

Covenanted together within the love of Christ we share a common heart for Northumbria and a commitment to wander for the love of Christ wherever the Father leads.



CAIM

Issue no 33
Summer 2005

The Northumbria Community Newsletter



"Because of our traditions, everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do."

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Tradition by Andy Raine

A few weeks ago we were reflecting on how over the years different folk have absorbed the faith, values and meaning of the Northumbria Community, and like seedlings turning overnight to sunflowers had grown and blossomed. Meanwhile the tide came in and out a lot, we still sang Psalm 84 -wistfully or raucously- and everyone had the pulse of their availability and vulnerability checked at regular intervals. Seedlings and sunflowers? I suddenly recognised an allusion to 'Fiddler on the Roof' and absentmindedly began pondering the parallels...

As one of the founders of Northumbria Community I find that I identify with the father in the story, and also with the role of a memory-keeper. But at a time when so many signs of life and hope are evident, see if you recognise any of the Tzeitels, Hodels and Chavas among us!

"Because of our traditions, everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do."

Without our Community's traditions our life in it would be as shaky as a fiddler on the roof. Tevye assumes that his responsibility as a father is to pass on the treasured traditions to his daughters so they can have a clear world-view.



He wants to provide for them as generously as he can. His eldest daughter continues in the faith, respects those traditions and upholds them. Who is it that you seek? The God of our fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, may His holy Name be exalted. But her secret heart's-desire is to be married to someone poor, a young hardworking man she has loved all her life. Love is what matters most, and it is love that steers her course into a choice to live with poverty as her parents have done. Their natural desire was to shield her from hardship, but her life-defining decision is the ultimate affirmation of the value and dignity of their own hardships and perseverance. Tevye says two months after Tzeitel's wedding, "They are as poor as squirrels in winter. But they are both so happy they don't know how miserable they are."

The second daughter values traditions too, but her intellectual curiosity is awakened and soon she wants to question everything. Eventually Hodel travels far away from the comfortable familiarity of home, owning her questions and turning the journey into one of discovery. She has inherited the heart of her parents' faith, and her provisional answers to the question, "How then shall we live?" are more radical and experimental. She becomes actively involved in struggle against oppression and injustice. She believes she has found something she would die for. She doesn't ask Tevye's permission, just his blessing. He can only place her and her journey into God's hands, saying, "Take care of her. See that she dresses warm."

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The third daughter discards the traditions entirely, and apparently abandons the faith, as well. Tevye cannot be flexible enough to give his blessing to her. "If I try to bend that far I will break," he says. "The world is changing," says Chava. "No. Some things will never change," Tevye returns. This third child wants to talk with her father, if he can bring himself to listen. "Can I deny everything I believe in? On the other hand, can I deny my own child?" Even if the father disowns his children there's a secret desire to have contact re-established, to be pleasantly surprised by news of their achievements. Some have already had to survive the pain of being abandoned and disowned by a father. They feel left out in the cold, forced to address all the questions for themselves. The third daughter has ultimately to decide 'How can I sing the Lord's song in a strange land?'

In OUR community few have yet ventured far beyond our expectations. Our children have proved more conservative, so far, than we expected, but the protective reflex is still there, and the flexibility of the memory-keepers has yet to be tested as someday it might.

We look at those in the emerging Community with the wistfulness of Tevye, thinking 'What words of wisdom can I give them, and help to ease their way?' - and Golde interjects, "Now they must learn from one another."



All the President's Men...and Women

Roy Searle is President of the Baptist Union for the next year.

There may be opportunities to accompany Roy at some of the events and happenings during this year either officially or just as a travelling companion.

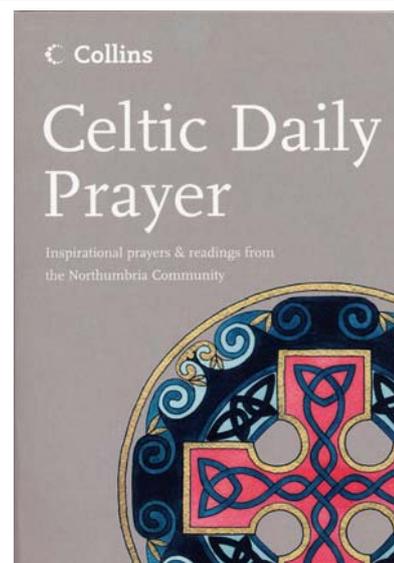
If you want to be kept in touch and available to potentially be with Roy and others from the Community on his travels get in touch with Jean Watson on jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org or telephone 01625 874493.

New Edition of *Celtic Daily Prayer*

**A new edition of Celtic Daily Prayer is now available!
And there's a paperback version too!**

The new edition corrects all the minor errors found in the earlier edition (in particular, some Scripture references in the daily readings were incorrect) and includes two all-new additions:

- A table of Scripture readings prepared by Andy Raine for each saints' day (a Psalm, indicating which verse is recommended as an 'antiphon', Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel readings).
- A new Caelan liturgy for the loss of a child, written by Anita Haigh; it will be a very helpful resource for anybody involved with a miscarriage, stillbirth, loss of a newborn baby, or coming to terms with an abortion.



The new paperback edition costs £13.00 by mail order (i.e. including p&p) from Cloisters (Code: CDPPB). The hardback edition has a green cloth case (instead of the red of the previous edition) and the mail order price of £20.00 is unchanged (Code: CDP).

Stories behind the meditations for the day of the month

by Andy Raine.

Day 30: Saranam

The song is taken from a beautiful Madeleine L'Engle novel called 'A House like a Lotus'. So far through the story the young girl who is its subject is given the opportunity to help out at an international conference and meet the various delegates whilst adjusting to the inevitable transitions and emotional turmoils springing from recent events in her own life. At the conference a song is introduced and it becomes an exercise for the delegates to each have opportunity to add a verse.

In the story the song already exists, and has a simple but haunting tune which I immediately longed to discover! It turned up unexpectedly in Farmington, New Hampshire as I thumbed through an old Adventist hymnal and discovered the sheet-music with words translated from Punjabi. The 'in the midst of foes' verse is from the original hymn. It is an arrangement of this melody that we recorded on the Community's 'Ebb and flow' tape years ago at Emmanuel College. We contrived to begin singing with one set of singers and gradually swap over so that by the end a new lot have replaced them to signify those who've gone, those who stay and those to come.

When Miriam Sayer shifted back from Hetton to Tasmania this meditation went with her and so L'Arche community in Hobart set it to a pretty, alternative tune on one of their CDs. The other verses in the song are the ones added by the characters in L'Engle's story. She has written that the use of the song in the story matches her own experience of it but I cannot tell you whether these particular other verses were made up by other folk in real life or were created during the writing for the story.

Day 26: My Master's Face

This beautiful poem was gleaned from an American anthology of paintings, poems and stories called 'Christ and the Fine Arts'. Once it was established as a monthly meditation in the black filofax office-book and the date of the 'Ebb + Flow' recording was nearing, we asked Ged Lowery of North Gosforth if he would try setting it to music. The result was surprising and beautiful.

Incidentally, the band Ged played with, 'John 3:16', had recently gained two new girl vocalists and so Dave Hay and I decided that whilst checking on Ged's progress with settings for this and 'Saviour and Friend', we should time our visits to coincide with a couple of their band rehearsals. The second girl vocalist was Anna Carroll who in time would sing on our recordings - and agree to marry me! But the featured voice on the 'ebb and flow' version is Shelagh Johnson from Frosterley. Since then we have adjusted the wording slightly so the language became more inclusive... 'who reads the heart'... not 'men's heart' and eventually 'and needs no more' instead of 'he needs no more' without compromising the content or lyricism of William Hurd Hillyer's original poem.

Day 17: Here am I, Lord

Dan was on staff with the YWAM team who were heading up a 'Spirit in '76' outreach in Boston, Massachusetts, that I was part of. He had also sung with a music group called Ekklesia active in the catholic charismatic renewal, and this sung prayer was on an Ekklesia tape 'Sing Psalms and Hymns' which came home with me to Holy Island.

It reminded me immediately of the call of Aidan to leave Iona to reach the Northumbrian people, and the words on the Island coat of arms: ECCE EGO MITTE ME [Here I am, send me - from Isaiah 6].

Somewhere in the next two years it became my prayer of dedication too as I crossed the sands back to Lindisfarne to work there again, first at Marygate House and then on the car-parks.

Easter 2005

No report about Easter Workshop this time, but a collage of experiences from a variety of Community Friends and Companions.

Reflections on "The Passion of His Love" – a pre-Easter pilgrimage at Nether Springs, by Norma Sluyter

This was a pilgrimage led by Norman Cumming the weekend before Easter. I found it easy to imagine it was Easter weekend. The pilgrimage begins with Gethsemane in the Prayer Garden, and this year there were just four of us, Mel, Annie, Joy and I.



It is dark and still in the garden, as if the night is holding its breath, Two large poles (made by Rob) blazing with flame, cast shadows on the grass. As we move silently to our own spot I am transported back in time as I relive the events of that night. I see the men coming to arrest Jesus, and my mind cannot grasp the enormity of what is about to happen. Involuntarily my mind screams out, "Don't let them take you!" I sit until the bell goes for Compline lost in the happenings of the night.



Saturday morning we set out for Holy Island. As we climb to the highest point, the day is beautifully warm and sunny. As we climb in silence, the quiet takes on new meaning as I imagine the chaos and confusion to come among his followers. Poor Peter! As Norman place the cross in the ground other visitors to the island are walking past, their voices cutting into my thoughts, and for a moment I resent their intrusion into such a moment, as I imagine his mother's pain as she looks up at her son. I wonder, too, how much God himself must have felt as he watched his son die.



It is Sunday morning; a thick mist envelops the hills. It is just 7.15 am as we set off and I can't believe I'm out at this unearthly hour to look at a cave!! The mist begins to clear as we journey, and in the silence we begin to climb to Cuthbert's Cave, and I think of the three women making their way to the tomb, the panic as they see the stone rolled away. As I gaze at the cave it becomes the empty tomb and my mind moves on to see Mary's joy as she sees her Lord and hears him speak.

Back to hot cross buns (made by Mel and Annie in their "creativity time") and tea before morning office. At 11 am we share Eucharist in the Chapel. A lovely way to end the weekend.



An incredible weekend that placed me at the scene at that time, and my thanks to Norman for the time and thought he put into the creation of the pilgrimage.



Sleeping space was at a premium in and around the Hall for Easter Workshop this year. But it looks as though we could have squeezed at least one more in!

(This was Heather Peters catching the mood from Imogen Farley.)

Thanks to Imogen's granddad, Ian Corsie, for the picture!

Open Letter to Community



Dear Community,

As a mother of a lively, lovely, curious and oft times willful young boy, I just wanted to thank all of you who were at Easter Workshop this year - particularly those of you with no accompanying children - for the grace, patience and love extended towards the kids (and parents!) who were there.

It is essential for me especially as a single parent, to be able to take my son to places like Nether Springs and expose him to strong, Christian values of community and family and also to Christian men as role models. He has so little of this in his day-to-day life. Of course you must challenge us if we step over the line and appear to be insensitive to your needs.

So thank you from a very grateful Mam,
Carole Prestedge



Covenanted Together

...in putting up the marquee for the children's work.



...the sculpture: before and after painting.



Renewal of Vows Easter Sunday 2005

Bradford by Joan Parker

Sadly, we couldn't get up to Holy Island.

Easter morning was busy for all of us – singing in Cathedral and Church choirs, seeing young son off on a school skiing holiday, sharing in a joyous baptismal service – the sort that needed a lot of water, and celebrating with our own churches the wondrous reality that 'Christ is Risen!'

Having changed out of our glad-rags, donned wellies, hiking boots and waterproofs, it was about 5 pm when seven of us set off up the field, over the stiles and onto the moors above Harden. It had been a dull, cloudy day, and now the mist was coming down, hiding views of distant moors and valleys, a fine drizzle dampening our clothes, hair and spectacles.

Standing in a tight circle to keep warm, using the liturgy recently downloaded from the Community website, we said, and sang (making up tunes as needed) together the words on the damp sheets. A dog, out with its owner on the moors, pushed its way



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into our circle, sniffed around, and then continued on its way.

And so together we said 'YES' to Availability and 'YES' to Vulnerability, covenanted and committed to each other and to God, rejoicing in being part of the Community.

Back down the hill, to hot tea and Easter eggs.

Then we went our separate ways, to live out our vocation alone – in the day to day activities that awaited us: home to feed hungry teen-aged sons, to hospital to visit a sick friend, final packing for the daughter off to Canada the following morning.

Alone/Together, we experienced again the strength of Community.

And we thanked God.

IN:sight....getting to know the leaders and trustees of Community – Norman Cumming



At my 40th Birthday celebration, my brother John gave a speech about his kid brother. It was a merciless affair, creating great mirth at my expense. There was enough truth in most of his jibes to make them stick – not least in one particular phrase which my loving and supportive wife and children continue to exploit: “Norm used to wander around in his own little Narnia world”. Harsh but true.

I like to think I'm not quite as self-absorbed now as I was as a child. But I certainly continue to be rather self-contained and happy with my own company to the extent that socialising and offering hospitality at Nether Springs require a degree of effort and application. This may come as a surprise to those whose first encounter is with my alter ego – the one that seems to be perfectly at ease in a pulpit or on a stage. Yes, that's me too – though not nearly as confident or at ease as I may appear to be. So what strange kind of journey has brought me to this Community which has come to mean so much to me?

There has been a spiritual dimension to my life for as long as I can remember – so that would be at least two weeks! As a young child I certainly felt that there was a benevolent Somebody-Out-There, to whom I prayed and with whom I shared my childish wish-lists. Church (Anglican) was his place and I visited him there fairly regularly. He returned the favour and called at my school occasionally. I sang his songs with gusto and enjoyed hearing his stories.

Teenage years brought some dark doubts – not so much about God as about myself. I was becoming acutely aware of my apparent in-built capacity to mess up in spite of my good intentions. As St Paul would say – the good that I wanted to do, I did not do, but the evil that I was eager to avoid, that was the very thing I so often did. I was ripe for conversion, but somehow I either didn't hear or else didn't understand that central and most important of God's stories – the Gospel.

There followed a few anxious years fluctuating between trying hard to be a good Christian (and failing miserably, of course) and giving it up as a bad job. Then I discovered that God had created... girls, lots of them, indeed an almost obscene amount, and behold I saw that they were very good and greatly to be desired. However, as always, God had the last laugh, because the girl I liked best (understatement to avoid the cliché of love-at-first-sight), turned out to be one of his best mates. Ingrid was a Baptist, but that couldn't be helped. Love is no respecter of denominations. And so it came to pass that I began to discover God had other places where he hung out. He was not an Anglican after all!

Running with this new crowd of eager-beaver Evangelicals, I soon discovered what had been lacking in my spiritual journey up to that point – a personal faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I quickly and enthusiastically put that right, making my own confession of faith and getting baptized “properly” (the Baptist way!) as a believer by total immersion.

This led to many years as a good Evangelical, annoying the hell out of family, friends and even the occasional unsuspecting stranger who happened across my fervent path. It occurred to me that it would be even better to get paid for annoying the hell out of everyone, so I became a full-time itinerant evangelist for five years, travelling far and wide in a Gospel folk group with a very big vision and a very small budget.

I trust you will understand that the previous paragraph is more than a little tongue-in-cheek. Those years were incredibly significant ones for me and although there was a lot of naivety, (hey, I was only twenty-something!) there was also integrity, enthusiasm and genuine commitment. In retrospect I can see that I was being squeezed into a very specific Evan-jelly-mould. But the deeper truth is that there were always questions, there was always an inner critique and I was never totally comfortable in my off-the-peg Charismatic-Evangeli-suit.

There were intellectual questions raised by studying theology – questions I wasn't really ready for at twenty, but could begin to welcome and wrestle with some fifteen or so years later, when I trained at Regent's Park College to become a Baptist Minister. There were happy pastorates at Chalford, Pontesbury and Windsor, totalling nineteen years. These were also happy family years for us during which "the lads", Rich and Phil, grew from children to young men. I experienced the good, the bad and the ugly of church life, as any pastor does, though for me the positives far outweighed the negatives. Even so there were lots of questions bubbling up under the surface.

I seemed to be living out my life buried in a church sub-culture. Everything revolved around church. My own commitment and that of others was measured by involvement in that sub-culture – attending its meetings and being active in its programmes. Something in me was becoming increasingly unhappy and ill at ease with this. For all our efforts we seemed to be going round in ever-decreasing circles. Church life often felt like a not-very-merry merry-go-round. A widening credibility gap was opening up between me and the standard Evangelical interpretation of life, the universe and everything.

When the time came that God seemed to be prompting a move, I had to face the fact that I was not ready for just more of the same. It was time to trim the sails, pull up the anchor and launch out into the deep. It was time for adventure and risk – time to forget the safe option and be open to the wind of the Spirit. Time as well perhaps to nurture those creative musical gifts that were getting smothered by the demands of church life.

Ingrid and I had spent two weeks at Nether Springs during my Sabbatical break early in 2001. There I found a Community which not only understood the kind of questions I was wrestling with but shared them. Here were people on the same spiritual journey, and here (at Nether Springs) was an oasis for a thirsty traveller in a desert landscape. Not surprisingly we returned whenever we could. Our relationship with the Community gradually grew and deepened until in July 2002 we found ourselves talking to Trevor about whether there might be a place for us at Nether Springs. In November of that year Hetton Hall became our home, as we began to explore in earnest what a commitment to the Rule of Availability and Vulnerability meant for us as members of the Monastery Team.



Heavenfield

Friday 5th August

Community day at St Oswald's, Heavenfield: open invitation to those who are able to come -

proposed outline: meet at 11-00 for Morning Office followed by short walk telling the story, then prayers at the foot of the cross. Midday Office. Choice of walk to the site of the rout of Cadwalla's army or spend time in or around the church. Picnic lunch. Sharing time followed by Oswald liturgy and commissioning. [Since it's NC any of that can be changed/ rearranged of course.]

NB. no toilet facilities, water or electricity on site, so bring own

drinks, flasks etc. I have permission to put up a toilet tent and am trying to get hold of a camping loo - any suggestions? The nearest proper loo is in the cafe a few hundred yards along the road, which may be worth the price of a coffee or to adjourn to for lunch, especially if the weather is inclement.

Sat 6th August

Ecumenical pilgrimage to Heavenfield from Hexham Abbey led by Clive Price. Starts with brief service at 11-00 in the abbey, walk to St John Lee, where another short service is held and own picnic lunch is eaten in their hall with tea/coffee provided (last proper toilet). After lunch continue walk to St Oswald's (with a couple of pauses en route), where another short service is held, generally followed by an enticing tea provided by ladies of the church before the 'Friends of St Oswald's' hold their AGM.

Reflections on Europe by Ed Pillar

'3 middle-aged guys and a dancer for 3500 miles'.

Following the Celtic principle of 'wandering for the love of Christ' we travelled for 3500 miles in Roy's car through nine countries, met 3 Baptist Union Presidents, a couple of General Secretaries, 12 Baptist Missionaries, listened to Roy's sermon on John 21 more times than we would wish to remember, drank the world's strongest coffee in Budapest, ate horse meat in Genoa, conversed with Brits on 'Mission to Prague' (stag weekend!) in Wenceslas Square, pleaded with border guards for stamps in the passport, shared a common spoon to eat tiramisu bought in Venice (very smelly place), listened to bizarre (ethnic) music in Croatia, danced blessings wherever we could, laughed until we cried over Compline, prayed the Office wherever we could – in the car, hotel rooms, parks, ferries etc, got lost in Cologne, were deeply moved by testimonies of people who serve Christ in unimaginably difficult places, drank wine whenever it was offered, ran up huge mobile bills, rose early and went to bed late...all for the love of Christ.

However glamorous it may sound, wandering across Europe with Roy, Tom and Mel was anything but! Imagine being cooped up in a car with tapes of Bill Bryson, wine gums, no room to stretch your legs, regular if tedious insights into the workings of U2, followed by gems of wisdom from Ed and you just about have it. Tough! But, what made the journey palatable were the bits when we stopped and met and listened and blessed.

Journeying engaged us in the ordinary things of life. Quirks had to be tolerated, patience summed up in listening, silence maintained when the sharp tongue longed to cut back. Three middle aged guys and a dancer make a curious combination for a team making a journey that straddled so much of Europe, but God blessed us and hopefully we were also able to be a blessing to others. Before this trip I had only been on a day trip to France and a week's holiday to Turin. So, I was about to extend my dinner party repertoire by an amazing degree.

A month or so on from our late night return to the UK and what has stuck with me are the memories of the people we met.

Victor and Tonni in De Spil at Giessenberg. A lovely couple who were once very involved in a national youth ministry, but now welcome people to their home to share in meditation, reflection, liturgy, food and quietness. We shared with them in their lovely chapel for Evening prayer.

We met Parush Parushev in Prague who was converted from a hard communist background. Parush now teaches students from all across Europe to apply their faith into their own specific national contexts. Also in Prague we met up with Andrew Jones, a key figure in the Emerging Church movement. Andrew who lives in Orkney 'just happened' to be passing when he texted me during the morning service at Sarka Valley Community Church. He turned up moments later with his wife and five children and stayed for the fellowship lunch which was good.

Sandor in Budapest had us both laughing and crying as he spoke about how God had moved him to begin a relief organisation that has now spawned networks to rescue and support young people trapped in the sex industry – often having been kidnapped or lured away from their homes.



Toma and Zeljko in Croatia impressed us with their commitment to the Baptist family in their country. Just a few years on from a bloody conflict between the different ethnic groups they are living out their calling to form a community of brothers in Christ who will witness to the life of the Risen Lord. Reuben

Martin, a Baptist missionary in Dubrovnik was such a nice man – a gentle giant. Living with his family in a beautiful seaside resort could be a dream, but Reuben's choice is to minister in this spiritually hard place in the hope that people will respond to the witness of the life that is lived by their small church.

In Genoa we were blessed by the hospitality of Mark and Claire Ord. Mark and Claire lead the only Baptist Church in this city, but it vibrates with the love and life of God. Many nationalities come together to worship and the blending of different cultures into one song of praise speaks volumes for the power of the Gospel.

Over the mountains into France we entered what is often said to be the hardest mission field in Europe. But here with Phil and Rosemary Halliday in Massy near Paris, we saw what church can be – warm, welcoming, loving and lively– within a hardened secular culture.

Three weeks in Europe...we listened, we laughed, we loved, we blessed, we ate, we drank, we talked and we laughed...all for the love of Christ.

Dave Wilson

Here's some news of Dave Wilson, Community Companion from Scotland, who is recovering from a time of serious illness.

Dave writes: "I was indeed pretty ill - I had a brain tumour, no less and then, as I was recovering, I contracted post-operative meningitis! Well, if you are going to be ill, you might as well do it properly and be really ill - the last time I had a doctor's certificate for being off was in 1968, when I was a student. So, I had some catching-up to do. Seriously, it was a bad time all round, especially for the family and for Helen in particular. The operation to remove the tumour, which thankfully was benign, lasted something like 14 hours - not that I was aware of anything at the time but the family agonised for a few days.

Anyway, I am well on the way to recovery. I attend physiotherapy each week and am now able to walk unaided again. My future is currently unclear, as I am hoping to receive a package from my employment and then continue to lecture part-time at the local College. I have been doing this for a few years and really enjoy it. Meantime, I am being spoiled rotten, with breakfast in bed every morning and being fussed over all the time.

We were overwhelmed with the messages of support and assurances of prayer from - literally - all round the world. I do appreciate your prayers. If I get "released" from work I will hopefully be able to give some more time to Community matters. I do wish that Hetton was not so far away - I would like to attend one of the Living What We Teach weeks but that will have to wait a bit as I have not started to drive again yet.."

New Community Groups

A new group is starting up in St Alban's. It will be meeting at the home of Mike and Netta Gibbs (01727 854860), and the first meeting is on 8th July at 19.30, beginning with a meal together.

If you are interested in joining a group in the Portsmouth/Hampshire area, contact Norma Charlton for further information: norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org
Tel: 0191 487 8065 or via the Community office.



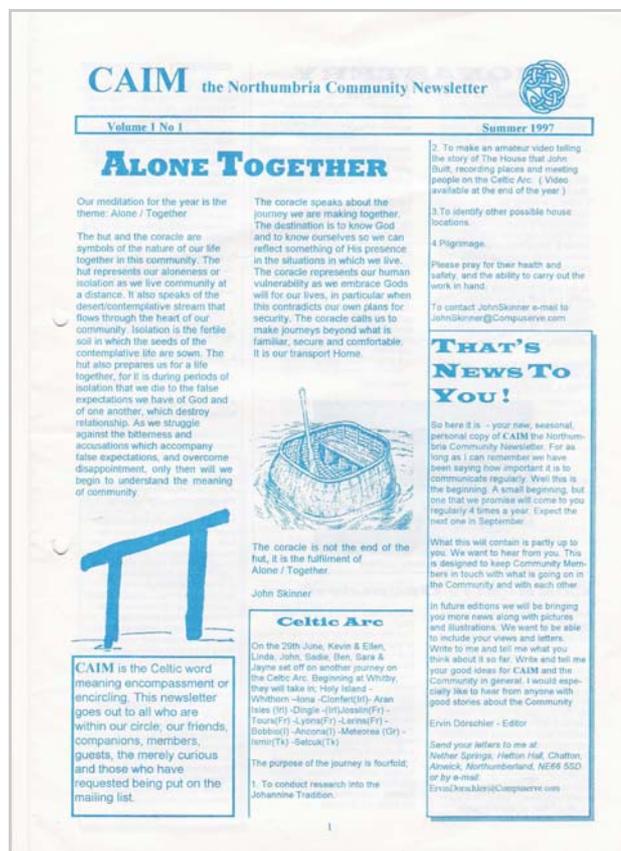
London Gathering

Roy and a Community team led a small Gathering at Westminster Cathedral before preaching and leading worship at the Abbey's Evensong Service.



Happy Birthday

CAIM is eight years old this edition. Here is a picture of the cover of Volume 1 Number 1, from Summer 1997.



Kids in Community by Wendy Ward



Thank you so much everyone who has contributed to the re-vamping of children's resources at Hetton.

There is now a selection of toys and activities for all ages, indoor and outdoor, boys and girls and an updated selection of nursery equipment for babies.

Please continue to think of Hetton when you've finished with nursery items and toys. Give me a call, and if they're suitable we'll gladly accept them.
(Wendy 0161 442 7506)



Here's a selection of the new toys being road tested. We got a big thumbs-up!



Welcome to Cedd and Chad who are new to the house team and teaching us all about *bearing* one another's burdens. They are proving to be popular with children and adults alike.



Collecting new liturgies, music, meditations, stories and reflections

As the Community continues to grow and develop and new expressions of our life emerge, there will surely be fresh liturgies, songs, stories and so on coming into being.

As part of what it means to "build the new on the foundations of old", it seems good that someone should begin to draw together some of the new resources that are "out there". This is a task that I have agreed to undertake and I would be glad to receive any contributions you may wish to send to me. In the short term I will simply be gathering and collating stuff and if appropriate perhaps using some of the resources here at Nether Springs. If in the longer term there are any plans to publish anything, or make it more widely available in some shape or form, we would obviously seek permission first.

So what exactly are we looking for? Really whatever is helping to nourish your life and inspire you on your journey as a Companion or Friend. Liturgies, songs and stories are the most obvious things - but there may be visual things too - pictures, paintings, illustrations, cartoons and so on. Whatever you send in, please make it clear who the author/artist is or give as much information as you can about the source of the contribution and if appropriate the context in which you and/or others have used it and found it helpful.

**Please send any contributions to:
Norman Cumming, Hetton Hall, Chatton, Northumberland NE66 5SD**

Voices from the Nations

This is an initiative of Martin and Rebekah Neil's which hopes to encourage music and the arts amongst different people groups around the world. As well as being a part of the Community, Martin has for many years travelled the world as a drummer and musician; this has produced a call on his heart to encourage Christians to use the musical traditions of their own cultures for worship - rather than feeling obliged to import words and tunes from 'traditional' (usually western) sources. This series of CDs is the result of his interaction with specific indigenous people groups - the first being ***Fragile Warriors***, featuring the music of the Maoris.

Fragile Warriors has been described by a reviewer in the Christian music press as 'a magnificent mixture of sounds as western pop influences meet New Zealand Maori-style tribal rhythms and chants. Basically, imagine a worship album featuring the Haka that the All Blacks rugby team perform before their matches and you're in the right ballpark!' It captures the prophetic heart of New Zealand with her unique blend of spirit and blood, ancient and new.

Also available is ***Carry me on***. This CD is the result of a long relationship between Martin and Mark Riley, a Californian by birth who has lived on the Island of Kaua'i for the last 22 years. Using cultural expressions, natural soundscapes, local indigenous musical instruments and musicians they have melded together modern music with the sound of Hawai'i.

Coming soon will be ***Sing to the Well***, featuring the music of the Wagogo people from Tanzania. All profits from this CD will go to helping the village of Mnase and their ever-present need for water. Martin and Rebekah visited them for the second time earlier this year, armed with equipment to record their wonderful African rhythms and sounds. Martin is currently mixing and editing the material for this new CD.

If you are interested in Martin and Rebekah's wanderings, you will be able to find more info at their new and developing web site www.voicesfromthenations.com

This series of CDs is being distributed by Cloisters. By purchasing them you will not only find an exciting window into musical worship from other cultures, but you will also be encouraging these indigenous groups of Christians to believe in their own musical heritage. (You will also be helping to dig a well in Tanzania!)

Download a Cloisters order form from www.northumbriacommunity.org/cloisters/index or ring Brenda on 01289 388235 or email her on cloisters@northumbriacommunity.org and use the ordering information below. The prices include packing and postage.

Fragile Warriors

Ref code: VFTNCD001 £15.00

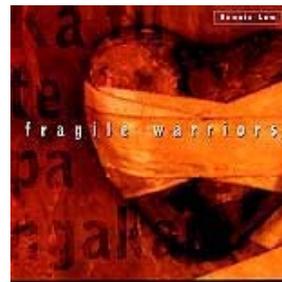
Carry me on

Ref code: MMICD0308 £15.00

Sing to the Well

Ref code: VFTNCD003

Not ready but orders being taken £15.00



Anyone interested in joining the community at Greenbelt, either camping with us or coming in, whole or part-time, let Norma Charlton know. Don't let the cost put you off; if you help, it could be possible to subsidise your ticket. Festival: 26th - 29th Aug; setting up 24th & 25th, packing up morning 30th.

norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org

Tel: 0191 487 8065



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.

CREATIVE ARTS RETREAT...



Creative Arts Retreat in Ireland from Saturday 6th to 13th August at Ballydugan, County Down, Northern Ireland. Join Nick & Anita Haigh & others from the Community for a creative week of writing – songs, music, liturgy, poetry, stories etc. We also hope to have the opportunity to do some calligraphy and silk screen painting with Pam French. Maintaining the rhythm of the 'monastic day', we will share in the offices, the preparing of meals, taking time to enjoy beautiful County Down and its links with the sacred sites of Saul, Downpatrick and Inch. This will be a relaxed, creative week staying in the beautiful and comfortable Ballydugan cottages.

People will be responsible for making their own way to Ballydugan although help may be given to those who require transport to and from Belfast. Cheap flights can be found (the earlier you book the better & cheaper) with companies like EasyJet, bmibaby, FlyBe, & Jet2. Belfast City Airport would be recommended although there is a shuttle bus service from Belfast International Airport into the city centre. Alternatively folk may wish to take their own vehicle on the ferry and can book online at the Stena website or by telephone on 028 90 747747. The cost will be £150 per person.



For further details and to book your place, please contact Jean via email jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org or telephone 01625 874493. Please book early to avoid disappointment and send a £50 deposit to the Finance Office at Northumbria Community and mark it *Creative Arts – Ireland*.

Community Groups

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

Norma Charlton norma.charlton@northumbriacommunity.org
Tel: 0191 487 8065 or via the Community office

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a holiday camp with festival atmosphere at Hollybush Farm, Thirsk, North Yorkshire from 15th - 21st August, 2005,

Wellspring and Community musicians will be leading worship, Roy Searle will be speaking one of the evening's, Andy Raine is hoping to take a dance team, and we hope also to have a storyteller for a workshop.

Further details and a brochure from office@northernlight.org.uk. or see www.northernlight.org.uk

If anyone lives nearby, and would be willing to offer accommodation to a Community team member who is unable to camp, please contact Jean Watson on 01625 874493, jean.watson@northumbriacommunity.org

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

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