

## Brethren go travelling!

We have a reputation for spending large amounts of time travelling round the world. This is an exaggeration. However, this month sees the beginning of one of those flurries of travels that give rise to the reputation:



A few days ago **Fr Oswin** set off to the mountain kingdom of Bhutan somewhere in the Himalayas to attend a conference in a Buddhist monastery. Organised at the invitation of the Secretary General of the Central Monastic Body, the visit will include a focus on meditation and it's links to devotion. Oswin has a deep interest in and sympathy with Buddhist monasticism and has certainly learned a great deal about Bhutan in preparation for this journey. He will be back on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

About the same time **Br Philip** went off to Cape Town to see his family. He will be away for a few weeks enjoying a Cape Summer which will certainly be a great deal better than English winter!

On 14<sup>th</sup> February **Fr Peter** began a well deserved 3 months sabbatical by flying off to India. From there he will go to United States to do some music research and writing and then goes to Honolulu to preach Holy Week; and yes, we are jealous of that last bit!

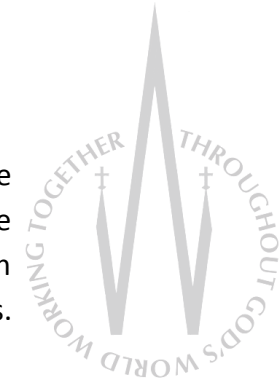
On 24<sup>th</sup> February **Fr George and Fr Nicolas** will set off to Rome with a group of religious from around Europe to talk with various people in the Eternal City about Church Unity. The hope of course is to see the Pope, but we will also talk with Benedictines, with the Congregation for religious and the Council for Church Unity to see how we religious can contribute better to the Church's search for unity. We did this once before, after Benedict had been elected and people in Rome were astonished to find there are religious in Anglican, Reformed and Lutheran churches. We also have three Roman Catholics and an Orthodox in our group so we span the traditions.



And finally, on 14<sup>th</sup> February **Fr Vincent Girling** set off on that greatest journey through death to the life that God has prepared for us. It is always sad when someone we love dies and we shall see them no longer in this world. Yet for us Christians it is joyful too, that Vincent, who had lived a long life with 60 years of it in CR, and with quite a lot of illness too, has now gone to be with Jesus whom he served so faithfully. ***Christ is risen – Alleluya!***

## A Day in the Life of Wakefield Diocesan School of Ministry

Wakefield School of Ministry meets for one Sunday a month on the Mirfield site. It trains Readers, Lay Pastoral Ministers and provides one of the pathways for ordinands from Yorkshire Ministry Course. In addition to this some students attend for 'educational' purposes. Currently, it has 50 students.



Student and staff gather from **8.30 am** onwards to prepare for the day. Hot drinks are provided on arrival and it is often a good chance for students to catch up on each other's news and views. Teaching begins at **9.00am** with two sessions in the morning punctuated by a coffee break when there is chance for staff and students to mingle informally. It has been good this academic year to welcome Father Thomas CR who often pops in at coffee time to chat with students and to offer 'chaplaincy' support.

At **12 noon** the School of Ministry pauses for a time of quiet and reflection in the form of a service of Holy Communion. Members of staff take it in turn to preside and preach. Once a year we join with CR brethren for their Midday Eucharist, cementing further our links with each other. After spiritual refreshment comes physical nourishment in the form of a hot lunch. Formation for students involves studying, worshipping and eating together.

Teaching and learning resumes again at **2.00pm** with a definite break at **3.30pm** when tea is served. Often a more quieter and relaxed time is afforded by this break (it can seem a long day!) and there is sometimes a chance for students to discuss the day and all that it has brought to them. At this point some students make their way home. The modules are arranged so that teaching concerned with assignments and assessed work is dealt with at the end of the day. Not all students are doing the HE validated courses which we offer with York St. John as our current validating partner. At around **4.30pm** all students leave and the school begins to close up. Students have a last chance to visit the library and diocesan Resource Centre before they depart.

Based on a model used by Sheffield Diocese, we aim to provide a day full of opportunities to deepen discipleship, learn new skills and assimilate new ideas and concepts. Some time ago now the School of Ministry concept replaced the more traditional 'evening class' style. Appreciated greatly is the ethos of the site which students refer to as a special place of 'encounter with God'. The roots of this ethos are easily traced to the monastic round of prayer which welcomes us, sustains us and sends us on our way rejoicing!

**John Lawson**

## Rishworth School Choir visit to CR

What is music? Like the Gospel music isn't easy to talk about; the moment we start to talk about music we find ourselves falling short. Like the Gospel, music is something that you do, and have experience of - experience that is beyond mere words. The monastery is a place where the Gospel is to be lived and communicated, both by the Brethren and by those who work here. One of the gifts we receive as children of God is the gift of freedom: freedom from the expectations we place upon God, others and ourselves; freedom to become the most loving person we can be; freedom to use the gifts that we have received. The Community seeks to provide and protect a place, in this demanding and pressurised world, where all people can be free to explore and develop the gifts that they have received. There are very few expectations placed upon students who make a visit here: please don't talk in the corridor (unlike the Brethren!), and please, please try not to get crumbs in the carpet when you have your lunch!

This month we had a visit from Rishworth School Choir: a group of incredibly talented young people, whose school had provided them with an opportunity to leave their daily learning environment, and come and sing in the Community Church. The trip was organised by school governor and professional singer, Fr Hilary Barber. The school choir wanted to learn to sing Compline, the last of the daily services we pray together before going to bed.

The day came, and the students arrived prepared to sing before the Community at the end of the midday office. After dropping off coats and bags we went to church to have a little rehearsal, stopping off in the library to look at our collection of medieval plainchant. The students, looking a little nervous, assembled in the church at the front of the quire. The sound of their voices, performing 'If ye love me' by Tallis, in our cathedral-like acoustic, was beautiful. The gift to me was to see the faces of all those people smiling, when having finished performing, we stood listening to the final chord fading away. The students had a little time to hear about the plainchant that has sustained the daily worship of the Church for millennia, and about the Community who have prayed this way for over one hundred and twenty years.



I never fully find out what expectation individual students have of us when they visit here (maybe I should?), but I hope that all who come here receive something of the freedom communicated by our experience of the Gospel. The director of music wrote to say that the

students had a 'wonderful experience'. I don't think this was because we had done anything special, but because they had been given the time to explore the gift of themselves.

**Jacob Pallett CR**

### **The Biko-Bowcott Trust**

One thing that quietly goes on without much remark is the work of the Biko-Bowcott Trust. This was founded by our brother Aelred Stubbs CR, who had been a close friend of the martyr of the apartheid era in South Africa, Steve Biko. The Trust is chaired by the Superior, and is dedicated solely to supporting the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown. This is the last surviving theological College in South Africa, and it is vital for the church that it should survive. The Trust pays the fees for a dozen or so students from poor backgrounds and also gives other support to the College. At the moment it is paying the salary of the College administrator, and will now also be paying for the Principal for a new school of theology, which will be something like our regional training courses in England. In a church where training and formation of clergy has been in difficulties for years, there is a real problem about providing priests equipped for the tough task of leading the Church at a challenging time for South Africa.



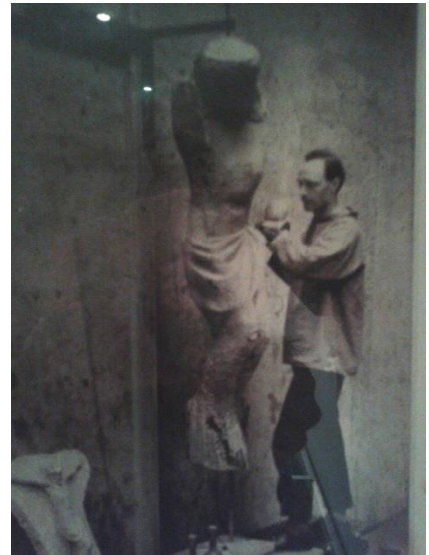
Because of his part in the struggle against apartheid, Fr Aelred was banned from South Africa – the banning order was delivered by South African agents to the mother house at Mirfield: the brethren invited them to lunch, which by all accounts was an interesting occasion.

The College in Grahamstown is at present going from strength to strength, under the very experienced leadership of Barney Pityana, an old friend of the Community

## Forgotten sculpture

For a few years in the 1950s the artist Paul Bird was a member of the Community. He was a fine artist who went on to become Vice-Principal of the Central School of Art. His obituary can be read on: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-paul-bird-2322420.html>

This month we were contacted by his son Damian Bird, who runs a fascinating international photographic website ([www.lifeforcemagazine.com](http://www.lifeforcemagazine.com)) showing the work of leading photographers. He was anxious to have an artwork of his father's - for complicated reasons he in fact possesses nothing of his father's work. He asked about an uncompleted life-size crucifix his father had begun at Mirfield. His father had only roughed out the torso, on which he is shown working in this photograph. The torso was still here, in our cricket shed, and Damian was thrilled to be able to come and to take home to Devon this piece of his father's work. We are now talking with Damian about making a photo-documentary of CR to appear on his website.



## Oblates

Last week, to our delight, two new young priests made their first oblations, as oblates of the Community. One is Tom Hiney, a former journalist who worked for some time in South Africa and is at the moment finishing a curacy in Dewsbury before going to become an army chaplain. The other is Ben Bradshaw who is well known to CR friends for his visits to Zimbabwe and his amazing fund raising efforts for the Refugees at Tongogara camp. They will be a wonderful addition to our oblates group and bring down the average age considerably!



## Come and Visit us!

We love our friends. We like to see you and like you to worship with us. Many people don't know that our guest house is almost always open and anyone can come to stay. You don't have to be part of a group, though it may be nice if you are. We also need people to come and stay (and pay!) because it helps finance this place. So why don't **you** come? That way we could enjoy seeing you; you can enjoy the silence and prayerfulness of this place, and you can contribute to our finances and get something for it. Everyone wins!



Also, if you are a cycling fan, remember the Tour de France begins in Yorkshire, in Leeds on July 5<sup>th</sup> and comes through Huddersfield on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Come and stay here so you can watch the cyclists flash by.

Why not come for come for a working holiday at Mirfield?

Friendship; fellowship; fresh air; beautiful Spring gardens; good food; monastic prayer and quiet for those who wish it; and an organised day trip out.

From 30<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014, we will be running the first in a new programme of working holidays contributing to the care of the extensive grounds of the Community of the Resurrection.



The grounds are a memorable feature of many visitors' stay. They include formal gardens, a playing field, orchards, wilderness areas and the soon-to-be restored historic Quarry Theatre.

Participants will help under instruction to make good paths and borders (wet weather alternatives available). This is physical work suited to those with a good level of fitness, and open to differing abilities.

Cost: £100 includes: accommodation in the Community's Retreat House and all meals.

Interested? Why not bring a friend too?

Apply to Guy Laurie for more details:

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Tel: 01924 483346