

House of the Resurrection Mirfield W Yorks WF14 0BN

Easter 2012

Dear Companion

"Christ is risen from the dead and become the first fruits of those who sleep." That is our good news, as Christians and as followers of the Risen Jesus. There is much darkness in our world, much pain, much sickness, much violence. Most of us know suffering of one kind or another and quite often the present seems very dark and bleak. So did it to Jesus, often, in his ministry on earth and yet he broke through it all and rose from the dead. He tells us every day that he is here, coming out of the dark. The poet Hopkins wrote: "I greet him in the days I meet him, and bless when I understand." So we greet Jesus, not always understanding. We are aware of our weakness, our failure to live up to what he would like. Yet we can pray, again with Hopkins: "Let him Easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cressed east."

Mirfield

We have loved getting back into our own church and our visitors love it. Those of you who have seen it will have seen how light and spacious it now is; the features which made it so beautiful before have been enhanced. It has also been lovely getting back into our refectory. The table we eat at is a central part of a monastery's life. It is where we build community amongst ourselves and welcome our visitors with the hospitality we should show to Christ.

Unfortunately in the years we have been out of our church people have stopped coming to see us. We need to get them back, both to share with them the new beauty of worship we can offer and to deepen and enrich our own life. We also need to repair our finances. Most of you have dug deeply and generously into your pockets to help us pay for the Church. Rather than just giving now you could come and stay, or send others to stay. That increases our income and gives you and those you bring the chance to worship God in this different environment. This is where you can help:

- Come on one of the retreats advertised on the website, or contact the Guestbrother (me actually!) about what we can offer;
- Come simply as a visitor for a day or two of quiet and prayer, or just to enjoy the friendship you have with us;
- Bring others. It is easy to fit in small groups. You don't have to be many to make it worthwhile. Any group between two and eight is easy to fit in.
- Bring a parish group. Many priests do not seem to know that we welcome visits from parishes to take part in our worship, to stay overnight, or for weekends. We are

developing new ways of engaging with such groups, going round the stations of salvation for instance. Ask about these.

- Send people whom you think might benefit from the peace here. Lots of people in today's world are simply stressed by work, by family bereavements, or by trying to be a Christian in a hostile world.
- Tell people about Mirfield and tell them to look at our website if they can.

Contact with Companions

It is important to meet up together. I know that is hard for many of you who are elderly or somewhat isolated. The latest CR Quarterly advertises the Companions Day (along with a mini-Commem Day) on July 7th. Do come to that if you possibly can. It is not only for Companions; anyone interested can join us. We can also offer accommodation to any who would like it on the Friday or Saturday night. Contact Pauline Briscoe to book in. (Her contact details are in the CRQ.)

Those of you with internet access should keep an eye on the Companions Website that Kevin Sims keeps up dated. You will find there news, CR Brethren's sermons and photos of gatherings. If you are part of a Companions Group could you let Kevin know about anything your group does? This all helps to build up a sense of community.

Commitment cards

This letter brings your Commitment Card. If you can come to the Companions Day here on 7th July, or in Southwark on 22nd September please bring it to offer on the altar then. If you can't, or are in doubt, send it back to us, signed, as soon as possible. This tells us you are alive and well and wanting to remain a Companion. Also please renew your subscription to the CR Quarterly (£15.00) if you are in any doubt as to whether it is up to date. Most people get into arrears without realising it.

That's enough nagging!! It's lovely having you all on board, praying for us, supporting us and being our friends. As friends you have the right to tell us what you want, how we can help to make your Companion relationship with us more fruitful. Jesus said "I do not call you servants; I have called you friends." Friendship today is often undervalued or misunderstood. It is one of the strongest forms of love and the one that tells us most about the love of God. We need to practice it among ourselves in order to understand it more.

With all good wishes

Nicolas Stebbing CR