



# CAIM

Issue no 30  
Autumn 2004

The Northumbria Community Newsletter

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"I went to Greenbelt this year to join the community team, after having been kindly invited by Norma Charlton and Paul Lucas, knowing I would be meeting old friends and enjoying sharing our lives together for a few days, but apart from this not knowing how I would cope with the camping aspects! Having just injured my shoulder, sleeping in a tent seemed a bit ambitious, but it all worked out and it was good to share a tent with Paul who seemed to know the ropes better than I!



We soon 'gelled' into a group of some old friends and some new ones – isn't it great how God brings people together from across the country in new circumstances and new close friendships are formed? – we used the Northumbria Tent, on the main campsite, as a place of hospitality and prayer, and also where the team could just 'chill out', enjoy delicious food, wash up together, sing songs, share stories, have a drink together, etc. When it got late into the evening I soon realised that I should have brought a fleece! As it soon gets chilly when the sun goes down.

The two presentations which we did in the Tutu tent:

- ✦ Story of the Celtic Saints from Patrick to Caedmon,
- ✦ Our own contemporary stories shared as a form of 'Caedmon Evening'

seemed to be well-received and generated a lot of interest as quite a few folks came back to the Northumbria Tent for Office afterwards. Paul helped us all to work well together, and it didn't seem too scary or exposed for musicians, speaking parts or dancers as there was a very strong feel of the team being mutually supportive. The dancing of 'My Prayer for You' at the end of the second evening really moved me a lot (as this dance always does).

Apart from the work of the team, I managed to get to a few other events in the festival, which I found to be very broad across the entire church spectrum. On the Sunday morning there was a wonderful shared Eucharist together, with the Archbishop of Canterbury in attendance. The other highlight for me was the worship of the L'Arche Community – three short lunchtime sessions looking at aspects of the theme 'Freedom Bound' from the personal perspectives of people with learning disabilities – telling the story of the Road to Emmaus - for example – acted, was great. This was a good place for me to be, for growing my relationship with L'Arche still further, as I am already a 'Friend' and on their mailing list. The Washing of Feet (on the Monday), was stunning in its simplicity, wholeness, showing us clearly the message of Christ's love for us. To simply receive and just 'be', and not to 'do', whilst having my feet washed was really what I needed at that point and was a really healing experience.

I would love to go to Greenbelt again." **Richard Oliver**



## The Northumbria Community is Freedom Bound for Greenbelt, but Mind the Gap -

*Personal impressions of Greenbelt, by John Barnabas*



I arrived at Cheltenham Race Course looking for a way in, then looking for the Christian Aid venue and then looking for the Northumbria Community. Bumped into Sarah who gave me directions. At last found Community folk putting up a tent and then found a pitch to put up my tent with great difficulty but with help. Spent the rest of the day catching up, sorting things out and having dinner. Early to bed and up early for a beautiful sunrise and rain.

Had breakfast, then a quiet time and meeting up with Simon and Deborah from St Martin's and St Michael's. Said Morning Office with Norma and then off to the Christian Aid's venue staff training day. Met old friends from last year and met new friends. A good beginning to Greenbelt, then off to Christian Aid's venue to finish off the resources section, and informing ourselves about those resources.

Back up to the camp site, where more Community folk had arrived and greeted by Paul with, "Hi Z Z Barnabas!" (*Something to do with John's exotic beard and an American band!*)

After a quiet time catching up, had dinner and then on duty at the Christian Aid venue for the first shift. Spent most of the time talking and meeting folk. Then briefly met Dave and Simon from St Martin's. Then a party and back to campsite for a cup of tea and bed.

Woke early for a quiet time and breakfast. Said Morning Office, then down to main site to visit the Pulse Zone to meet people, catch up with folk, collect resources and then down to the Christian Aid venue to hear a Christian rap group, talk to folk and move resources. Back to the campsite to relax, have lunch and then rehearsals for "Celtic Fire" that evening in Tube Tent. "Celtic Fire" was an amazing time of worship, presenting the lives of the Northern saints in music, dance and storytelling. I felt a real presence of God through his Holy Spirit, and left on a high.



Worked in the Christian Aid venue, then back to campsite to say Patrick Compline.

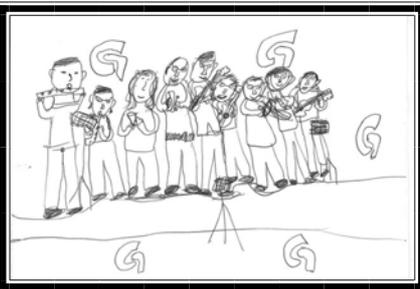
To bed, then up early next morning for the Communion Service. Gave out strands of wool, and met lots of folk. Broke into groups for the service and communion, at which Ched Myers did the sermon. Back to the campsite for lunch and rehearsals for that evening's Ceilidh. I was sorry to miss the Ceilidh, but was working at the Christian Aid venue. Later, back to the campsite for Evening Office and singing storytelling and poetry. Closed the day with Ita Compline and bed.

Up next morning for quiet time, breakfast and led Morning Office. Down to the main site to visit Pulse, talk to people and catch up. After lunch, on duty in the Christian Aid venue. Final farewells to people in Pulse, then back to campsite to help pack up the gazebo. Back to Christian Aid venue for last shift, packing up and a party. Back to the campsite for another party and bed. It was very cold and damp that night.



So the feast day of St Aidan dawned, quiet time, then said Morning Office looking over God's creation. Did more packing up and said Midday Office together before leaving. Farewells, hugs and parting. A lift to the station and a train back to Birmingham.

So ended another Greenbelt; a magical experience, good meeting old and new friends. Definitely feel the Northumbria Community should be back at Greenbelt in 2005. Thanks to everyone for the work, hospitality, fellowship and craic. Special thanks to Norma and Norman, Paul and Bobbie.



These original sketches of some of the Greenbelt team in action came from 8 year old Zoé Pillar, daughter of Ed and Sarah from Evesham.

They show (left) the Greenbelt Community musicians and (right) Ed, Jean Watson and Sarah dancing "I bind"



# Cell and Coracle

News of Mission and Monastery



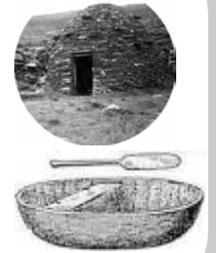
## Streams of Living Water Conferences



Make a date and do join Roy Searle and Richard Foster together with others from the Renovare team at any of the following November Conferences and leaders days.

The venues, dates and contact details are as follows:-

- |                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> November</b>    | - | Leaders Day in London at the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity<br>'Seeking God in the Midst of Life and Work'<br>Contact Nicola Sweet on <a href="mailto:nicola.sweet@licc.org.uk">nicola.sweet@licc.org.uk</a><br>or telephone 02073 999555 |
| <b>19/20<sup>th</sup> November</b> | - | National Conference at Monkton & North Prestwick Parish Church, Prestwick, Scotland.<br>Contact George Bosworth, 43 Ayr Road, Prestwick, KA9 8SY or email <a href="mailto:scottishrenovare@aol.com">scottishrenovare@aol.com</a>                         |
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>    | - | Leaders Day in the North East at The Baptist Tabernacle, Stockton on Tees, with worship led by Nick and Anita Haigh.<br>Contact The Baptist Tabernacle Office, Stockton on Tees, telephone 01642 602223  |



## Light at the End of the Tunnel...update on Estate Matters

It is good to report that things are beginning to happen in relation to the installation of the new Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting systems required at Hetton Hall under the Fire Regulations and Health and Safety acts. After a long drawn out and at times discouraging period of uncertainty, the waiting and wondering now seems to be coming to an end.

As previously reported, this has been a complex affair with the closure of the Tower and the need for major expenditure coupled with an offer of help from our Landlord tied in with the need to vacate Hetton Hall Cottages, the homes of those who live and work at the Nether Springs. This in turn has led to a lengthy period of complicated negotiations of new leases for the Hall, Lodge and the necessary arrangements for the alternative accommodation needed for the resident Team to be addressed, all of which are directly linked to getting the go-ahead for the work in the Hall.

Although this is still ongoing, there is light at the end of the tunnel and we are fairly confident that it is not the headlight of an oncoming train. We have had to close the Hall for the first two weeks of November as we have provisionally booked this time for the actual installation of the Fire Systems.

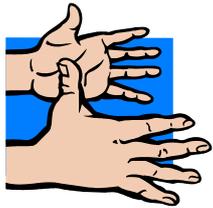
Hopefully by November we will have completed all the necessary transactions and signed the new leases and moved folk into their new homes. This is our hope and at the time of writing things seem to be on track.

As you will appreciate it is a huge task and those directly involved would greatly appreciate your prayers for a smooth transition at this particular time.



**Trevor Miller**

## The 'our' of Ownership; the 'we' of Belonging...



Since reporting in recent editions of CAIM the need for a greater sense of ownership especially among Community Companions and those friends who seek to support us, we are glad to be able to further report that the financial situation continues to be maintained.

This is all the more remarkable given that the three bedrooms in the Tower block have been closed since July 2003 and consequently the loss any potential income from any occupancy over this considerable period of time. As reported elsewhere in this edition of CAIM, we hope that this will be remedied before the end of this current year.

However, we are also acutely aware that we will very soon be entering the leaner winter months of November through to the end of February, when income from our Mother House is limited. We are extremely grateful for those who have recently given one-off gifts, which have helped the current situation a great deal, but we still need more Companions to translate their Yes to Community into regular giving month on month. This would take the pressure off the Mother House of having the need to only focus on 'keeping food on the table for the many and a roof over our heads', which is a real distraction from our dream of it becoming more and more a 'school for the Lord's service', a training facility in the new monastic way of heart, home and hospitality.

To be freed from this constant anxiety would enable us, for example, to radically adjust our programme to facilitate a more informal 'sharing the story, living the life' training in the 'new monasticism' as a way of life. We also want to be generous ourselves and reflect the heart of God in every aspect of our lives including finance and an increased and stable support base will be a very real help in enabling us to do this more freely.

A further example of this would be the opportunity to begin a bursary scheme so as to subsidise those Companions who find that the cost of coming to the Nether Springs is often prohibitive.

This vision of more and more Companions and Friends realising the 'our' of ownership and the 'we' of belonging is ever before us. It is, after all, our Community, our Mother House, and our Reason to Be. We are covenanted together; we follow our Rule of Life, we are Companions in Community, alone and together. To see many more respond to our shared ownership and belonging is our hope and prayer.



Continued



### Charity changeover - A Final Prompt

On September 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 we closed all bank accounts with the Bank of Scotland as part of the closure of Northumbria Community Trust Ltd, an exempt charity regulated by the FSA as an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS).

We are now Northumbria Community Trust, A Registered Charity No: 1099503, regulated by the Charity Commission. A big thank you to those who have already responded to our need to transfer all Standing Order mandates to our new Bank following our registration in April 2004. *This is also a final prompt for those who have yet to do so.*

For those who need it, the sort code for our new bank, Unity Trust Bank is 08-60-01 and the Account number is 2014 2265.

We would be enormously grateful if you were able to make this a priority not least because we will lose your much needed support as without your authorisation your Standing Order will be returned to you.





## **MA in Missional Leadership, by Bridget Spencer**

***We advertised this course, to which the Community have contributed units of teaching, in a previous CAIM. Here's the experience of a Community Companion who signed up...***

I spotted the advert for this course in Caim, and decided to investigate further. The content was suitable for both my professional job as a manager and leader of a team for The Children's Society, and for my role as a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church. After discussion with my line manager and my minister, I applied.

The summer term was an eye-opener! Firstly the most accessible place of study [the hub] was in Walthamstow, London. I live near Peterborough. The lectures were held in the evening, so I arranged my diary to work in our head office every Tuesday. Leaving home by 6-30am, I drove into London and came home by midnight. This course means commitment.

However, the travelling and the hours were ok, it was the company that was the eye-opener! My fellow students were all Pentecostals, mostly from two churches in Walthamstow and so enthusiastic about their faith, I felt very humble and very inadequate. They were also dedicated to growing congregations and planting churches, which was pretty revolutionary stuff for this Methodist! Caution was not equated with dead slow when it came to planning progress!

The first term's lectures centred on the history of mission, identifying the developmental cycles of the 'big picture', and on leading teams. I found it fascinating looking at development as in groups of people with a faith base but very different approaches to faith. We studied the work of Wilberforce, the Bible Society, and the different types of teams we lead and/or worked within. Hidden behind the cultural differences, the human experiences of faith were hearteningly common. We 'gelled' well as a group.

How well was obvious when we attended our first summer school, late July, in Birmingham. [We were in the B&B facilities provided by a local Pentecostal church, which had the vision to convert their upper floor into accommodation for visiting missionaries]. Here my fellow students came from a wide mix of traditions and cultures. It made for stimulating discussions. Again it was heartening to hear of others' boldness and success in reaching out to their local communities and bringing people to Christ. I enjoyed collecting ideas, examples and contacts from people willing to help each other in the enormous task facing the church in England today.

It was not all one sided. After one day ended with fervent praying in groups, which I found very difficult, [God really got 'GBH to the earhole' as one friend used to describe nagging!] I opted out of the offer of a two hour service in Pentecostal tradition on the Sunday and elected instead to seek a quiet time with God. Fortunately opposite our 'digs' was the old city cemetery, certainly the quietest place in Birmingham. I wandered round, found a leaf with a clear pattern and studied it. Gradually the message emerged and I returned with my leaf and wrote a meditation. My companions were amazed when their service ended, to see how my time with God had born fruit, quite different to theirs but equally valid. I was relieved to have contributed something helpful!

Our final lectures were by Roy Searle, who not only spoke passionately about 'vulnerability of the leader', but also enabled some 'silent' work. Again my new friends found it helpful, and were surprised by the value of silence, as were many others. Subsequently I have posted off my copies of 'Journeying with the Northumbria Community' and now need a new supply.

During one of our late night debates over the cocoa, I referred to Lent. After a while, one of the ministers said, 'What's this Lent you're on about?' I think I've identified my first mission field! The Lenten Cross course beckons!

### ***Interested? Contact:***

**Together in Mission,  
Gold Hill Baptist Church, Gold Hill Common East, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 9DG  
or ☎ Kevin Popley on 01753 887173 or ✉ kevin@popley.fsnet.co.uk**



Continued

## Sharing the story, living the life.

An important issue in the ongoing development of the Community is that of spiritual formation and training in the 'new monasticism' as a way of life. At the recent General Chapter it was freely acknowledged that a key part of the ongoing transition would be the need to focus (over the next few years) not only on the principles but also on the practicalities of how we serve, equip and encourage one another in the embracing of our vision and vocation. This has major implications for the Nether Springs as a monastic school but also for the other Houses linked to the Mother House and its ethos. It also has a knock-on effect in relation to the many diverse initiatives in 'mission' we are engaged in, as well as the agenda for Community Groups and Gatherings, Communications and Publications.



An important initiative as far as the Nether Springs is concerned is the introduction of a more informal part of the new programme geared especially to Companions entitled 'Living what we teach, teaching what we live'. These retreats will span what would normally be two periods of the programme, i.e. combining Monday to Thursday and Friday to Sunday of the same week so as to provide a longer period for Companions to be part of the life and daily rhythm of our Mother House. In this way Community Companions (in the context of residency at the Nether Springs) could be helped to respond to the prayer of Hild 'Show me the right seat; find me the fitting task; give me the willing heart' and find greater ways of embracing and expressing their vocation as Companions in Community. This would also make it easier for more volunteers from Companions and Friends to be able to come and live and work at the Mother House short-term, so as to be 'schooled' in the new Monastic way of life.

The content of these times together would be a healthy mix of the planned and the spontaneous with opportunity in the context of a safe place to pray and work, dialogue and dream, think heretical thoughts, ask questions, as we explore together what it means to be part of a geographically dispersed Community.

"Dynamic and erratic, spontaneous and radical, audacious and immature, committed if not altogether coherent, ecumenically open and often experimental, visible here and there, now and then but unsettled institutionally. Almost monastic in nature, but most of all enacting a fearful hope for human life in society."

This foundational quote from William Stringfellow is a good example of what we have in mind to explore together, so as to discover how its principles can relate to life as it really is for Companions in Community. There will also be times of teaching, retreat and creative expression, all hugely flexible and adaptable to suit the particular group present each time.

It is our hope that these weeks will not only prove to be an important component in achieving a greater understanding of our ethos but also a factor in the individual spiritual formation of each Companion.



To this end we are offering these weeks on a donation basis so that no one will be put off by the cost. Normally for this period, full board would cost at least £180 per person and obviously it is our hope that all or part of this will be covered but if you are genuinely unable to pay this then we would still want to encourage Companions to come and share in the provision of these weeks. This is a huge risk in the light of our often-precarious finances but it reflects the importance of these weeks together when many of our Community live constantly in the alone.

We have scheduled five such weeks in the new programme and will be on a first come first served basis. The dates are all in 2005 and are as follows - January 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, and July 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>.

## Bishop of Hull's Youth Pilgrimage 2004, by Joanna Hay

This summer on 26 July two minibuses full of young people (and all their gear) from the East Riding of Yorkshire travelled up to Longridge Towers School near Berwick-upon-Tweed to stay until the Friday. This was the second year the Bishop of Hull's Youth Pilgrimage had come to Northumbria-and what a time we all had!

Using the surrounding area we organised a week of very varied experiences to share something of the love of God with these young people, (all aged between 14 and 18, some coming from church backgrounds and others having very little experience of Christianity), praying they would all grow in their understanding of faith as we journeyed together on this pilgrimage.

This year the weather was wonderful and so each day we met outside for worship and a brief bible study led by the bishop, Richard Frith. We sang and prayed in the beautiful surroundings of the school, had Morning Prayer on the beach, listened to the stories of Brothers Oswain and Maximilian in the garden of Alnmouth Friary and experienced monastic worship with them in their chapel.



It was very special to have Roy and Brenda with us Holy Island as we danced Evening Prayer in the Priory grounds, and hopefully witnessed to others just site-seeing. Simple but powerful things said and prayed by Roy with and over the group made for a significant moment as we overlooked St Cuthbert's Island. We scrambled across to the island and we 'plodged' home again across the Pilgrim's Causeway back to the mini buses.



This year we were able to spend a morning at Hetton Hall. Having received a community welcome in the kitchen with drinks and biscuits Norma showed us around and we had our study and discussion that day in the Prayer Garden. We were able to join the Community for Middyay Prayers in the chapel which rounded off our visit beautifully.

In the evening we had a great time of worship when Paul, Norma and a community friend came over to the school. The young people loved having another chance to dance with the team-it never ceases to amaze me how popular it is with the group. They always warm to it and join in enthusiastically-and the least likely get so involved with it. I'm sure that is the work of God's Holy Spirit.

On the Friday, on our way back to Hull, we stopped for an informal communion service at Old Bewick. This brought our week of 'meeting with God' in so many places to a close. Old Bewick is one of those special thin places where we met God last year....and He didn't disappoint us this year either!

Personally it was a very special time for me and I had a day of tears and God-moments which touched, refreshed, renewed and healed me in all sorts of ways. I find being amongst the Community, whoever they are, whether I know them or not, releases hurts and heartache. They come flooding up and out as I feel the love of God so tangibly amongst us all and expressed to me.



On behalf of the group I'd like to express our appreciation for all that the Community contributed to our pilgrimage this year - you really made a big impact on all of us during our week away.

**'I praise and thank God for you all, remembering you in my prayers with joy.' Phil 1:3**

### Community Groups News

#### Sheffield Area

Anyone interested in meeting with other folks in NC?

Meeting Monday 15th November.

Contact: Elizabeth Mackey 0114 230 5676, mackeyfe@aol.com

Also...

#### Bishop Auckland/Tow Law area

Dave and Sarah Hay intend to host a Community group on the last Saturday of the month

Contact: 01388 730 381

sirdavehay@yahoo.co.uk

## Reflecting on my Journey with the Northumbria Community, by Margene Vessel from Minnesota, USA

I had the privilege to live and work in Alnwick, Northumberland from 1991-1995. I went through a challenging few years and was directed to take a retreat at Nether Springs in 1994. I slept, ate and cried for the first 3 days. I encountered loads of grace and acceptance. This was unexpected since I had never met any of the Hetton Hall house staff before. Although it was a bit odd a first, I grew to love the rhythm of the monastic day and found it to be very energizing. My soul was being filled up in a new way. I was being released from chains in my heart as the revelation sunk in that I was there to seek God for God... not for any other reason...



**HOW  
THEN  
SHALL  
WE LIVE**

...experiences  
of a dispersed  
Community.

I moved back to America in 1995 and found myself re-connecting with my friend Peter Wohler and others, and the new ministry they called Source Ministries. Working with Source in those early days was a natural progression of living out the Rule. It was a work full of joys and struggles in attempting to reach hurting and vulnerable young adults who are looking for truth and longing for a sense of community. My Source friends loved all the stuff on Community that I shared with them. It made sense of their journey. Within weeks everyone had bought their own Celtic Daily Prayer book and to this day connect at a heart level with the ethos of the life of the Community.

I had heard of the Alpha course while living in England and I began to talk to Peter about trying an Alpha course with the Source kids. He thought it sounded great.

During this time, I supported myself by working part time as a nurse, but then poured hours into serving with both Source and Alpha. After a 2 day silent retreat, I believed the Lord was calling me to step away from Source and begin to plan for the Alpha conference. The following year, our Alpha conference drew over 800 leaders and pastors. A vision was put in my heart to connect with as many leaders and pastors as I could. By 2002, this had evolved into a full time job of leading the Twin Cities Regional Alpha office.

One of the prayers I learned while at the Community, I prayed a lot for myself upon returning to the States, "Find me the right seat, fitting task and willing heart."

This November, David and I will be celebrating our fifth wedding anniversary. We have absolutely loved the trips we have been able to take to Hetton and to join with Community on missions around the UK. These trips have been foundational to our understanding of being married and living out the Rule of being Vulnerable and Available. Then in May of 2003, life got even more exciting. Nicole Marie was born May 6<sup>th</sup>. We have found adjusting to having Nicole in our lives over this past year to be another act of grace.



I love getting the Caim and the Prayer Guide. We are a dispersed Community covenanted together in the love of God, but these, along with the Daily Office keep us together in heart. I find that I live my life here in America with the backdrop of past conversations with Community folk, times in the walled garden where I just sat in stillness with God, the sights, smells and stories of Northumbria, the walk on the beach in Ireland and laughter at the lunch table and in the homes of friends, old and new. All of these moments have been weaved into my heart and help me see the world and God's amazing love in ways that are rich and meaningful.

I am pleased to be a member of the American Board and will become its President this autumn. Together David and I are eager to see the gifts we have received from the Community take root and grow here in the USA.



## **GIVEN FOR LIFE: A GUIDE TO MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS** by Andy Raine

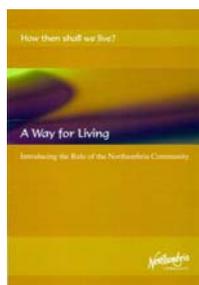
Many readers will have come across the wonderful material on Motivational Gifts by Andy Raine (one of the Community's founders) - and have been frustrated not to be able to obtain a proper copy of it. It's been frustrating for Andy too trying to get it published. But, at last, after considerable rewriting, it is now in print in proper book form and you can obtain it from your local bookseller - or, even better, why not help Community funds by purchasing a copy by mail order through Cloisters (details below).

'It's not what you do, but the underlying WHY that you do it that betrays who you are.' Andy's book helps you to unpack this and discover the gift that was always there: the innate responses and abilities you were born with. Are you a 'prophet'? Or a 'ruler' or a 'mercy'? A 'giver', 'server' or teacher? Or perhaps an 'exhorter' or a 'giver? Or a mixture? Many have been helped to relax into who they really are through working through this material: they no longer feel obliged to try to be somebody else. 'It's OK to be me!'

Apart from allowing you to study the different gifts and see how they might apply to you, Andy maps out the spiritual background for his approach, which is different from personality indicator schemes such as Myers-Briggs. He also provides 'tie-breakers' for those who cannot decide which gift they have; and he spells out some of the dangers of treating the material superficially, as opposed to working through it carefully and prayerfully.

The book is published by Kevin Mayhew at £9.99 and is available through Cloisters (Ref Code: MOT) by mail order at £11 (ring 01289 388235 or email [cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org)). The ISBN is 1844172716. When you have worked through the material yourself and can appreciate the precious gift you have been granted - for life! - recommend it to your friends.

## **A WAY FOR LIVING: INTRODUCING THE RULE OF THE NORTHUMBRIA COMMUNITY**



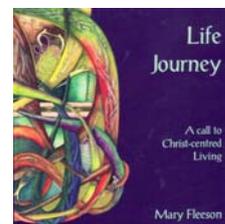
At last we have a 'pukka' presentation of the Community's Rule, superseding the photocopied version that has been around for ages. It is in the new 'How then shall we live?' booklet format and it includes an introduction to the Rule by Trevor Miller explaining why we need one and how we should use it - and emphasising that the Rule is deliberately flexible and adaptable, so that it does not so much 'prescribe uniformly' but 'provoke individually'.

When did you last read through the Rule in its 'unpacked' form? Feel it's time to look at it all afresh? Then you need to get hold of a copy of this booklet and keep it handy for regular reference.

The booklet (Ref Code: HT/RULE) costs £4 by mail order from Cloisters (ring 01289 388235 or email [cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org)). And don't forget the other books in the series: The Heretical Imperative unpacking a key part of the Rule); The City Without a Church (Henry Drummond's trenchant message for today's churches); Follow the Example (liturgies from Celtic Daily Prayer); and Complines. Watch for news of more titles to follow in the series.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA**

If you saw the last edition of Caim you will have seen a review of a lovely illustrated book called Life Journey by Community Companion Mary Fleeson.



Many have already purchased this book and been inspired by Mary's outstanding artwork - and her helpful, prayers, poems, meditations, Bible quotations, design notes and suggested activities. With Christmas approaching you might be looking for an inspirational present for a special friend and this is a reminder that Mary's book would make an ideal gift.

You can obtain it from your local bookseller (ISBN 0863475167) or by mail order at £16.99 direct from Mark and Mary Fleeson by going to [www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk/catalog/default.php](http://www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk/catalog/default.php) and clicking on 'Life Journey'. Alternatively the book is also available from Cloisters at a mail order price of £17 (ring 01289 388235 or email [cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org](mailto:cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org)).



## Building Bridges of Hope -

An Update from Norman Cumming

In the Spring 2004 edition of Caim I outlined NC's involvement in Building Bridges of Hope (BBH), which is an initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The accompaniment process is now well under way, and George Lings, on behalf of BBH has attended a number of significant events over recent months, including the Easter Workshop at Evesham, a Community Weekend and a General Chapter at Nether Springs.

George seems to have been very much at home on these occasions, his easy manner and gentle humour quickly dispelling any initial awkwardness that might be caused by the presence of 'an observer', listening attentively and making copious notes. Hopefully everyone has now realised that although George has the role of an observer, he is far from being an 'outsider', but is very much on the journey with us.

NC will be represented at the BBH Future Church Conference in October by Bob Ainsley and myself. It is called "Postcards from the Edge", and sub-titled "Sharing Christian faith and values in a post-Christendom context". Dr Stuart Murray-Williams is among the contributors and will be addressing the question - "How do we share faith with those indifferent?"

During the Conference there will be a short presentation by NC, among other BBH pilot projects. It is also hoped that we can find an opportunity to discuss with George the accompaniment process, which is now due for an end of year review.

***If you want to know more about BBH and NC's participation in it, our three representatives are Bob Ainsley, Norma Charlton and Norman Cumming.***

**Anne Hewson** has moved from Hetton Hall Lodge to her home in Macclesfield after three years of being a central part of the resident 'Team' at the Nether Springs. We will miss her but wish her well as she pursues further education and training in counselling so as to work with needy children.



**“ Dynamic and erratic,  
spontaneous and radical,  
audacious and  
immature, committed if not  
altogether coherent,  
ecumenically open and often  
experimental, visible here and  
there, now and then, but unsettled  
institutionally.**

**Almost monastic in nature, but most of all  
enacting a fearful hope for human life in  
Society.”**

**William Stringfellow**

**“An ethic for Christians and other aliens in a strange land”**

## Abercorn - Trumwin's Northumbrian Outpost,

By Colin Symes from Edinburgh

A few miles west of the great Road and Rail Bridges across the River Forth, and to the north west of the city of Edinburgh, stands the church of Abercorn, West Lothian, whose origins go back possibly to the mission of Ninian to the Picts in the fourth century, but which is also of great interest to those whose hearts are stirred by the Northumbrian Saints, for it became the farthest northern monastery of the diocese of Lindisfarne, during the few years when the Anglo-Saxon kings ruled the southern Picts.

Today, coming to the church, signposted from the main Queensferry to Bo'ness road and left open for visitors, one finds traces dating back to the eleventh century; and there are tangible remnants of the Celtic age. Just inside the Kirkyard gate, as one enters, on the right hand side is a small museum, containing the shaft of a Celtic cross of Northumbrian design, generally known as the 'Bishop's Cross', linking it with the episcopate of Trumwin, whom Bede (Ecclesiastical History, Book IV.26)



describes as a 'reverend man of God' and who accompanied King Ecgrith to Farne to beseech Cuthbert to accept a Bishop's mitre in 685ad.



After the battle of Nechtansmere in the same year, where Ecgrith was killed in battle, the Picts regained the territory of West Lothian, and Trumwin retreated to Whitby, where he lived many years 'to the benefit of many others beside himself', and Abercorn was assimilated into the nation which was a century or so later to become Scotland under Kenneth McAlpin; yet it remained for many years part of the diocese of Lindisfarne, and later, Durham, until the establishment of a Scottish episcopate at St Andrews.

Here, then, is the northern border of the Northumbrian mission, on the shores of the Forth; and it has always been a wonder to me that its southernmost outreach saw a monastery established on the banks of another great river, the Thames, where Cedd of Lindisfarne built his monastery at East Tilbury in Essex (traditionally linked to St Catherine's Church in that village.) Here were hearts fired by passion to see the good news of Christ go far and wide, and as we make pilgrimage in their footsteps, our prayer is to see the good news rise again throughout the nations as it once did in their day.



### New Programme

The new programme of retreats for the Nether Springs covering the period of October 2004 through to July 2005 is now available from the Community Office. **One to highlight is the Community Group Leaders weekend from February 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.** This is an important gathering for all Community Group Leaders, potential and actual. It is our hope that every group will be able to be represented as this will be an opportunity for radical re-evaluation in this important area of our Community life.



# Bits And Pieces



## 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.

## Community Groups

If you would like more information about Community Groups; please contact:

**Norma Charlton**

norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org  
0191 487 8065  
or via the Community office

## The Telling Place

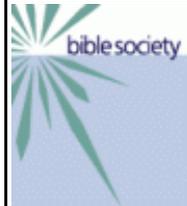
### Beginners' Storytelling Workshops

4 Dec South Craven,  
Yorkshire  
with Dave Robertson

Full details and bookings from  
Dave Ward on  
0161 227 0377  
thetellingplace@bigfoot.com  
or online at  
www.thetellingplace.org

The editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of CAIM. We apologise to anyone who's contribution has been missed due to lack of space.

**Issue 31  
Winter 2004  
The copy date  
for this edition is  
15th November 2004  
Note early copy date!**



## STREAMS IN THE DESERT

### BEING CHURCH IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

An essential weekend residential event for **all who are serious about mission to culture**

**26-28 November 2004, High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts**

- > Wrestle with issues of cultural engagement
- > Discover insightful cultural analysis
- > Explore practical ways to engage
- > Network, discuss ideas and find new inspiration
- > Workshops on film, storytelling, business, media, politics and more
- > Relax with storytelling, music and a powerful dramatic performance

**Speakers include** Graham Cray, John Drane, Steve Egan, Nick Spencer.

**Workshop leaders include** Steve Bassett, Dee Dyas, Alison Farnell, Ann Holt, Angela Knowles, Pip Piper, Nick Pollard, Dave Robertson, Roy Searle, Linsi Simmons, Chris Sunderland, Martin Thompson, Dermot Tredget.

As church members become increasingly involved in church leadership, this event provides an exciting opportunity to explore the rapidly changing cultural context in which we all operate and consider practical ways to engage with today's society.

### INTERESTED?

To register your interest and receive a brochure and booking form, please call 01793 418100 or email [events@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:events@biblesociety.org.uk). Further information is also on our website at [www.biblesociety.org.uk/streams](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/streams).

## Book amnesty

Listed below are just some of the books missing from the reference section of the library at Nether Springs. Even if you think you have not got any library books, please would you check your shelves to see whether you might be harbouring a lost book unawares. There should be a numerical label on the spine or at least a red Nether Springs Library stamp inside the cover. We would be very grateful to receive any returns as they are key books for the Community. To replace even these few would cost in the region of £100.00.

### AUTHOR

EDWARDS, Gene  
MATTHEWS, M  
MERTON, Thomas  
MERTON, Thomas  
MERTON, Thomas  
NOUWEN, Henri  
SHANNON, W H  
VANIER, Jean

### TITLE

The Inward Journey  
The Hidden Journey (about Merton)  
The New Man  
The Last of the Fathers (St Bernard)  
Life and Holiness  
Making All Things New, plus  
The Return of the Prodigal  
Circles of Love (daily readings)  
Desert Wisdom, sayings from the Fathers  
In the Name of Jesus (leadership)  
Clowning in Rome  
The Way of the Heart  
Thomas Merton's Dark Path  
The Broken Body



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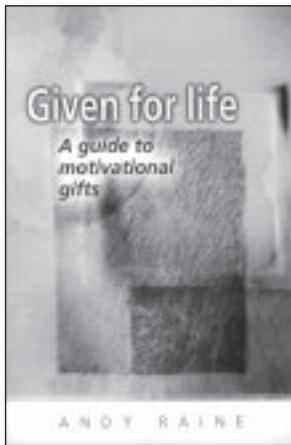
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0161 442 7506

Greetings to you from the Northumbria Community and Cloisters, its trading company.

There are two things we specially wish to bring your attention. The first is ***Given for Life: A Guide to Motivational Gifts***, a new book by Andy Raine, one of the Community founders; it at last makes available in book form material that has proved



inspirational to many over the years from Andy's Motivations seminars; you will find a review and order details overleaf (and an order form on the back page).

The second is ***A Way for Living: Introducing the Rule of the Northumbria Community***. This booklet, the latest in the How then shall we live? series (see full details



overleaf), not only contains the Rule itself, but a new introduction to it by Trevor Miller, one of the Community's leaders, setting out why the Community needs a Rule and how it should be used. It is an essential companion for all involved with the Community; and could also very helpfully be given to those who ask, 'What exactly is the Northumbria Community?'.

We would also commend a new book by Alan Jamieson ***Journeying in Faith: in and beyond the Tough Places*** which addresses the issues of why so many move away from the Church. This is a 'non-judgemental guide for leavers and churches alike.' You will find further details of this book overleaf.

If you are looking for a beautifully illustrated book with deep spiritual content as a Christmas gift, you might like to consider Mary Fleeson's ***Life Journey*** (see full details overleaf).

And don't forget Cloisters Christmas cards (see details overleaf).

Should you wish to remove your name from Cloisters' database, write 'Delete' under your name and address on the order form on the back page and post it (no stamp necessary in UK) to: Cloisters, Freepost NEA8847, Alnwick, NE66 1BR

# Books

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## ***Given For Life: A Guide To Motivational Gifts* by Andy Raine**

Many will have come across Andy's wonderful material on Motivational Gifts – and have been frustrated not to be able to obtain a 'proper' copy of it. But at last, after considerable rewriting, it has now being published by Kevin Mayhew.

'It's not what you do, but the underlying WHY that you do it that betrays who you are.' Andy's book helps you to unpack this and discover the gift that was always there: the innate responses and abilities you were born with. Are you a 'prophet'? Or a 'ruler' or a 'mercy'? A 'giver', 'server' or 'teacher'? Or perhaps an 'exhorter' or a 'giver'? Or a mixture? Many have been helped to relax into who they really are through working through this material: they no longer feel obliged to try to be somebody else. 'It's OK to be me!'

Apart from allowing you to study the different gifts and see how they might apply to you, Andy maps out the spiritual background for his approach, which is different from personality indicator schemes such as Myers-Briggs. He also provides 'tie-breakers' for those who cannot decide which gift they have; and he spells out some of the dangers of treating the material superficially, as opposed to working through it carefully and prayerfully.

When you have worked through the material yourself and can appreciate the precious gift you have been granted – for life! – recommend it to your friends.

**Ref: GFL**

**Mail Order Price: £11.00**

## ***Life Journey* by Mary Fleeson**

Mary's beautiful artwork from the Lindisfarne Scriptorium on Holy Island is familiar to

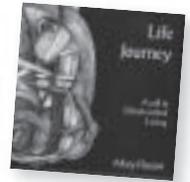
many. But did you know that much of her work has now been brought together and published in this beautiful book?

Mary invites the reader on an inner journey of discovery, adventure, awakening, reflection and faith. Creative and inspired, the book resonates with Mary's own deep faith and touches all the senses through its wonderfully crafted and created pages. The artwork is outstanding and the helpful poems, prayers, meditations, Bible quotations, design notes and suggested activities make for a fascinating treasury and companion for all who are exploring or seeking to deepen their faith.

This book makes a wonderful present. Perhaps for yourself!

**Ref: LJ**

**Mail Order Price: £17.00**



## ***Journeying In Faith: In And Beyond The Tough Places* By Alan Jamieson**



This provocative book has been particularly commended by the Community leadership because it resonates with the experience of so many people who cross the Community's path. The author explores the kind of faith being built by many who leave our churches, sharing their stories of meeting God in and beyond the dark and lonely places of faith, in order to offer help and hope to other 'wanderers'. It will be helpful both to those have themselves moved away from the Church, either physically or in heart or mind, and also to those, within and without the Church, who care enough to support them.

# Booklets and Christmas Cards

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Some of the chapter headings give a good idea of the author's approach (expressed in terms that are very familiar to the Community): 'Thriving in and beyond the desert', 'Seeing in and beyond the dark', 'Questions in and beyond answers'; 'Truth in and beyond myth'; 'Prayer in and beyond words'; 'Alleluia in and beyond agony and absence'; 'Growth and grace in and beyond failure'; 'Trust in and beyond suspicion'.

**Ref: JIF**

**Mail Order Price: £13.00**



## ***A Churchless Faith* By Alan Jamieson**

This second book by Alan Jamieson (actually written two years earlier) is a very readable and accessible summary of the author's research into why people are leaving church

(particularly the evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic churches) – 'the slow haemorrhage of faithful believers from seemingly healthy congregations'. This book is particularly relevant to those in church leadership; but it is also a challenge to anybody with a heart for the Church.

**Ref: ACF**

**Mail Order Price: £12.00**

## ***How Then Shall We Live? Booklet Series***

There are now 5 titles in this series of A5 booklets:

***A Way for Living*** Introducing the Rule of the Northumbria Community.

**Ref: HT/RULE**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

***The Heretical Imperative*** Explaining this key concept in the Community's Rule.

**Ref: HT/HI**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

***The City Without a Church*** Powerful writing by Henry Drummond which dovetails neatly with the Community's concept of 'Church without walls'.

**Ref: HT/CWC**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

***Follow the Example*** Makes these Celtic Daily Prayer liturgies available in handy booklet form.

**Ref: HT/FE**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

***Complines*** These liturgies, one for each day of the week, are an ideal way of putting the day past and the night to come into spiritual perspective before bed.

**Ref: HT/COMP**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**



## ***Cloisters Christmas Cards***

Christmas approaches and we would once again like to commend Cloisters range of cards. We have two A6 colour cards available: Christ of Hope (A6PC17) and Cross and Crown (A6PC16) in packs of 10 with envelopes. And there is also our mixed pack (XMIX) of 10 calligraphic cards (black on coloured card) with envelopes. If you would like more detail or to see samples, check out our website or contact us by phone or email.

***Christ of Hope Pack* Ref: A6PC17**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

***Cross and Crown Pack* Ref: A6PC16**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

***Calligraphic mixed card Pack* Ref: XMIX**

**Mail Order Price: £4.00**

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