



Issue No 13 Summer 2000

Editorial Comment

Welcome to the Summer edition of CAIM, the newsletter of the Northumbria Community. Again it is our hope and prayer that you will find in its brief pages that which is both informative and inspirational. This dual purpose continues to be our only aim at present. Although there is a need for such a publication, CAIM is not to be thought of as a Journal type magazine to give us, for instance, a platform for historical reflection on Celtic themes, or in depth articles expounding our ethos and 'Raison D'Etre.' Our Community is not primarily issue based but relational. It is an US not an IT; in that we have no existence outside of people in relationship to us. CAIM exists to pass on to our circle of Companions and Friends items of news, updates on events and happenings in relation to both Monastery and Mission, so that the wider dispersed Community know something of what is going on elsewhere from themselves and their particular situation and also to act as fuel for intercession. The contents of this issue provide a good example of how the spirituality and ethos of who we are and what we are about comes through both di-



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Ui f!Opsui vnscjb!Dpnnvojuz!!
Ofxtmfuufs!

CAIM is the Celtic word meaning encompassment or encircling. This newsletter goes out to all those who are within our circle; our Community Companions and Friends, plus those who have asked to be placed on our mailing list.

A Personal Homecoming

David Ward of Rhyll

About seven years ago a whole series of events brought about a real low point in my life. I was the pastor of a large, successful, charismatic evangelical church, yet felt that my own walk with God was becoming increasingly distant and more than a little shallow. It wasn't a crisis of faith, but, as far as I was concerned, it was definitely a crisis of relationship. However, an equally significant train of events drew me towards Celtic Christian spirituality, community and contemplative lifestyle, and the use of a daily office. This was such a significant discovery for me that it was some time before it dawned on me that my "innovation" was in fact a return to an important facet of personal and corporate spirituality, stretching back through Church history to the days of the first Christians. Two strands combined as I tried to deepen my relationship with God, and searched for a more authentic Christian life. The first was a desire for more depth in my spirituality than my evangelical and charismatic experience had given me. Although I deeply valued this tradition, I felt increasingly that it was a bit "second hand" for me – I needed to find a tradition that fitted *me*. Secondly, I was looking for a form of Christianity that is relevant at a time when culture is becoming more complex. What kind of approach would enable me to communicate and live the gospel afresh in a post-Christian, Post-modern, and pluralistic age. As I searched Church History for clues and insight, I slowly focussed in on the period of British history known as the Dark Ages, and the work of the Celtic missionaries as they re-evangelised the British Isles. A book by John Finney ("Recovering the Past: Celtic and Roman Mission") argued the relevance of the Celtic pattern of evangelism, discipleship and spirituality to our modern age, and many other books confirmed this discovery. A chance conversation with a colleague led me to contact the Northumbria Community. I visited, talked to members of the Community and shared in Community life, including participation in the Daily Office of the Community. On my return home, I continued to use the Office, and later became a Companion of the Community. The Daily Office, in particular, proved to be a most significant discovery. Like many others before me, I quickly came to appreciate the freedom and discipline that the Office provides.

[1] It responds to our need for rhythm in life.

David Adam writes of the need people have "to establish fixed times for prayer which will enrich the whole day and guide them through it". Office not only responds to our life rhythm through the day, but does so in a way that is not as time intensive as the traditional "Quiet Time".

[2] It provides an opportunity for incarnational prayer.

Whereas prayer often seems to be an activity divorced from daily life, the Office firmly cements it into the ebb and flow of everyday life. Its simplicity enables us to remember it and use it even if we are at our place of work.

[3] It provides an objective approach to prayer.

Private prayer always runs the risk of becoming self-indulgent. The words of the Office are constant and unchanging, always focusing our attention on God, not just cataloguing our own needs and wants (although it does provide us with a place to share in our needs in prayer). It becomes an "offering up of disinterested praise", and prevents us from becoming over-familiar with God.

[4] It unites us with Christians in every place and time.

It is a tradition going back many, many years. It has stood the test of time! It is a form of prayer used and appreciated by Christians across a whole spectrum of spiritualities and traditions. When we pray, we experience solidarity with believers all around the world, even if we are isolated and alone. We become part of the ceaseless prayer of the church. Office is an "alone-together" experience.

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A Personal Homecoming

(continued from page 1)

[5] **It is a spiritual discipline.**

It is all too easy for our prayer to become dependant on emotion, so easy to confuse feelings and spirituality as being synonymous. Office is an act of will, providing a check and balance to more spontaneous worship. When prayer is difficult and apathy reigns, Office enables us to "worship God with, without, or against our feelings" (Stephen Winward).

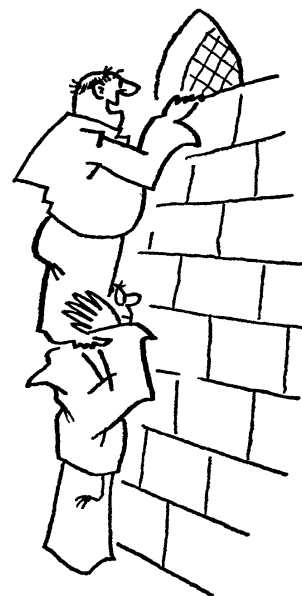
[6] **It builds a sound foundation for a devotional life.**

Office is "the Christians school of prayer" (David Adam). The discipline it demands enables us to practise, and mature in, our prayer life. It creates a constant awareness of prayer, and of the many unselfish ways in which we can pray. It provides us with a framework of ceaseless prayer that feeds and aids both private prayer and congregational worship. I came to the Office at a dry and difficult time in my life. The sheer discipline of the Office, it's ability to be the same *yet different* every time, and the way that it brought focus when I was full of distracting thoughts helped me through this dark time. The structure of the Office provided me with space for more spontaneous prayer, and gave God an opportunity to speak into my situation. I was able to draw on the faith throughout the day and night, and relationships as they occurred. centred devotions, I needed to that was more prayer and God-provided a sound way of doing this. frequently separated physically from other Christians, the Office provided me with a sense of solidarity and continuity with Believers everywhere, particularly with others in the Northumbria Community. As I chart the landmarks in my Christian journeying, the most recent additions to my spiritual resources are journaling, contemplative prayer and the discipline of the Daily Office – none of them landmarks frequently associated with the dynamic and spontaneous spirituality of the charismatic evangelical! But for me, it has been a homecoming, and I eagerly anticipate taking fresh steps in my journey to be transformed into the image of Jesus.

I came to the
Office at a dry and
difficult time in my
life

BEWARE OF THE ABBOT

Hugh Barnett



'There's a bright golden haze on the meadow—!'

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.

Journeying with the Northumbria Community

A booklet with the above title is available on request from the Community Office. It is designed for those wishing to explore what it will mean in actual practice to become a Companion or Friend of the Northumbria Community. A brief outline of the background and formation of the Community, as well as its vocation and vision is followed by an explanation of the process required of those considering journeying with the Community.

Community Groups

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

Norma Charlton at 84, Kells Lane, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5XY.

Important information on the recovery of tax on donations

The Government has recently announced measures which have an important effect on the way in which charities administer the recovery of tax on Gift Aid donations and payments made under Deed of Covenant. These measures came into force with effect from 6th April 2000.

1. The £250 minimum limit for Gift Aid donations is abolished, so that the scheme will apply to any donation, whether large or small, regular or one-off.
2. Separate tax relief for payments made under Deed of Covenant is withdrawn, so that all relief for such payments shall come under the Gift Aid Scheme. (However existing Covenants are not affected and can continue until they run out.)
3. The requirement to provide a Gift Aid Certificate with each donation is replaced by the granting of a new, simpler and more flexible Gift Aid Declaration, which can be worded in various ways either to specify the donation/s applicable or be open-ended to include, for example, "All donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and all donations I make hereafter".

These declarations can be given in writing, over the phone or via the Internet. (However, if given over the phone, they are not legal until a written declaration is sent by the charity to the giver.) The main advantages of the new legislation are:

No annual payment amounts need be specified.

The requirement to commit oneself to giving for a 4-year period is removed.

In case of an open-ended Gift Aid Declaration there would be a saving in administration, as there would be no requirement for periodic renewal.

We would like to encourage you if you are tax payers to fill in the enclosed form to enable us to claim tax back on any donations you might give to us. The only thing you will need to do is to inform us if at any time your tax situation changes and you no longer pay tax to the Inland Revenue. Thank you.

Availability for Mission means Vulnerability in Mission

Francis Leonard and Norma Wise of Newton Aycliffe reflect respectively on what it means to go on Mission with one of the Community Teams

Availability and Vulnerability!

What does it mean in our daily lives? Not a lot unless it is part of being in a Community of people! With the Northumbria Community, it means a way of living. When asked to join a mission team we become Available and Vulnerable. 'Being available' means we go to wherever the event is taking place, - now that is the easy part. The taking of time outside our normal routine, for the purpose of others, be they in our Community or not. 'Being vulnerable' this is the difficult part, for we take on a task which, we may or may not (in my case) be able to do or perform. We are taught dance routines in the afternoon, and then dance in front of our audience in the evening, that is 'being vulnerable'. Some of us have to learn a speaking part, large or small being word perfect in front of ourselves or our partner can be easy, but when the mind freezes in front of people, that is being vulnerable.

I enjoyed the weekend, meeting people who I had met previously, some at Nether Springs and Holy Island or the church at Old Bewick. Some many years ago and some the last time I went on Mission at Hexham. Now I not only forget my lines or do the dance routines wrong, but also have trouble remembering the correct name to go with the correct face. However, all my errors (talking and dance parts) become null and void through the love and caring that there is in the Community people. Togetherness nullifies the worry on the day, as we go through rehearsals with all the stumbling and stuttering, which is then ironed out and modified to help each person perform to the best of their abilities, without hampering the production. In my own case, no matter how much I knew the end prayer I had to speak, I stumbled when I delivered it, which possibly caused an even better ending to the production, in that it then ended with the singing of the prayer as in a choir. As my wife Sheila put it 'The touching of each others lives every once in a while too, is most important, and it is good to spend time with our wider community family whatever the reason.'

Fears and Hopes

Oh the joy, excitement, apprehension, longings, the thought of the driving, the lines still to learn, that filled my heart and mind before the various missions. Where will I stay, who with, what good would I be, I who cannot dance, sing or memorise very

well? Ah well, if there is nothing I can DO, at least I can be BE, in the midst of our family, brother and sisters and distant cousins and the strangers we will meet who will become our new friends.

First to Essex Storytelling School. As well as packing everything but the kitchen sink, I put on the whole armour of God ... how spiritual!! No, just self protection, following the last visit Theo and I (Roy and Trevor) made to the London Underground ticket barriers. They ate my bags and attacked my body not once but three times. The profit made from the hidden video camera, built the Dome, and the incident gave Roy a new line for many sermons about 'country cousins let loose in London'. Having left ticket barriers, broken down trains, and delays behind us, the great joy of the next 36 hours was immense. Strangers who became instant friends, also a few community friends meeting up again, the closeness, the oneness, the sheer pleasure of sharing stories and lives, learning so much about what Storytelling encompasses and the tears and laughter. I can sum it up for me by sharing that, as I reflected on the train home, I realised I'd gone away a caterpillar and returned home a butterfly. Where to fly to next?...

The Hillside parishes near Thirsk, for Celtic Fire. When Sheila and I arrived, having been lost thrice, everyone was there and after a lovely quiet Morning Office, the chaos of rehearsals began. How can this ever come together after only 2 hours practising, BUT miracles still happen and by evening the presentation was happening to a full church. It was moving and inspirational, and for me the relief of no lines to learn, as I was given the job of narrating. Sheila became an angel (so what is new?). We drove home refreshingly tired!!

I dried my wings and hung them up for quite a while (Sheila had been an angel without wings has anyone a spare pair?). Then the call came for East Kilbride - Celtic Fire and Church services. After a wonderful easy journey, we arrived first at East Kilbride, (please note and put in your diaries as another miracle) then gradually the rest of the family arrived,



about 30. Oh the joy, the inexpressible joy and comfort of meeting up again with more of our dispersed community family. Then, after Office, the usual chaos, who goes where, who with, what for? "No we don't dance" seemed to fall on deaf ears as Sheila, Francis and I joined the dancers. (Later during the service Francis managed to dance wonderfully, though getting his shoes off in time is another story....!) While on mission, so much seemed to be happening, inwardly and outwardly, the blessings and the irritations, the remembering and forgetting of things to do, the right and wrong 'bits', BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IN THE END, because we all blend together. God sees to it all, sometimes speaking through you sometimes not. Sometimes giving you beautiful steps sometimes letting you fall into the baptistry. But He makes it REAL not pretence. He makes it LIFE, not an unfeeling professional production. Oh and the joy of hearing our Community Companions preach and talk and storytell; we learned so much by just sitting at their feet.

To go on mission - you don't have to be a good navigator He does get you to your destination. You don't have to negotiate your fears, such as ticket barriers He gets Roy to carry your bags. You don't have to have a brilliant memory He says Trust Me. Open your mouth and I will fill it.

The washings done, the bags are packed, the wings are rested Where next?



BOOK AMNESTY

As we have many library books particularly from the reference section at Nether Springs currently unreturned, would it be possible for you to check whether or not you have overlooked any such books, and if so could you please return them. We would be very grateful.

EASTER WORKSHOP

How then shall we live? An ongoing question

How then shall we live? This was the theme for Easter Workshop 2000 held at the Nether Springs. It was a carefully chosen theme as it reflected our continuing commitment to both foundational principles and creative growth. It was the question on the lips of our founders and remains on the lips of all at the heart of our Community. 'Building the new on foundations of old.' We wanted to both symbolise and emphasise this ongoing fact throughout the weekend.

In order to give opportunity for attendance to those people who have major local church commitments over Easter weekend itself, we held Easter workshop this year over the Palm Sunday weekend. The programme began on the Friday evening when we shared together the family Shabbat liturgy with a buffet meal following. Over 60 people then packed into Chapel for Evening Office and our first 'session' in which Andy and Anna Raine with Jeff and Jill Sutheran led us into an informal evening of music, song, liturgy and story. Through these mediums we were able to share together the foundations of our Community, reflect on our history and ethos, as the background stories to many of our meditations and liturgies were explained. All this was all in the context of 'How then shall we

"Building the new on foundations of old"

live?' and Companions new and old found this time very meaningful and helpful, not to mention moving and challenging.

The programme continued on the Saturday and in keeping with our theme, after Morning Office we all travelled the few miles to the chapel at Old Bewick as this was and is 'a thin place' for us as a Community. We prayed and worshipped together; were led again to reflect on 'How then shall we live?' and encouraged to bring all our hopes and fears both individually and corporately to the Lord. The paradoxical aspect of belonging to a dispersed Community featured strongly among the scores of comments written down and offered to the Lord in prayer. i.e. Alone yet together, isolated yet in fellowship, laughter and tears, orphans in family, being safe dangerously.

On Saturday afternoon following Midday Office and Lunch, a Creative Workshop was held in the Chapel at the Nether Springs. This was brilliantly prepared and presented by James and Sally Hawes, so that people of all ages and all levels of skill were encouraged in using paintings, etchings, crafts, etc to be creative in expressing their response to 'How then shall we live?'. Saturday evening after Dinner and Office was an informal time. It gave opportunity to choose to be alone or together. Many chose to play outdoor games; others began a spontaneous telling of stories in the Lounge, and this gathering like Topsy, just grew. Others took time out to walk, to talk, to reflect on the journey thus far.

On Sunday Morning we all traveled to Yeavinger and Kirknewton, again places of significance associated with our history and spirituality. Over 80 people entered into a time of prayer and worship in the Anglican Church in Kirknewton. It was a very powerful time together as through symbolism, dance, music and readings we reflected on and prayed for the Celtic Arc, especially Turkey, France and Ireland. Many will never

forget the near presence of the Lord as Jeff and Jill sang and prayed for 'Ireland O Ireland' as many were moved to tears. We symbolised our commitment to pilgrimage by walking around various places in the Church praying for the many places closer to home that have become very significant for us. Heavenfield, Whithorn, Whitby, Lindisfarne. We then gathered for a Palm Sunday Eucharist and gladly blessed one another with the peace of the Lord for all our future journeys – inward and outward – alone yet together.

Easter Sunday

Even though Easter Workshop had taken place the previous weekend, we kept our promise to one another as a Community that we would always give the opportunity to meet on Easter Sunday on Holy Island. It was a lovely day, as we gathered for the Easter Day service at St Mary's. Even though a large Community team were at Spring Harvest a good number of Community folk were present, some of whom had traveled long distances to be there. Following the Eucharist service we gathered around Aidan's statue and after saying Midday Office together, Andy Raine taught the words and movements for all to sing and dance 'Christ as a Light' to huge numbers of people, Northern Cross pilgrimage, visitors as well as Community folk. We then went to the Lindisfarne Priory where we shared in dance, prayer walking, and worship songs including 'A time to gather' 'I bind unto myself today', and 'Even though the day be laden.' Andy & Anna wonderfully interpreted Iona's Today through movement and dance and after renewing our vows saying Yes to Availability and Vulnerability, we concluded with the powerful and deeply moving 'I know that my Redeemer lives'. It was good to be refreshed, restored and mutually encouraged once again.

Easter Reflections

Anne Cope of Leeds

There it was

That the stone was rolled away.

They had nailed down His life

And knew He was dead;

Yet the grave-bound, lifeless One

Walked forth

Here it was

That the lid was unlocked

Of my custom made box.

They had nailed down the lid

And written the label;

Yet the judgement-bound, uncertain me

Walks forth

Called by the Father

Into the embrace of His Son

And in the power of His Spirit

To journey together in freedom



"Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's
the future, but today is a GIFT.
That's why it's called
the present."

A Story of Singapore!

Anne Dyer of Grimsby

Two Geordie girls and I were stood in the financial centre of Singapore at the MRT (=Metro underground train system!) entrance in a hot and thunderous rainstorm! Turbaned men and sari'd ladies, flowered and brightly coloured "maxi-suits" of Malay ladies, business suited Chinese, all sorts were coming towards us in a race to get out of the rain. We held our survey sheets before us trying to catch the eye of anyone willing to answer them, preferably of one particular ethnic group: it would become a part of the research for my MA project.

Another time we did the same outside the biggest and oldest mosque in this tiny land – it's barely as big as Berwick to Alnwick, Lindisfarne to Wooler! Here I managed to chat with an elderly lady in my dialect Malay and she understood me! It would sound like broad Glaswegian to a Londoner! Not only will it help my MA but contribute to a project there to unblinker the churches to cross-cultural needs. So, I visited a few of the Churches among Chinese and Indian people: they are very exciting groups to be among! Several churches have 10,000 membership and are constantly adding cell groups: they have to hire the National Stadium to get them all together as one church did for Easter Sunday! There is such a high faith level and commitment to outreach amongst their own people and even overseas people but not necessarily across races within the island. Our commitment level in UK is challenged! However very few in Singapore are committed to reach across the immediate ethnic and political boundaries: faith needs risk takers! It's all very hush hush in a way, - not just because I spent a great deal of time in the National University of Singapore's library - but to protect such people who are willing for the risk! Please pray for the research project's ongoing results – for openings to present the findings and challenge the Chinese churches.

Jottings from the Spring Harvest Diary

The following comments by friends old and new who met with the Community Team at the recent Spring Harvest are included for our encouragement as a Community. It is both humbling and challenging to know that God has his hand upon us and is using us to touch the lives of many people.

Spring Harvest weeks are always a wonderful mixture of very diverse people. All sorts of seminars go together with quite varied evening worship times. In the Big Tent many enjoy the liveliness of a more charismatic form of worship and the TV style of communication in the preaching. But there is also an alternative more meditative worship on offer which goes together with serious biblical teaching. My wife Elizabeth and I particularly appreciated having the opportunity of attending the worship led by the Northumbria Community and it was a particular delight for us to get to know them more personally too. Worship and fellowship together with the community was to us a high-light of our two weeks at Minehead. We so enjoyed their depth of worship and their spiritual sensitivity. It was noticeable that every evening more and more people found their way to the large meeting place where the Community was leading the worship. The Celtic spirituality and sensitivity obviously touched a chord of need and spiritual hunger in many. I wonder whether the post-modern trend in contemporary British society is leading more towards such meditative worship forms and away from the now traditional charismatic style with its emphasis on worship through song and light-hearted patterns of communication.

Martin & Elizabeth Goldsmith

Minehead was an experience of Community, Storytelling and the edge of something being built which is long lasting. What we did appeared to be counter-culture to the general ethos of Spring Harvest and a lot of the Church in the West but people voted with their feet and came in their thousands. Storytelling displayed in performance and workshop also captured the hearts of those who experienced it. An abiding memory is seeing people five deep thronging the Community Stand after one evenings worship all eager to try and buy something that will begin to make sense of what they were experiencing. As someone said "if we had baked cakes, we could have sold them as well!

Geoff Boston

I could think of every reason why I did not want to be at Spring Harvest, and was very reluctantly packed into the car after a hard day at work. When I have been asked on many occasions since, 'How was Spring Harvest', I say that I think, in balance, for me the laughter outweighed the tears. It was good to be able to share our lives together for a longer period of time than is usual in Community gatherings; love and care was evident in the down times. Bob and I enjoyed working on the Cloisters stand and meeting people, working together and hopefully sharing a little of Community ethos on our marginalised pitch outside the Gents! We were absolutely shattered when we returned and it seemed to take weeks to recover. I hope we made a difference - it is not easy sometimes to see why you are where you are doing what you are and that was the big struggle for me. I am very proud of Roy, our band and storytellers. Pray for them!

Chris Ainsley

'They put Cloisters right down the far end of the Resource Centre, next to the loos! But no matter: people needed to find the loos, and there was nearly always somebody browsing through Nancy Hammond's cards, Joan Boston's stained glass and Mary Fleeson's posters. And after the celebration each evening in the Crazy Horse Saloon, there was a veritable scrum round the stand as people wanted to buy Celtic Daily Prayer books and music and find out more about the Community and Storytelling. The team behind the stand was unable to cope one or two nights and had to call for reinforcements - and on the last night the stand almost completely ran out of stock! It was very satisfying though to feel the close relationship between what was going on in the celebration and the stock and information available to give away or sell on the Cloisters stand.

Ian Corsie

It was a very special time at Spring Harvest, not just for the contacts made, but especially for the way God worked through the life of the Community touching so many lives in ways we will probably never know. Although hard work we both enjoyed the experience. We pray that God will continue to keep our eyes fixed on Him and keep our feet on the ground.

Jackie & Paul Brain

Asked to be the evening speaker at the last night of Spring Harvest was an honour that filled me with trepidation. I had not spoken outside the seminars before, and I had not previously met the Northumbria Community. My wife and I felt the best way to prepare was to become, as best we could, part of the Community for that Spring Harvest week, by attending each of the evening celebrations. We are upfront, fairly typical Anglican Evangelicals. We knew we were bold enough to raise our arms to Jesus in joy and worship, but were we equally bold in searching within on a more spiritual journey? Like hundreds of others that week, we felt at home as soon as we walked in that first evening, for the gift of hospitality was much in evidence. Roy's gentle voice took us on a nightly voyage, as we explored without pressure, and with great sensitivity some of the aspects of Celtic worship. Both wonderful music and dramatised readings added greatly to the atmosphere. We appreciated time for prayer, and time for each other, as we shared with those around us. There was plenty of humour too. Whenever depth was becoming cloying sentiment, the mood was lightened by a timely word of humour, we were never allowed to forget to earth our worship, to keep our feet on the ground, whilst our minds were filled with heaven. I am grateful for many things from that week. I am grateful that the Community gave us a glimpse of living a Christ centred life not individually, in this age of too much singleness, but together. Grateful too for music and prayer that uplifted and touched emotion, and left peace and satisfaction in its wake rather than over stimulated energy. Pleased to be introduced to a concept of Church that travelled, was not in a fixed place, but could move, rooted in people rather than a building. And most of all pleased and privileged to be able to see Jesus with fresh eyes, the eyes of those who travel with Him day by day, who love each other and through that love, all those He loved. I think many of us took away a longing to find in our own journeys the peace we shared together, and to do what we can to create a rather greater sense of God's peace around us in our daily lives. Thank you.

Eve and Alistair Burt

NEWS FROM CLOISTERS

Ian Corsie of Allerdean

CELTIC DAILY PRAYER - MUSIC EDITION

A smartly-produced A4 booklet containing all the sheet music for Morning, Midday and Evening Prayer is now available by mail order from Cloisters at £5 per copy (including p&p). Don't forget you can use your credit card for Cloisters orders. If you need a copy of the current catalogue, phone 01289 388235, fax 01289 388510 or email cloisters@bigfoot.com



KYRIE - AND OTHER SONGS

Kyrie is the title of a new song by Nick and Anita Haigh that made a profound impact on many who were at Spring Harvest. It came out of their own pain and thus has spoken deeply to others. If you are one of those who has been asking about it, you will be pleased to hear that Nick and Anita have now recorded their own CD 'Celtic Roots and Rhythms - Heartcry' with Kyrie on it. It will be available to purchase direct from Cloisters in mid July at £15 including p&p. The Community music team will also be putting together another CD of familiar and new Community music later in the year.

CELTIC DAILY PRAYERBOOK

This will be published by HarperCollins in October and the retail price is likely to be £20 and will be available from Cloisters. It will be a leatherette softback, so shouldn't fall to pieces with constant use as the present books do; and it will contain not only all the contents of the current Daily and Night Prayer (revised as necessary) combined, but also the following new material:

- A new order of Holy Communion.
- Calendar and resources for saints' days and festivals (covering 93 saints and festivals).
- Liturgies for Brendan ('in exploration of a vision'), Ninian ('in relating to the whole of life') and Caedmon ('in declaration of a dream').
- A litany of saints ('the house that John built').
- Additional prayers 'in the shadow of death'.
- Liturgies and prayers for Advent, Easter, Ascension and Harvest.
- Additional blessings, prayers and graces.
- Four (out of the 24 months included) months of daily readings.



Celtic Daily Prayer and Celtic Night Prayer will continue to be available from Cloisters whilst stocks last; after that, Cloisters will produce a new Celtic Daily Office booklet with the basic daily offices, complines and meditations for each day of the month. Further booklets will also be made available with some or all of the other liturgies.

Storytelling Summer School A Practical Application

'Stories from around the World' was the title of a service at Glossop Central Methodist Church in the High Peak of Derbyshire recently. Filled with enthusiasm from the Storytelling Summer School at the Nether Springs, John Cooper, a Community Companion, had met no problem in persuading the minister of the above church, David Woodward, that a storytelling service was a worthwhile venture. David suggested that the main morning service on Overseas Missions Sunday was an exciting choice as it was also a family service, so the church would be quite busy with the guides and the brownies and some of their parents as well as the usual congregation. Dave Robertson,

who often works with the Northumbria Community and the Telling Place who describes himself as 'a freelance apprentice storyteller' was invited, and held everyone spell-bound with his stories. John also told a couple of short stories as did the minister David, who also linked the whole service together with prayers, hymns and bible readings. It proved to be a memorable occasion where folk heard the Good news in a happy and relaxed service; it could easily happen again!

A Home for a Hedgehog

Jenny Cooper of Glossop writes following a retreat on Creator/Creation at the Nether Springs

Found in the prayer garden
Homeless among the dead leaves
Disturbed by a spade
The call goes out -
Care for me!

Made in the prayer garden
A safe place here by the wall
Earth for the base, stone for the side
Ash twigs for the roof
Searching, sawing, digging, heaving
Fetching, arranging to show -
We care for you.

Now in the prayer garden
It looks exposed and not very snug so
With old carpet, leaf compost and soil
We soften the house
Dig, spread, level, cover
Camouflage the house to show -
God, through us, will care for you.

Annual Retreat

All Community Companions and Friends are encouraged to build into their lives an Annual private retreat at the Nether Springs. This would be a time of reflection, of quiet and waiting upon God with individual direction. Many of you already do this and know its benefits and blessing. Also to participate in one of the many Led Retreats we are running in the coming months, details of which are in the current programme which is available from the Community Office.

Yes to Blessing Others

Over the years we often receive requests to use parts of Celtic Day & Night prayer. The following is one such received from Australia:

Dear Members of the Northumbria Community, My name is Peter and I work in the area of music therapy. My particular vocation is in the area of palliative care, and I use music to assist people in 'letting go' at the final stage of their lives. I am writing to you asking for permission to use the meditation 'Walking with Grief' from your prayer book 'Celtic Night Prayer'. I plan to make a recording that uses music and the spoken word that would give comfort to family members who are in grief due to the loss of their loved ones.

Needless to say, we always say yes to such requests as long as the source is acknowledged as it is a great encouragement to know some of our material is being used to bless others.

Kingdom in the Streets

Rosie Oliver from the York group writes

Richard and I belong to the York Community Group, which has been meeting since September 1999, and together with the Bradford Community Group, we took part in a weekend called "The Kingdom in the Streets", based in St Christopher's Church, Holmewood, Bradford, in March 2000. The main theme of the weekend was to celebrate and be involved in how the churches of Bradford are already working together to bring Christ to the streets of the city. On the Saturday morning there was a variety of creative workshops, such as art, storytelling, dance, music and sewing, during which we explored what the theme of the weekend meant to us. I went to the sewing workshop, which was run by Lesley Killen. We made representations of various churches in and around the City of Bradford, using a wide variety of materials. We then put them all together, combining into a whole to represent the Kingdom in the Streets. During the Saturday afternoon our community group led a reflective workshop based on 1 Corinthians 13, in which we explored what God's love is (and also what it is not!) We then explored the idea of CAIM (The Caim of God's love encircling me, encircling us, encircling others), and we used this to pray for people from our own lives. After participating in various church services around Bradford on the Sunday morning, on the Sunday evening there was a service at St Christopher's Church which incorporated all the aspects of the weekend. As people came into the service they wrote the names of their churches together with people and situations which they wanted to pray for, on large sheets of paper which were attached to the walls of the church like Graffiti. We danced "The Kingdom in the Streets" taught to us by Brenda Grace, to a song by Ken Medema. At the end of the service everyone present lit a candle whilst praying for their churches, their lives, their families and friends. We as a group felt very privileged to be part of a weekend which was celebrating what God is already doing in the churches and in the city of Bradford. We felt that through this shared experience we have grown closer to one another. Our York Community Group meets on the second Friday of each month at 8pm at St Bede's Pastoral Centre in York, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join us. Contact Gayle-Anne Drury on 01904-464900 for further information.

I LOVE TO GO A WANDERING

Martin Neil, friend of the Community who has been working with the Telling Place Storytelling Initiative and more recently with our worship group is much travelled musician. Here he writes of his latest journeying, this time to Africa:

Guyana is a small state on the north coast of South America, its name derived from an Amerindian word meaning "land of waters". Most of the country consists of thick forest and navigation into the interior can be only undertaken by plane, hiking or boat. The coastal cities are the most populated with a wonderful mix of cultures from Asian and West Indies heritage. Hauraruni, the community we were helping, is a village one and a half hours from Georgetown the capital, that has been cut out of the jungle. 25 years ago it was but a dream for three women, now it supports approx. 125 people, with workshops, a farm that provides vegetables including beans, bananas, plantain and pineapples. It also has a Bible school and a children's home. We arrived at night and travelled along a straight main road away from the coast in darkness, until a sharp turn plunged us down a pot-holed dirt track which had been washed away more times than could be counted. Surrounded by lush vegetation and tall trees we made our way to the small village which was to be home for the next two weeks. The two things that hit us when we arrived was the amazing star filled sky, with no city lights obscuring the view you felt as if you could reach out and touch them, and the myriad sounds of incessant chatting creatures that filled our ears. A comment was made that in the city its the people that make the noise and the animals are silent but in the country its the wildlife that is heard most. In the morning we woke to find ourselves in a brand new world which by 7.00am was already hot and humid. Our accommodation was a partition roomed house on stilts with a corrugated roof under which was thatched palm. All houses were off the ground because of the possibility of flooding, but mainly due to the abundant wildlife, not that this seemed

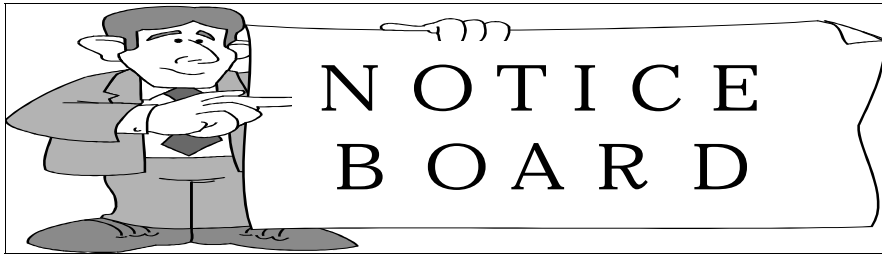
to deter them much. Delving into ones bags was an experience as you never knew what would climb out! Not for the faint hearted! In the days to come we got quite acquainted with mosquitoes, sand flies, snakes, tarantulas, ants and many other biting things!!! I think they must have sent out an announcement that fresh meat was in town. White boys too.....

The village was spread over a number of acres and consisted of many different wood and brick buildings. Water came from the creek which was Coca Cola coloured, (locally called black water) and electricity lasted from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Our task was to finish a washroom facility for the Bible school, to fit four toilets and showers, scree the floors, tile walls and floors, plumb and dig out waste channels. The job was a lot bigger than we had thought but amazingly we accomplished 98% of the work and the students were very, very thankful as before they had only had one toilet and two small, very dark showers.

As can be expected it wasn't long before I was involved with music, in fact the first night we started drum lessons but without many drums we formed The Drum Chair Orchestra. It was a fantastic way to get to know people and the second night brought people from all over the commu-

Heavenfield Pilgrimage

On Saturday August 5th, St Oswald's Day there is to be a joint pilgrimage to Heavenfield with our own Community and local churches. We will meet at Hexham Abbey at 10:00am and after a short service we will walk to St John's Lee. A break for a picnic lunch (bring your own as only drinks are provided) and then a further walk to Heavenfield for a short service which will include the Oswald Liturgy. All participants are invited to stay at Wycliffe St Mary's on Friday night (between Barnard Castle and Scotch Corner) so as to travel together to Hexham. There is limited accommodation but unlimited space for tents and caravans. For



The notice board is more about persons than about ideas. It is an opportunity for Companions and Friends to write in to the Editor, with news snippets, prayer requests and updates of happenings across the Community family.

Susie Minto is moving to Hetton Hall Lodge from Manchester in early July. She will be working full time with The Telling Place Team, overseeing the administrative needs of the Storytelling initiative.

We are glad to report that **Rob & Joanna Brown** have moved from Coventry to be part of the Team at the Nether Springs. They will live at 2 Hetton Hall Cottages.

Jill Sutheran of North Sunderland is making a really good recovery following major surgery in May. She has been using her convalescence period polishing up her skills at management oversight and delegation especially in the garden! Ask Jeff!

Robin and Karen Noad can be reached at the following address: 3184 W. Rock Creek Road, Apartment 1103, Norman, Oklahoma, USA 73072 or on e-mail robinkaren@bigfoot.com

Brenda Grace of Holborn and **Andy Raine** of Holy Island are attending the International Dance Conference in Mittagong, near Sydney, Australia this summer. They will fly out on 4th July. Brenda is staying on until August 14th and will visit our friends at St Joseph's Community, Goulbourn as well as spending some time with **Miriam Sayer** in Tasmania.

Ferg and Becky Matthews, with their children Amy, Joseph and Isaac are following God's leading and moving from Wooler to Lyon in France in early August. They hope to stay initially for 2 years. Pray that they may find suitable work and long term accommodation.

Congratulations to **Roger and Margaret Green** of Bedlington as they celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary

in July. Roger needs our prayers as he has recently been diagnosed as having a recurrence of prostate cancer.

Bill and Louise Whitfield from Wooler who worked for some time on the House team at Nether Springs are off to Australia for six months from the beginning of October this year. They have a very pleasant and comfortable one bedroomed flat in Wooler, Northumberland and would be interested in hearing from anyone who would appreciate using their home whilst they are away. They would be even more encouraged should any potential users be able to make a contribution towards the rent. A good place to take some time out, explore vocation, sabbatical or study leave etc Please feel free to contact them direct: 18B Ryecroft Way, NE71 6BP Tel: 01668 282 411

Congratulations to **Chris and Cathrin Jones** of Abingdon on the birth of their son Timon in May.

Ashley Wilson of Sunderland and **Alun Brookfield** of Swindon are both to be ordained in the Church of England on Sunday 2nd July. Ashley will be ordained in Selby Abbey. He will take up a curacy at St Mary the Virgin in Nunthorpe, Cleveland. Alun, a former Baptist Minister is to be ordained at Bristol Cathedral. Both services begin at 10.00am. We pray God's richest blessing on the lives and ministry of Ashley and Laura, Alun and Mary and their families at this important stage on their journey.

The Call

Norma Charlton of Gateshead

It started out to be an ordinary day
Doing ordinary, everyday tasks,
Not expecting such a variation,
A departure
From the mundane ordinariness of
Everything that had ever, never been,
Was then or would be.

Those fisherfolk on the shores
Of Lake Galilee
Showed no surprise
When He called.
In the midst of their ordinary day
Time stopped.
And they at once responded to His call
... Immediately, no sign of hesitation
No questions Who? What? Where?
He called. They Came.
It was that simple!

When we know more
What it means
To follow and obey
Then it is we wonder
At the simplicity.
He called. They came.

And yet I now remember
How it was when I first met Him.
It started out to be an ordinary day,
Doing ordinary tasks,
Not expecting any variation,
Or departure
From mundane ordinariness.
And yet one simple act
Caused me to meet Jesus.
And to know that He was then,
Is now, and always will be
So extraordinary!

That when He called
In the midst of an ordinary day
Time stopped
And I too responded to His call
Immediately, no sign of hesitation
No questions asked
It was that simple.

X i fo! J! hjwf! gppe! up! ui f!
qpps! ui fz! dbmm! nf! b! tbjou!
X i fo! J! btl! x i z! ui f! qpps!
i bwf! op! gppe! ui fz! dbmm! nf!
b!dpnnvojtu!

I fnefs!Dbmbsb!

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