

Community of the Resurrection



St. Albans Diocese Companions Network



Newsletter 12 – Summer 2010

Summer Party at Pirton

On 24 July our summer meeting was held in Pirton, Hertfordshire in the lovely garden of the vicarage home of John and Mary Payne-Cook. Nine of us gathered there for a midday Eucharist in the church, followed by a delicious bring-and-share lunch. After our business meeting we spent an hour in *Iectio divina*, studying Luke 11.1-13. The day closed with afternoon tea. This was probably our last opportunity to meet in Pirton as, with the imminent retirement of John, he and Mary will shortly be moving to their new home in Totternhoe, Bedfordshire. We wish them every happiness there.



Present changes; future prospects

At our summer meeting it was announced that the Rev David Powell is standing down as the group's Chaplain. The last three years, since the St Alban's Companions group reformed, have been hugely active and throughout this time David has been a steadfast rock, always there for support or advice and available to take the Eucharist at each event. We thank him enormously and are delighted that he will continue to be part of the group, going forward.

Equally, we are so pleased to welcome the Rev Canon John Payne-Cook as our new Chaplain. John trained at the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield and with Mary, a CR Companion, has kept up strong ties with the Community. He has been an active participant in many of our meetings since we reformed and we look forward to his continued involvement as our Chaplain.



Also at the meeting it was announced that our co-ordinator, Ros Johnson, would be stepping down from that role, although she will of course continue to be involved in the group. How can we begin to thank Ros for all her efforts and the way she has galvanised and motivated the group? It was at her initiative that we re-formed three years ago and in that time she has provided the innovation and dynamism which has brought about so many achievements, not just for our benefit but for others too. Milestones include co-ordinating the first Companions' Day to be held outside Mirfield, driving the start up of a new group for London CR Companions,

attempts to form Companions groups in Brighton and Portsmouth, plus efforts to save the closure of St Francis House, Hemingford Grey. Alongside this, Ros has been visiting the Community regularly, producing photocards, the proceeds of which are now going to the Centenary Church appeal and sitting as a member of the appeal committee and much other hidden work besides. The St Albans Group is not going to re-appoint a co-ordinator as it would be impossible to follow Ros! Instead, we are going to steer things collegiately in the future, taking it in turns to organise/co-ordinate meetings and events.

Southern Companions Day at Canterbury Cathedral

This is your final opportunity to sign up to join the Southern Companions Day at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday, 18 September. This event has been specially organised, courtesy of the Archdeacon of Canterbury the Ven Sheila Watson, herself a CR Companion. It will include a short (15 minute) pilgrimage walk from the former Benedictine monastery of St Augustine, a service of Eucharist in the eastern crypt of the Cathedral and lunch in the Cathedral Lodge. The Rev Chris Irvine, former principal of the College of the Resurrection and now Canon Librarian at the Cathedral, will be joining us as will Fr Nicholas, Chaplain to the CR Companions, plus other brethren from Mirfield.

The total cost of the day, to include morning coffee, lunch and tea is £19.50 and a cheque for this amount (payable to "Kevin Sims") should be sent with your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number to 12 Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire MK45 2AU. An optional tour of the Cathedral can be booked on the day (cost £5).

This day is open to anybody – you do not have to be a CR Companion to join us!

News from Mirfield

You can continue to keep in touch with what is happening at Mirfield by visiting the website www.mirfieldcompanions.org.uk. As well as regular news updates, the site includes a selection (growing all the time) of sermons preached by the brethren, copies of the CR Quarterly Review, a full table of Companions and many other interesting and useful links and resources. Recently added are photographs from the CR Companions Pilgrimage to Walsingham and those from previous outings by the St Albans Companions group to the Community of St Mary the Virgin at Wantage and the Community of St Mary at the Cross, Edgware Abbey.

Another new Companions group!

A CR Companions Group is being formed for those living in Wales, with the inaugural day to be held at Llandaff Cathedral on 9 October. For further details please contact the Rev Matthew Hill (m.hill@lamp.ac.uk) or keep an eye on www.mirfieldcompanions.org.uk/wales

Photograph corner

Continuing our endeavours to include in each Newsletter details of a painting or sculpture from somewhere around the world on the subject of the Resurrection...



This unusual sculpture was spotted in Southwark Cathedral in London last December. Constructed largely of wood housed in an open frame with two short sides, its shape is reminiscent of a triptych. The eye is drawn within, where light bursts through the open panels and energy seems to radiate out. This piece commemorates the sculptor's Brother, John Robinson, who was once Bishop of Woolwich and who died in 1983.



Keeping in touch

Over the last three years we have built up a database of almost 200 people to whom we endeavour to send our Newsletters (wherever possible by e-mail). However, we have only ever heard from a small percentage of these contacts and even fewer attend our meetings and events.

Please remember that this group exists for you, to enable you keep in contact with others locally who have been touched by, or who are interested in CR and to help all live out their Christian vocation in a way which strengthens, supports and inspires, whilst promulgating something of the charism of the Community, where possible underpinned by a personal rule.

We will be reviewing our database over the next few months to try and ensure our energies are not being dissipated on those who appear ambivalent. Further, we are finding it increasingly difficult and costly to print and despatch this letter by post. These days, those who do not possess a computer are able to gain easy access to the internet through friends or other family members or even through the resources offered by public libraries, internet cafes etc. We don't wish anybody to think they are being disenfranchised but stark economics and the need to maximise that rare commitment of voluntary time means we must try to operate in a smarter, more focussed way.

Importantly, if you would like to see your local CR Companions group continue to flourish, please try to support our meetings.

Future proposed events

Our timetable for proposed future meetings and events of the St Albans Companions group is as follows:

- 18 September 2010 - Southern Companions Day at Canterbury Cathedral
- February 2011- quiet day at the Community of St Mary the Virgin (CSMV) at Wantage) details
- 5 March 2011 – celebration at St Alban's Abbey of 950 years of Walsingham Holy House) to follow
- Spring 2011 – joint meeting with CCR East Anglia) in due
- Summer 2011 - Summer Party) course
- 14-18 September 2011 - Study Week at Mirfield to include Companions Day

If you are not a CR Companion but would like to join in any of our events, you would be most welcome.

Prayers

The CR Companions Prayer: *O God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you have brought life and immortality to light. Give us grace to die to sin, that we may ever live with you in the joy of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen*

A resurrection prayer: *God of life and death, we rejoice in the glory of Jesus' resurrection. Thank you for bringing all Christians new life in Him. Let the spirit of love and renewal continue in the lives of all who believe, that they might be changed in your image and likeness, O God. May all who seek new life find it in you.*