope this article will help fill in some gaps – and also provide useful information for prayer about its future.



The Community's first foray into trading was a bold one, taken on for all the right reasons – but it proved a nightmare! When the Nether Springs was getting established in its mother house at Hetton Hall and folk were being drawn to north Northumberland to be part of it, there was a need to provide employment and to 'put food on the table.' The opportunity for the Community to have its own equivalent of the Desert Fathers' 'basket making' activity came with the offer to purchase a caramel cake-making business. This was duly established in a factory unit in Wooler and 'Cuthbert Cake' was born – jolly good it was too! But good intentions are not enough on their own for good business and the enterprise became a huge drain on the Community – instead of a support. The decision to close it down was taken in 1998, and, thanks to the huge generosity of one Community Companion, its debts were cleared.

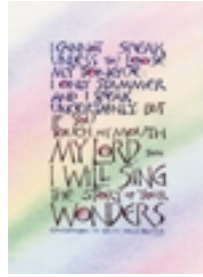
But from the ashes of Cuthbert Cake rose a new Northumbria Community Trading Ltd – Cloisters. This time it was to be mainly a mail order company selling the Community's own creative products. It is a properly constituted limited company with 15 £1 shares owned by the current four Board members (Roy Searle as Chairman, representing the Community leadership, has a majority shareholding, but he is obliged to relinquish this if he steps down from leadership); no dividends are paid and all profit is passed to the Community Trust in one form or another.

Cloisters was very fortunate that it was able to start out with an established list of products donated to it: Nancy Hammond's calligraphic cards. From this core in 1999, the list has been expanded by the Community's own book and music publishing activities (*Celtic Daily Prayer*, *Celtic Daily Readings*, *Waymarks*, *Blessings*, etc); by selling the fruits of the creative gifts of others in the Community (e.g. Joan Boston's stained glass, Pam French's artwork, Nick and Anita Haigh's CDs); and by a mail order book selection of titles relevant to Community, spirituality and storytelling. The mail order business is of course supplemented by sales at the Hall and through other bookstalls.

Cloisters' turnover for the past two years has been in excess of £50,000. It has provided employment for one person (Brenda Grace) at Hetton Hall and, apart from contributing to the running costs of the Hall, was able to make a substantial donation last year to Community funds. Moreover, all the copyrights are in the name of the Community Trust, so all royalties go direct to the Community; since *Celtic Daily Prayer* was first published by HarperCollins the Trust has earned over £30,000 in this way.

So much for the past and present: what of the future for Cloisters? As part of the current Community transition process, Cloisters is envisioned to be a vital





part of the Community's future, acting as a channel for communication and teaching, nurturing the creative talents within the Community and providing a marketing outlet for them, and earning income for the Trust in wider ways. As part of this, a new series of Community booklets called **How then shall we live?** will be launched shortly (see separate article).

The past 5 years have been ones of establishment and foundation-building for Cloisters. We believe that now is the time for new blood, new people, new ideas and new creativity – especially to link into a new generation of Christians who are excited by what the Community stands for, but are not necessarily attracted to the way we have become used to presenting ourselves. If any of this excites you enough to say that you want to be a part of it (do you have creative, management or marketing skills and gifts?) then we would love to hear from you. And, in any case, we would love to think you are praying for us.



## 'HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?' BOOKLETS

Watch out for a new series of A5 Community booklets to be published by Cloisters which will be launched, hopefully, at the end of October. The series is primarily intended to be an exploration, by leaders, Companions and Friends in the Community of our response to the key question: 'How then shall we live?' The first booklet in the series will be by Trevor Miller and is about the Heretical Imperative – it is a reworking of the talks on the subject he gave at last year's Easter Workshop. The booklets are intended to be 'torches in the darkness' and not 'tablets of stone'; more 'work in progress' than a definitive exposition of Community thinking; and provocative rather than prescriptive.

The series also provides a framework for making relevant out-of-print texts in the public domain available to the Community. One of the first titles will be Henry Drummond's *The City Without a Church* – from which the July readings of the Finan series in *Celtic Daily Prayer* are extracted. This classic text, so relevant to the Community's teaching on 'church without walls' was published in 1894 by a man who made a great impact in his own times, and whose writing is still fresh for us today.

A further use of the series will be for publishing new and existing liturgies. So among the first titles will be the Complines (replacing the existing booklet – hopefully in a larger print format so it is easier to read by candlelight!) and the 'Follow the Example' liturgies on pages 144 to 203 of *Celtic Daily Prayer*.



## Soulfriends

In order to understand practically what might happen in a one-to-one relationship similar to soulfriendship, Amund Karner would like people to contact him, who have experience of one-to-one meetings where confidentiality and perhaps prayer for the other are significant elements. Then, in turn, contact will be made so as to hear something of the experience of such relationships.

Please contact Amund directly on 01561 361729 or [Amund.Karner@dnv.com](mailto:Amund.Karner@dnv.com)





Many thanks to our friends Barbara & Brendon, and Ed & Sarah, who responded to last issue's request for a vehicle for use at the Nether Springs.

**Renovare Conferences –**  
**Bradford Cathedral –**  
**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**Southampton –**  
**28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Do join Roy Searle, Jeff and Jill Sutheran, Nick and Anita Haigh, Colin Symes and others from the Community at one of the Renovare Conferences in November. Roy will be teaching and leading the Conference with his friend Richard Foster together with Joyce Huggett, Chris Webb, James Catford and Elohor Knowles.



Friends Together - Roy Searle & Richard Foster

For further information and booking forms contact the Community Office ASAP or email:  
[gayle-anne.drury@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:gayle-anne.drury@northumbriacommunity.org).  
 We look forward to seeing you there.

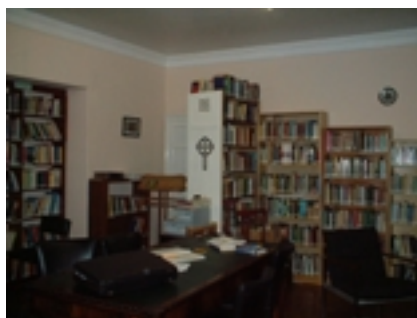
The Finance Office at the Nether Springs would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the ongoing work of the Community this past year. The financial year ended at the end of September, and it seems that the books have just about balanced. This is cause for thanksgiving given the setbacks we have experienced this year in relation to unrealised promised funding and loss of revenue from being unable to gift-aid donations for accommodation at the Nether Springs as in previous years. As reported elsewhere there are scary days ahead and the issues of ownership, belonging and Community will be needed perhaps as never before in this important area of finance.

**Intercessors**

If you wish to know more about how you can be part of this vital ministry, please telephone:-  
**Norma Wise** of Newton Aycliffe on: 01325 312930.

**Book Amnesty**

Recent checks reveal that a surprising number of books have been taken from the library at the Nether Springs, often without being properly "booked out". This includes books from the reference section, which should not be removed from the library. If you have any of these, their return would be gratefully received.



**Community Gathering in Exeter - Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Do join us for the day. For further details contact Elizabeth Webb: Poustinia, 1 Barley Villas, Redhills, Exeter, EX4 1SX. Telephone 01392 436722

**Community Groups**

If you would like more information about Community Groups; please contact:  
**Norma Charlton** at  
 84, Kells Lane, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5XY  
[norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org)

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Nether Springs, Hetton Hall, Chatton, Northumberland NE66 5SD  
 Tel: 01289 388235 Fax: 01289 388510 email: [office@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:office@northumbriacommunity.org)

**Editors:**  
 David and Wendy Ward  
 Contact via Community Office

# Cloisters

## Christmas Cards and Gifts 2003

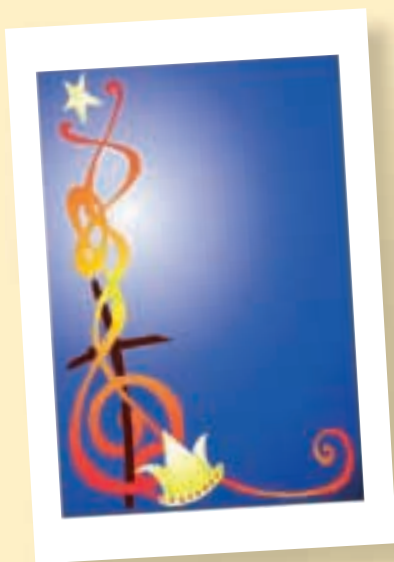
### New Christmas Card Design

Last year's Christmas card design by Cas Smith proved very popular and she has created another design for us this year on the theme of *The Christ of Hope*. Extracts from the Christmas liturgy in *Celtic Daily Prayer* are printed on the left-hand page inside the card. The printed greeting is: 'May God bless you and keep you this Christmas and in the coming year.'

### Christ of Hope

Pack of 10 A6 cards (approx 6" x 4") with envelopes.

Ref: A6PC17 £4.00



### Other Christmas Cards Available

Last year's Christmas card design, *Cross and Crown*, is available again this year. It is based on the 'Jesse Tree' reading for Christmas Eve from *Celtic Daily Readings*.

### Cross and Crown

Pack of 10 A6 cards (approx 6" x 4") with envelopes.

Ref: A6PC16 £4.00

As usual the Cloisters range of calligraphic Christmas card designs is also available. They are A6 size and printed black on good quality card of various colours (a mixture will be supplied in the packs of 10 cards with envelopes).

### Calligraphic cards mixed pack

Ref: XMIX £4.00

If you would like to choose a pack of an individual design, ring or email for a colour leaflet and full catalogue.



## Other Christmas gift ideas from Cloisters



- Joan Boston's range of stained glass gifts
- *Celtic Daily Prayer, Celtic Daily Readings* and a range of books on spirituality, community and storytelling
- CDs (and tapes) of Community music
- Teaching tapes
- Wide range of designs available as greetings cards, notelets, posters and prints
- New series of 'How then shall we live?' teaching booklets will be available before Christmas

Ring or email for colour leaflet and full mail order catalogue

# Cloisters

## Order Form

Deliver to: (please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 ..... Postcode.....  
 Tel..... Fax.....  
 email.....

Ref. Code	Design Code	Description (and any colour preferences)	Qty	Unit Price	Total
A6PC17	-	Christ of Hope (pack of 10 cards)		4.00	
A6PC16	-	Cross and Crown (pack of 10 cards)		4.00	
XMIX	-	Calligraphic Cards Mixed Pack (10 designs)		4.00	

I enclose a sterling cheque for £..... made out to *Cloisters*

OR I authorise Cloisters to debit my card with £.....

Credit/debit card type (please delete as applicable)

Visa / Delta / Switch / Mastercard

<b>Card Number</b>														
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Start Date</b>					<b>Expiry Date</b>					<b>Switch Issue No.</b>				
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Signature</b> _____														

Registered Address of card holder (if different from above)  
 Name.....  
 Address.....  
 ..... Postcode.....

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	
<b>UK Postage</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>Overseas Postage Supplement</b> <small>(for details - see below)</small>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Overseas Postage Supplement**  
 Despatch will be by airmail.  
 For Europe (including Irish Republic, Iceland, Russia and Turkey): add 15% of invoice value.  
 Elsewhere: add 20% of invoice value.

Should you wish to remove your name from the Cloisters database, write 'Delete' under your name and address above and post this order form (no stamp necessary in UK) to:  
 Cloisters, FREEPOST NEA 8847, Alnwick, NE66 1BR, UK

**Please post this order form to:**  
**Cloisters, Hetton Hall, Chatton, Northumberland, NE66 5SD, UK**  
 tel: 01289 388235 fax: 01289 388510 website: www.northumbriacommunity.org  
 email: cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org