



CAIM

Issue no 29

Summer 2004

The Northumbria Community Newsletter

Jottings From A Ferry Over to Ireland!

by Roy Searle

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Sitting on deck and looking out over the Irish sea, aware that I am on a journey, outwardly and inwardly, not least to a land and people where hospitality, inspiration, challenge and a future beckons, I pen these thoughts in my journal.

As reflections of a leader of the Community in this period of adventure and transition, they relate to us, I believe, alone and together:

- Keep journeying
Travel light, keep asking the questions - Who is that you seek? How then shall we live? How shall we sing the Lords song in a strange land?
Keep exploring, telling the story and retain simplicity.
- Recognise that we are part of a movement and not a museum piece of Celtic desert or monastic spirituality but a living expression of a Way for Living, which is the call to *Availability* and *Vulnerability*.
Value people; they are not machines; retain dynamism and don't allow for the building of monuments; celebrate people not personalities; remember that we are called as a living organism and avoid institutionalism, remaining flexible and not rigid, open and teachable not defensive, fearful, controlling or entrenched.
- Remember!
To seek God - *the one thing necessary*!
The exploration of a new monasticism is not a *twee* nostalgic form of escape, but a passionate, desperate, inward call of God upon our hearts and minds to seek him. Pay attention to our hearts and the inward journey.
Maintain hospitality and home and refuge, but avoid escapism, virtual realities and nostalgia.
- The Kingdom of God is more important than the Northumbria Community.
Sit loosely, yet with respect, to what is God's not ours.
Give away what is not ours to own or control.
Receive, embrace and live generously and with much grace.
- Relationships matter more than projects or programmes.
People matter, build relationships, remember that at the heart of community is a covenant, *covenanted together within the love of God*. We are community, called to be committed at the core, loose at the edges but committed at the core, to God, one another and the vocation and vision he has laid upon our hearts.
It is who we are and the way that we do it that is as important as is why and what we do.
- Keep perspective
We are just one cog in the scheme of things.

/Continued on page 2



Recognise prevenience. God has been around before us and will be around long after we've gone which should cause us to walk humbly before him and also to relax and let the Holy Spirit take the strain. We can aspire and perspire but it is the heart and hand of God that governs things.

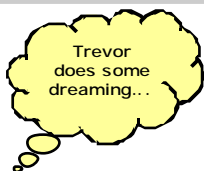
Keep ordinary, unrooted, remember the Incarnation calls for incarnational living which builds realities not fantasies.

- Remember the wisdom of waiting and the power of passion
- Authenticity and integrity will always outweigh relevance and opportunity
- Let's live what we believe and in living out the story that God has given, capture hope for our own hearts, for the church and for culture all of whom cry out for transformation.

Journey on!

Dreaming of Financial Release

by Trevor Miller



Since reporting in the last edition 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 report that the financial situation has improved and continues to be maintained. However while extremely grateful for those who have responded, 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, which in turn, would enable our dream of it becoming more and more a training facility in the new monastic way of heart, home and hospitality. To be freed from the fact, of 'keeping a roof over our heads' being a major distraction, is our radically adjust our training in the 'new freely subsidise food on the table for the many and our total focus and therefore a continual hope. We could then programme to facilitate more monasticism' as a way of life. We could Companions who would be invited to participate in the various retreats so that the cost of coming to the Nether Springs is not prohibitive. We could even begin a bursary scheme. 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 or long-term, so as to be trained in the new Monastic way of life.



REMINDER

Transfer of Standing Orders by Trevor Miller

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 becoming a Registered Charity rather than an exempt charity regulated by the IPS.

This is also a 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 want to finalise closure of our IPS account and we can't do this until all the Standing Order mandates have been transferred.

Cell and Coracle



News of
Mission and Monastery

celtic fire in Seahouses

8/05/04

by Jeff Sutheran

We met at 2.30 in the afternoon. Some of the team members were saying 'hello' and introducing themselves to others whom they'd never met before. At 7.30 we were 'flying by the seat of our pants' as we presented a theatrical extravaganza of the Life of Cuthbert in music, storytelling and dance to an audience of 80 +!!

During May, several Community folk travelled to Nether Springs for a weekend when we explored what it means to be a part of a Community team. Invitations can come from all sorts of places, within and outside the church, to be involved in different kinds of events, or simply to 'be' in a place. We see that each of these places might be significant for some particular individuals in Community, and so we need to bless and release each other to respond. This was the basic thrust of the weekend, when we had some teaching, some bible study and lots of discussion about 'going out'.

As we carry the things that God has shown to us in Community, we often get opportunity to tell stories of the Celtic saints – we call this 'Celtic Fire'. The story changes according to which saint or saints might have particular relevance in a particular place.



And so, we thought that the best way to explore what it means to be on a team was to form one for that weekend! After a Saturday morning session of teaching, we met at Seahouses Middle School in the afternoon to prepare. It is not an exaggeration to say that several folk had not met prior to that day... which makes what happened in the evening all the more special.

I had done some work in advance on the 'script', and had allocated some specific responsibilities, but still it seemed a daunting and frightening prospect to be just a few hours away from 'performance' with a large team having no idea what was about to happen!

And yet we have seen and experienced it so many times before, what happens when a group of Community people come together to share, create, support and encourage. At 7.30 the lights went down in the school hall, by now transformed beyond any 'Changing Rooms' makeover into a credible theatre venue, with large multimedia screen and computer presentation, lighting, drapes and artwork and music group. The whole team played a part in presenting something beautiful, creative, informal, worshipful and insightful.

It was especially poignant for us as a family, because this was our home, our village, and these people were our neighbours. Many have commented since, saying how much they enjoyed and appreciated what we brought that night. A local head teacher has asked us to take aspects of it into school, as she herself found the multi-sensory experience so very absorbing and moving.

It was a special evening, and part of a special weekend. We saw and experienced the grace of God and the love of his people.



Reflections from Easter Workshop (Ireland) 2004

A REFLECTION ON EASTER WORKSHOP

To feel at ease among strangers is a rare thing. To feel that ease in a land where, to be a stranger is to be a threat, is an act of grace. Our family experienced such an act of grace at Easter Workshop in Northern Ireland. As I reflect on the time our family spent at Saul, the dominant feeling is one of being quite at rest. Not that we weren't busy (far from it) but we felt ourselves to be amongst companions who let us be, found value in who we were, and then cherished the gifts that we brought. Think how rare it is to be valued just for being who you are - but this was our experience. And to be thanked effusively for the things you 'do' over and above just 'being', well that is icing on the cake.



The music workshop

The weekend was, for me, a sign of prophetic love, a sign of contradiction our worrying times where the stranger is rejected and people are no more than the sum of what they consume and what they produce.

Which is probably just a long winded way of saying that we were loved, which is to be brought closer to God. Thank you.



"Creating Celtic designs with Pam French"

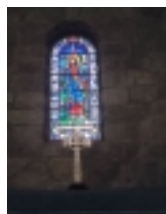
to

Paul for the Shogren family

St Patrick's Day in Downpatrick



St Patrick's grave in Downpatrick



St Patrick window in Downpatrick Church

Comments from the people who went to the Easter workshop in Ireland:

"It was good to meet so many new folks & to renew old friendships. The workshops that we attended were all excellent, but our abiding memory is, once more, of the amazing warmth & hospitality of the Irish folks"

"Meeting people who were just names in Caim or the Prayer Guide..."

"Meeting, hearing, seeing, listening and learning from so many new people connecting with the Community"

"Deepening of my understanding of the vision, ethos and history of St. Patrick and our involvement the people of Ireland, under God's hand, to repair the broken altars, by building the new on the foundations of the past (the old)"

"Being and worshipping at Saul - the journeying and the view from Slieve Patrick on the Prayer walk which Dominic led - amazing and unforgettable"



A Spirituality for Mission

Journey in the Footsteps in Patrick, exploring the spirituality of Patrick and the relevance of his spirituality in mission for today. Sunday 19th to Friday, 24th September.

Places are limited but if you'd like further information contact Jean Watson via email (jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org or telephoning 01625 874493.



Our Mother House – A Place for The Nether Springs -

by Trevor Miller

...now give me
also springs of
water. And her
father gave her
the upper and the
nether springs.

Judges 1:15



The whole purpose of the Nether Springs was and is to have a place, a residential centre, rooted in the spirituality of Northumbria, where as a Community, we could explore and research the peculiar call of God on our lives. A place where we could be ourselves, no pretence or having to behave, while seeking God for Himself and getting to know our own hearts. And at the same time, providing a facility for others to join us in their individual search for God. So if no one else ever came the search would still go on, the journey would still continue because this is our vocation. We would be alone but we would be Alone/Together. We would try to embrace this life, and at the same time welcome others who were seeking too, so that anyone who came to us would have the opportunity to listen, learn and explore with us our Reason to Be and our Rule of Life in the context of a Rhythm of prayer and work.



Our Mother House at Hetton Hall is the place of the Nether Springs. It is the Home of the Community, not a general retreat centre or a place where anybody and everybody comes with their own agenda – they can get that at a 1000 places elsewhere! It is a 'new monastic' school of life, living what we teach, teaching what we live. Thus the 'monastery' team are there primarily to live the life and share the life that God has called us to live. To do so by life and lip, so that all that is done and said, provides lessons that can be applied and adapted to life out there in our geographically dispersed Community. This is the meaning of being a monastic school – not a monastery but a centre where monastic values and spiritual disciplines from the monastic tradition are outworked, lived, taught – the Rule of Availability and Vulnerability, the rhythm of the Daily Office and the monastic disciplines being our framework.



As such the Nether Springs is a symbol of hope in a fragmented world, an icon, a sign to the world that life is not filo-fax, 100 mph busyness. It is 'a demonstration that God exists' and a reminder to the wider Community of the need for liturgical prayer and a daily rhythm, expressive of our vocation and vision to find a different way to live. The work of the Mother House and the

Monastery Team is to be at the forefront of the prayer/study that will help to provide stability within the huge changes in society and culture happening all around us. The Nether Springs is there

- To provide Heart – the 'one thing necessary' of seeking God for Himself. A living response to 'Who is it that you seek?' therefore offering a place of strategic Retreat.
- To provide Home – our ethos, a spirituality for unsettled people. A living response to 'How then shall we live?' thus offering a place of honest Reflection.
- To provide Hospitality – living in the paradox of stable instability, certain uncertainty.—a response to 'How shall we sing the Lord's song...?' and in so doing offering a safe place of Refuge. All these together provide Hope – a story to live by of outrageous, irresponsible grace.

A place for the Nether Springs is essential to our understanding of 'a new monasticism' as the monastery is a sign, a symbol, an icon, a representation of our ethos, a home, a place of returning, a focus for our spirituality, a living reminder of who we are and what we are about. It is a metaphor to explain the Community's contemplative heart and our desire after God. To express our commitment to the inner journey discovery of knowing self in order to know God so as to better live with others and serve the world of our influence whether that be great or small.



Hetton Hall – Cause for Thanksgiving

by Trevor Miller



Following the long awaited meeting with Lilburn Estates re the costs and implications of the recent Fire Risk

Assessment we have cause for thanksgiving. As a result:

- We are able to continue with Hetton Hall as the place of Nether Springs, our Mother House.
 - A very fair financial arrangement has been negotiated that helps both Landlord and Tenant. The offer is that the estimated costs for the new state of the art Fire Alarm System is £8000 and for the emergency lighting is £2500. This total of £10,500 will be paid for entirely by Lilburn. Our part is to accept an increase in our annual rent of 10% of that outlay. They will waive any further rent increases until 2008. Even the cynics among us can see that at worst it is the equivalent of a 10-year interest free loan. At best we have no capital outlay and we would have had a 5% rent increase in 2005 anyway, which is waived.
 - The development of Hetton Hall Steading is going ahead (subject to planning permission) but alternative accommodation has been offered. These are two better-equipped and updated cottages at nearby Hetton Law and a 3 bed roomed semi-detached house at Hetton Steads all for the same rent as we our paying at the moment. This is a major concession to us and again with no rent review until 2008.
 - We also feel that the importance of relationship over mere business function has been furthered in the negotiations.
- Having said all this, we will still have substantial outlay in order to meet all the requirements of Health and Safety and the Fire Risk Assessment but we are in a better position to meet these requirements thanks to your generosity.



Continued



Morning Campers!

Greenbelt is coming, and subject to final agreements on some free tickets and some discounted from the organisers we'll be doing it!

They want to know how many folk we're taking so that we can make a definite arrangement. So email Norma Carlton or Paul Lucas asap.....last year was great fun and being active on the campsite was in many ways better than being based on the main site.

The intention is to do much the same as last year, - we had hospitality on the campsite, office was done in the usual way and we did evening events of story and song - at 'home' from our large garden marquee.

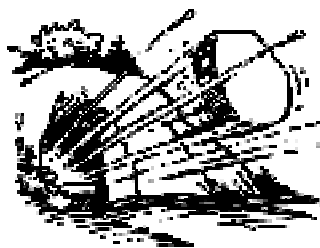
The suggestion this year is that we also do something on the main site - two sessions - probably afternoon - and as people-based as possible :

- (i) a telling of House that John Built - with live musical backing - tellers and musicians needed
- (ii) an 'Opening Door' event in which folk have opportunity to offer song, story or dance, drum or....whatever you're practiced at !

A bit like one of Andy's Caedmon evenings but slightly less ad hoc and more pre organised given the 'performance' nature and set up of the venues!

So any one up for it ? - feedback on availability, offers, contributions, please to Paul Lucas or Norma Charlton asap, and we'll be able to pull something together!

Reflections from Easter Workshop (Evesham) 2004



Friday

We arrived at Lenchwood Christian Centre (three barns!) a cold venue, but warm friendship. The couple who manage the centre, Tim and Caroline Scarborough, both inspired us and were encouraged by us being there.

Twenty-seven of us gathered for Shabbat led by Andy and Anna Raine with the meal provided by the Cotswold Community group. We ate by candlelight, the food was lovely and everyone relaxed. This was a special time and seemed to calm everyone and enable them to enter fully into the weekend.

After evening prayer Norman Cumming introduced the weekend. Norma Charlton told the Rocky story; Nick and Anita Haigh led us in song before we went off to our overnight stops.

Saturday

On the Saturday there were about fifty folk (including most of the group from the Forest of Dean who were due to meet that day and just transferred their meeting to Evesham).

We came home a day early from our holiday with my father-in-law in order to spend the whole of Saturday at the workshop.

The first highlight of the day for me was taking part in morning prayer as part of a large group, it just felt like coming home. (Liz and Brian)

Sarah Pillar used power point to highlight her sharing of the research she has done on the links between Evesham monks and Northumbria, and we all felt the appropriateness of Evesham for our gathering. It was informative and moving to see how God's Spirit had worked.

We then drove into Evesham, parked and walked together to the Almonry. We were allowed in to look at the model of Evesham in the time of the Abbey and then made pilgrimage under the bell tower to the site of the high altar where we said midday prayer. *Highlights for us were listening to 'Jeremiah's Field' while people danced on the site of the High Altar, meeting Community folk whose names we'd seen in the guide but never actually met and just being with Community. (Anita and Nick)*

The second special time of the day for me was saying the midday office on the site of Evesham abbey and then watching and listening to a most beautiful and moving interpretation of "the rebuilding of broken walls". It seemed as though I was taking root in that spot and almost couldn't move and the same time a wonderful and deep peace began to flow upwards from the ground into my body. I don't think I've felt so completely still before in my life. (Liz)

We then went back for lunch and workshops. Andy led dance out in the field surrounded by the beautiful countryside. Norma led creativity (writing, clay, sewing, painting) which many took part in. Nick and Anita led music, with Anita taking a smaller group to write a song.

In the evening we had a Ceilidh, which ranged from hilarious to moving with contributions of music, story, poetry and dance including the song composed that afternoon and a dance *Lean On Me*, which had been learnt that day.

Sunday

On Sunday we gathered with Morning Prayer, then Nick and Anita led a Celebration; Ed Pillar spoke encouragingly about moving forward with faith and courage and we saw another dance prepared in the workshop and sang the song which was the fruit of the music workshop. After lunch, provided by Caroline, Andy led us in a truly meaningful renewal of our commitment to the Way of Living of the Northumbria Community. One couple joined us just for Sunday lunch and the vows, wanting to say them together with others. The climax to the whole weekend was Andy, Sarah and Tim dancing 'My prayer for you', before we all went our separate ways.

*This was the first Easter workshop we had been able to get to [as clergy and their wives often have to work Easter weekend!] It was really good to see old friends again and meet more Northumbria Community folk. The highlights for us were visiting the site of Evesham Abbey, **composing a song with Anita Haigh and others** and then sharing this at the evening ceilidh. (James and Lizzie)*

To judge by the lingering over meals and tea breaks for most people the experience of being together in community was the best part of the weekend. (Norma)

I didn't want to leave and say goodbye to everyone. For that short time we had been community and grown together, sharing laughter and tears, hopes and fears. It was a very special time and I'm sure that seeds were sown which we don't yet know of. (Ingrid)

Contributors: Liz and Brian Brobyn, Norma Charlton, Ingrid Cumming, Anita and Nick Haigh, James and Lizzie McWhirter



Top to Bottom:

1. Bell Tower of Abbey
2. Midday Prayer on Abbey site
3. Creative Workshop
4. "Jeremiah's Field" on the Abbey site

Northumbria Community Memory stones

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

Our journey with the Community began 6 years ago with a conference on Celtic Christian spirituality at Fort Augustus put on by SERF, the Scottish Episcopal Renewal Fellowship. They used the Community Office, and we were hooked, taking ourselves down to Hetton Hall a few months later to discover more. So, five years on how has the community influenced us? And why has a group whom we have visited no more than ten or so times had such an impact? The effect has been gradual, more an Emmaus journey of increasing understanding than a Damascus road conversion, though there have been moments of the latter, particularly on private retreats and when making a rededication at the Easter gathering 3 years ago. We thus don't have memory stones for specific experiences so much as areas in which our journeying has coincided with that of the Community, and in which we have grown. Here are some of our memory stones...

Community/hospitality This may sound obvious for a group named the Northumbria Community, but it took a while for this to impact me. Being a typical ideas-orientated academic I have always tended to value ideas and projects above people, and it has taken a few years of sometimes painful, sometimes incredibly rewarding growth to appreciate that people have to come first above projects, a view the Community stresses. And it is the sense of family and belonging which Ian and I - having little real family - especially value when we visit. The sense of being welcomed and valued, of being able to be real and ourselves despite our weaknesses and failings, of having little things about us remembered from one visit to the next.

Creation What drew us to the Community in the first place was the emphasis present in Celtic Christian spirituality of appreciating God's creation and creativity in nature. The very first evening we came across the Office the meditation was the quote from Wilkie "The mountaineer and the fisherman and the shepherd of the Isles live their lives in lonely places, and the winds and waves bear to them messages from the unknown beyond". This spoke to me so deeply, because Ian and I are mountaineers, this is how we met, and normally we have to leave our love of nature and wild places outside the doors of churches. It was so refreshing to find a spirituality which encompassed this.

Creativity This is a necessary sequitor from the last point. If God is Creator, then if we possess His same Spirit then we also have a gift of creativity. The last five years have seen us shift in emphasis (OK some of this is midlife crisis effect too) but between us we have taken up candle making, photography, storytelling, cardmaking, painting...The art happened as a direct consequence of a private retreat, thank you.

Coming away Last year we moved completely into the country, and I still ask myself if we hadn't made regular retreats to Hetton, and seen the way retreats refreshed our souls, whether we would have done this. There is a definite tension here, I love the buzz and activity of a city, but yet there is never any time for creativity or reflection there. Three years ago we went to a Community prayer weekend for Ireland. At the time I journalled that this might not be the last time we prayed for Ireland. We now find ourselves living in Northern Ireland...

Healing place. The last few years have been a painful time for us. In the midst of this, the Community has been a place where we can face the pain, because there are others who will share it with us, and in doing so become released from its effects.

Home. The Community is at time chaotic and crazy, but for all this it is becoming ever increasingly our home. And we thank all of you who have helped it become so for us.

Ian and Anne live near Coleraine, in Northern Ireland, and feel a bit remote from Community. If your passing that way, get in touch via the Community Office, as they love having visitors.

Anne Bridgen



Book Reviews

LIFE JOURNEY by Mary Fleeseon

Reviewed by Ian Corsie

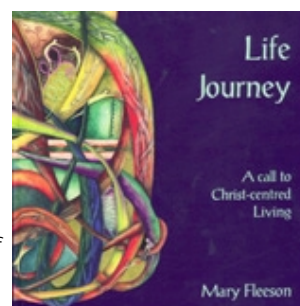
Many readers of Caim will be familiar with the beautiful artwork produced by Mary Fleeseon at the Lindisfarne Scriptorium on Holy Island. Did you know that much of her work has now been brought together and published in a beautiful new book 'Life Journey' published in May by Eagle (ISBN 0863475167 £14.99)

Roy Searle has commended it as 'a beautiful book - one that invites the reader on an inner journey of discovery, adventure, awakening, reflection and faith. Creative and inspired, the book resonates with the author'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.'

Congratulations to Mary on this superb achievement (artwork, words and layout) into which she has poured so much of herself. Congratulations are due also to her husband Mark who has not only supported and encouraged Mary all through this project, but has made his own vital technical contribution, especially in the way he has taken much of the intricate detail of Mary's artwork and given it new life of its own through the pages of this book.

This book makes a wonderful present. Perhaps for yourself!

You can obtain it from your local bookseller or by mail order direct from Mark and Mary by going to www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk/catalog/default.php and clicking on 'Life Journey'. The book costs £16.99 by mail order (and you may also be interested in the accompanying CD of church worship resources drawn from the book which costs £15.99). Alternatively the book is available from Cloisters at a mail order price of £17 (ring 01289 388235 or email cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org).



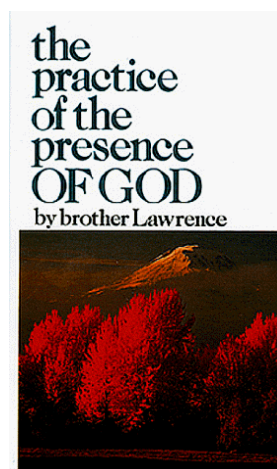
THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD by Brother Lawrence

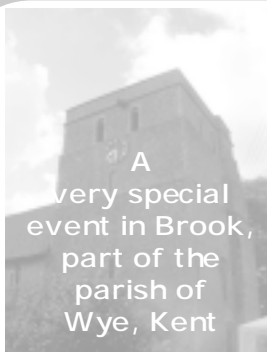
Reviewed by Wendy Ward

I read this book the other week while preparing to lead a retreat. It took less than half an hour to read and at first glance seemed simplistic and naive. Then my brain got in gear, which was quite an achievement as I've been ill recently and extremely fuzzy headed. As I thought about the points in the book, looked for ways to apply them, and started to try it, I found myself enjoying a sense of God's presence that I've not experienced for ages.

One example is going to the park with Susannah. I now sense God with me as I push her on the swing. Talking with him there is as natural as chatting with the other Mums who I inevitably meet there and swing pushing has become an act of prayer in its own right.

If you're feeling stuck in a rut with prayer, or God seems to have gone off the scene for a while this little gem may help you find a way forward.





A very special event in Brook, part of the parish of Wye, Kent

Rededication of the Priest's Room

Building on the relationships and the connections that are being made with the Churches in the Wye area of Kent, Roy Searle went on the Community's behalf and spoke at the Rededication of the Priest's Room at St. Mary's in Brook on Thursday, 17th June.

The connections historically between the Northern Saints and the Benifice goes back to the earliest days of Christianity in Britain and with our Community's commitments to *"walk again the ancient paths, repair the broken altars, restore the ancient ruins and raise up the foundation of many generations"*, Isaiah 58:12, a Community team spent 10 days in the parish last year working with Community Companions and Friends sharing, wandering, praying and worshipping in homes, chapels and churches. Under the leadership of John Richardson and the team at Wye, Hastingleigh and Brook, our Community's office is used by individuals and at many services and occasions.



Brook is a very special place, a quiet out of the way place, and the restored Priest's room high up in the bell tower will provide *sacred space* for people to be still before God. Its refurbishment follows the repairing and reinstalling of the 12th Century broken altar in the chancel.

As part of the celebrations surrounding the occasion, the church held a Flower Festival and a special Open Air Service on Sunday morning for all the Parishes in the area (which was essentially our Morning Office) and at which Roy spoke to people sat in the grounds, graveyard, porch and marquee with the backdrop of the beautiful countryside and the ripple of thunder and threatening rain which added dramatic effect to the text from 1 Kings about the Lord coming in fire and lightening.



The Community will also be involved in returning to the area with a Community team next year. We will also be involved in the Boughton Aluph Festival next year from Sunday 3rd to Thursday, 7th July, 2005.

If you would like to be informed of dates and happenings when available, please contact Jean Watson via email address or phone number shown below.

A natural, significant and deepening of connections in this place of prayer and with the people who are connecting with the Community can be strengthened by Community Companions visiting or going to stay at Brook where two friends of the Community have offered accommodation to people who would like to come to simply be, pray, walk, rest and be a quiet presence in the area. Ian and Barbara can accommodate up to 3 people and anyone who would like to pursue this idea should do so through contacting Jean Watson via email

jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org or telephoning 01625 874493.

Community Groups News

from Norma Charlton

There hasn't been much response to the invitation for new groups in the last edition.

However, the new groups in Exeter, Chard, Birmingham and Poynton are meeting regularly.

It looks as if a group will get off the ground in the Peterborough area. Also watch the website or contact Bob Ainsley or myself for developments in the midlands area round Derby, Nottingham, Coventry and Leicestershire.

norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org or Bob.Ainsley@dunelm.org



LIKE WAX



Lord, may I stay always warm in your hands.
 May I, like this wax, be easy to shape
 According to your good purposes.
 Lord, I fear the cooling of ardour
 In my relationship with you
 And the stiffness that comes with it.
 Lord, I reflect on your word:
 "The mountains melt like wax
 In the presence of the Lord."
 Lord, I welcome your work in the hard places of my life.
 Come with the warmth of your fire and love.
 Melt the mountains until, warmed by your love,
 I flow out into your world with that same fire.

David Pott

God of Darkness

God of the blackness
 God of Darkness
 God of Despair
 I trust in you.

God of hope
 God of light
 God of all that seems unattainable
 I trust in you.

God my father
 God my mother, brother, sister
 and friend
 God my lover and confidante
 I trust in you.

Your word is true
 Striking like a blow
 Leaving me wounded
 Yet guiding the way.

God of the blackness
 God of Darkness
 God of Despair
 I trust in you.

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The Rhythms of the Sea

Our lives transform
 By the rhythms of prayer
 And contemplation,
 As the seas kiss
 Alters the coastal complexion
 And structure of the land.

Robin Perry 2002



Candle

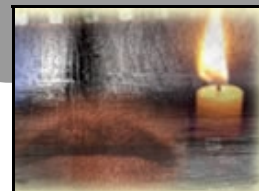
Candle that flickers
 its shadows on a wall
 be a light now for paths
 I do not know nor ever trod.
 While I wait sat here
 in the half shadows light
 may there be a word
 just cutting gently deep inside.
 May these unsure hands
 lie open now to receive
 what is given and to use
 what is needed for the journey –
 and pull me from this pit
 of pained adversity
 with safe hands of love.

Hold a candle for the paths.

Be my provision
 for every step I take
 and strengthen my feeble limbs
 for the pathways of the night.



Robin Perry 2003



The Telling Place

Beginners' Storytelling Workshops

- 11 Sept Poynton, Cheshire
with Dave Robertson
- 25 Sept Woking, Surrey
with Dave Robertson
- 4 Dec Keighley, Yorkshire
with Dave Robertson
- TBA Chartham, Kent

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

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

Short and Long-term Volunteers

Bearing in mind Day 31's Meditation where we ask that God will send those of his choice and believing that he is able to bring people to our "out of the way place", we are asking the Community to pray for that spiritual wisdom and discipline to be realised.

Our Mother House, the Nether Springs, is an integral part of the Community's life, and there are some very good opportunities for Community Companions and Friends to come and share in its work.

We are increasingly putting an emphasis on training people in the "monastic way" at our Mother House and team members can be part of the "monastery team" for periods of three, six or 12 months as well as the need for regular and as many as possible Companions giving a week or two as volunteers.



Pilgrimage and Streetwork Newcastle-Hexham-Heavenfield

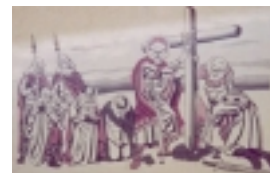
Friday 30th July to Thursday 5th August 2004

Andy Raine will be putting together a team of "young adults", who will be based at the Salvation Army City Temple, in Newcastle, for a week of streetwork and pilgrimage.

Accommodation is basic – the "sleeping-bags-on-the-floor-self-catering" kind (this may help you decide if you are indeed a "young adult").

The week begins with a Shabbat meal on the Friday.
On the Saturday, the group will join in on a pilgrimage from Hexham to Heavenfield.
Sunday will be spent worshipping with the Salvation Army, and contributing to the services.
Monday to Wednesday the group will be involved in streetwork.

Thursday is St Oswald's Day, and the group will be joining in the annual pilgrimage to Heavenfield to celebrate the life of Oswald.



Andy has asked us to stress that this is not the usual Youth Camp that he has organised in the past – intent and age group are different.

If you would like to be part of this or get further information please contact Brian Underwood on 01455 611584 or Andy Raine on 01289 389351.

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.

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