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## OUR AMERICAN GUESTS



Last weekend 19 people from Eau Claire Cathedral in Wisconsin descended on us. They were fun and seemed to love it here. They were led by their Dean, Fr Mike Greene who was a student here 10 years ago. Both Fr Peter and Fr Nicolas have visited them in this past year so they knew a little of us. Fr Mike brought them because he wanted them to see what monastic life can give to the church and to the training of priests. We hope this will lead to more visits from Eau Claire and from other American cathedrals and churches. This extends our witness to the values of monastic life and also perhaps increases our income, which we need.

The group went on from here to tour monastic sites in the North of England: Fountains, Rievaulx, Ampleforth, Whitby, Durham, Holy Island and Edinburgh. There are great riches here in the north and we believe Mirfield can be a good example of a living monastery from which to explore the ruined monasteries. There's not much point in visiting monastic ruins unless it gives one a taste for monastic and Christian life today! Americans appreciate this and some American monastic communities have much to teach us. Let's hope we have begun something with Eau Claire that will lead on fruitful exchanges. Nicolas CR



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## PILGRIMAGE TO ST HILDA'S



On 31<sup>st</sup> July the Community made a pilgrimage to the ancient church of St Hilda in Hartlepool. St Hilda was born in 614 so this year was a year of special celebrations in her honour. She began as a Nunn in a convent on the site of the present church, which is an older building mainly of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. She later moved to Whitby, where she remained for the rest of her life.

The church is full of interesting links to the past on that site. It includes the remains of Religious in past centuries, placed in the sanctuary. There is also 'a pillow stone' (a memorial) from the 7<sup>th</sup> century commemorating a Nunn called Hilda, though not the one who was the saint.

We had a very great welcome from the vicar, Father Chris Collison and his very friendly people. We sang the Midday Office and Mass followed by an excellent lunch with wine! In the afternoon, we explored the area and met some very friendly local children. Later, we sang Evensong and left to return to Mirfield. Simon CR

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## GOOD NEWS FOR THE B&B AT CR

As most of our readers are aware, CR welcomes anyone who wishes to come to us for a quiet day, to use the extensive libraries, walk in the grounds or stay in our B&B - all we ask is for prior notice so we know you are coming.

The Community is pleased to announce that the monastery's Bed & Breakfast facility is doing well, owed possibly to the fact that we have had a number of repeat bookings from those who stay over at the weekend and enjoy one or two of the services in the church whilst they are here.



If you would like to enquire about booking either a double or single en suite room, with free wifi, secure parking and choice of breakfast, then you can do so in the following ways:

**Email:** Enquiries@mirfield.org.uk

**Telephone:** The General Manager on 01924 483346

**Online:** [www.monastery-stay.co.uk/bed-breakfast](http://www.monastery-stay.co.uk/bed-breakfast)

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## AN ORDINAND'S PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE



As ordinands of St. Michael's College, Llandaff, we are required to complete four weeks of placement work during our summer vacation. I decided that two of the four weeks were to be spent with the Community of the Resurrection. The main aim of this placement was to be exposed to monastic living, including the daily rhythm of prayer and to begin to understand how individuals experience God's call upon their lives to make such a commitment. This has been a wonderful experience. What had started out as a learning placement, turned into something profoundly spiritual and personal.

As much as possible I lived the daily routine with the Brothers: Mattins, Midday Prayer, Mass, Evensong and Compline. In between all that I managed to have enjoyable conversations with various Brothers individually. Br Nicolas explained about the many projects that the Community oversees in Zimbabwe. Br Aidan explained how the Community was actively involved in South Africa. Br Anthony shared about the dynamics of community living - both its positives and negatives. Br Simon guided me, every day, in some prayerful breathing exercises and gave me a new appreciation for the writings of Thomas Merton. Br George enlightened me on general monastic life and helped to structure my two week placement.

I also had to contribute to the daily working tasks: cleaning up after meals, cleaning in the garden, working in the apple orchard, picking plums, church cleaning and various other tasks as the Brothers asked for assistance. I found the Brothers to be very kind, friendly and hospitable. After spending just two weeks with them I felt a sense of belonging. In more ways than they know, they had affirmed me as a person and affirmed God's call upon my life. Everything I learnt, experienced, gained will not be left in the CR House but will go with me as I continue my journey as an ordinand and exercise a ministry within a parish.

To all the Brothers and to everyone else who works in the CR House – Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Kent JWL Middleton

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## INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREATS



One of the growth areas in our programme has been IGR's. People seem to value the longer time spent (5 or 6 days) and don't mind paying for it. It adds a level of commitment to retreat which bears considerable fruit. Most people these days are tired and stressed when they arrive on retreat and need time to quieten down. People also value the less structured aspect of an IGR. Apart from meals, the mass and a daily interview the time is their own to explore with God. The more space there is the better for God to find and fill.

A really important factor in the retreat is the grounds. People really love our grounds and spend hours and hours exploring them, or sitting and doing nothing in them. The garden really

does seem a place where people can meet God. And some discover the labyrinth as a place where they can take their Christian journey a little further. Have you tried walking the labyrinth?

There are still a couple of places left on our October IGR if you would like to come. Otherwise the programme for next year will soon be out. Nicolas CR

<b>September</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Past in our Present: A WWI Retreat</b> Fr Dennis Berk & Claire Foster-Gilbert	£150.00
<b>October</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Apple Retreat</b> Fr Thomas Seville	£200.00
19 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Autumn Individually Guided Retreat</b> Fr Oswin Gartside and Maggie Jackson	£300.00
<b>November</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Clergy Pre-Advent Retreat</b> Fr John Gribben	£200.00
<b>December</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Advent Retreat</b> Fr Eric Simmons	£150.00

**To book a place on retreat email:** [guests@mirfield.org.uk](mailto:guests@mirfield.org.uk)  
**Telephone:** 01924 483348  
**Write to:** **The Guestbrother at** The Community of the Resurrection  
Stocks Bank Road  
Mirfield  
WF14 0BN

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*Welcome to all those who have received this monthly newsletter via post, we hope you continue to enjoy catching up on the activity here at the Community. Should you wish to make a contribution (if you have not already done so) to the postage of this monthly communication, then please make all cheques payable to The Community of the Resurrection or contact Adele Hannah on 01924 493300 in the Bursary to arrange alternative methods of payment.*

***Many thanks for your support.***