



**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**

**MY
SKY
DIVE**
PAGE 11



**AROUND
THE
BRANCHES**
PAGE 7



SCARBOROUGH AGM 2013

'Scarborough, Queen of the Yorkshire Coast!' was the welcome we received from the Mayor, Councillor Andrew Backhouse, when, accompanied by his wife, he was invited to open the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Women's League. He told us the Spa Centre, where we held the conference, was opened in 1880 making Scarborough the first ever spa town and coastal resort in England. Before leaving the Mayor and Mayoress toured all the display stands in the hall, set up to illustrate the work of the League. Margaret Valentine, Branch President of Hexham & Newcastle, outlined the area's Christian heritage including its association with the seventh century saints of Lindisfarne, Aidan and Cuthbert. The Bishop of York, St. Wilfrid, was responsible for making the Church's Christian tradition move to the Roman model from that of the Celtic Church. The Abbey at Whitby had been a foremost centre of learning under the guidance of the Abbess, St. Hilda, and then more recently in the 17th century there was St. Margaret Clitherow, martyr and patron of CWL.

League National Treasurer, Jeanette Collins, then presented to the meeting detailed information on League funds. The small deficit in the income and expenditure account for 2013 convinced members of the need to increase subscriptions to £20 p.a. for 2014. This increase was approved overwhelmingly by a show of hands, so no formal ballot was needed. Jeanette's plan is to simplify accounting procedures in order to make the job of Branch and Section Treasurers easier. She also urged Sections and Branches, when receiving a legacy, to

notify HQ straight away.

Outgoing National President, Margaret Richards, told members how much she had enjoyed her years in office, the one disappointment being the abandonment of the national project, the Kihiki Girls' School in Uganda. She still recognised the importance of supporting Christian groups in poor countries and so had decided that the collection at the AGM should go to 'Missio' (total collected was £1,870). Margaret thanked all the members of the National Executive for their support, mentioning in particular National Secretary, Jean Clarke. The highlight of Margaret's term of office had been the National Pilgrimage to Oxford and the opportunity to meet centenarian Mabel Barnes who had actually known our founder Margaret Fletcher; Mabel died six weeks after the Pilgrimage. Margaret ended by thanking everyone she had been involved with during her term of office, including Bishop Peter and her husband Roger, and she was vigorously applauded by all present.

Bishop Peter in his address said he had been in Jerusalem the previous week and was now in Scarborough seeing 'Jesus' in all the people he met. He commended the League on their charity, work and loyalty in the parishes they served, and thanked Margaret Richards for her work. He congratulated Bernie Townsend, Chairman of the Services Committee, for her very good presentation of the previous evening. He said he liked the earthiness of 'huts' and felt this would appeal to Pope Francis who was anxious for the Church to get closer to the earth. He had been at a meeting of Bishops where Pope Francis had spoken of the need for the Church to heal its wounds.



Margaret Richards with the Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough, Councillors Andrew and Sue Backhouse. .

In the western world numbers were reducing; a problem faced by all community groups. We in Britain were in a de-traditionalised and de-personalised society where people were becoming more attached to gadgets than to people; and we were all caught up in it. He stressed the importance of Faith and said the Lord was choosing us, CWL members, to give the gift of God's love to the family of humanity. He wished us well. Veronica Cross, International WUCWO Liaison Officer, reported on the recent WUCWO conference held at Hinsley Hall in Leeds with the theme, 'Respect, me, you, who?'. Conference delegates came from all over Europe and prayers were said in many different languages. A major concern of the conference was abortion and many groups were involved in prayer, fasting and peaceful vigils to end the crisis. The assembly was pleased that suddenly in England the evil of human trafficking had been noticed by politicians and efforts are being made to combat the trade. She concluded her address with a version of the prayer of St. Francis, 'Lord, make me a channel of your

disturbance' (see over page)

Our visiting speaker was Lynne Tembey, the Worldwide President of the Anglican Mothers' Union, on the work of her organisation which had 'parenting' as a core theme.

This was followed by reports from all the Regional Officers on the work of their Branches, now very slick thanks to our National Secretary's mastery of the visual technology. We ended the conference with Mass concelebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle with Mgr. Andrew McFadden, chaplain to the Forces, plus other visiting priests and deacons. During the Mass, National President Elect, Elizabeth Upsher, was presented with her badge of office by Bishop Peter and was formally appointed President of the League.

After the meeting we went to our respective hotels for an evening meal and then re-assembled at the Spa Centre dressed in red, white and blue to sing songs from the World Wars to celebrate 100 years since the start of CWL Huts and Canteens.



National President, Margaret Richards

Message from Retiring National President Margaret Richards

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all enjoyed the AGM weekend in Scarborough as much as I did! Thank you all for making it such a success. It would be great to have double the number at Warwick University next year. My three years as your National President went so quickly, but what a memorable time I had. I have made many real friends and feel as if I know a lot of Sections as if they were my own. Let us keep that friendship going, and I will be very happy to visit for celebrations or just for a chat, so please keep in touch. Please support your Branches and your Regions and I know that your new National President, Elizabeth Upsher, will have other ways to take the League forward in the next few years. I will give her my full support as I know you will too.

So thank you all again for all the love and encouragement and enthusiasm you have given me. In Faith, Hope and Charity we will continue the work given us by our founder, Margaret Fletcher. God Bless you all.

Margaret Richards



The 3 Margarets: Margaret Richards, Margaret Littlewood and Margaret Valentine

Contact details for National Officers

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Mrs Elizabeth Upsher,
natpres@cwlhq.org.uk

NATIONAL TREASURER

Mrs Jeanette Collins,
nattreas@cwlhq.org.uk

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Mrs Jean Clarke,
natsec@cwlhq.org.uk

**REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
REGION 1**

Mrs Sally Hamp
region1@cwlhq.org.uk

REGION 2

Mrs Sue Gornall
region2@cwlhq.org.uk

REGION 3

Miss Catherine McDonald
region3@cwlhq.org.uk

REGION 4

Mrs Pat Lockeridge
region4@cwlhq.org.uk

REGION 5

vacant

REGION 6

Miss Jill Sims
region6@cwlhq.org.uk

REGION 7

Mrs Isabel Fox
region7@cwlhq.org.uk

CHAIRMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mrs Bernie Townsend
bernie.bhamcwl@yahoo.com

CHAIRMAN OUR LADY’S CATECHISTS

Miss Beryl Wakefield
berylm@tiscali.co.uk

RELIEF & REFUGEE TEAM MEMBER

Mrs Jane Dawson
randr1@cwlhq.org.uk

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Margaret von Speyr
publicity@cwlhq.org.uk

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER

Claire Myers-Lampthey
claire@thecreativestrategist.com

**INTERNATIONAL OFFICER
& WUCWO LIAISON**

Veronica Cross
ronroy@btinternet.com

HEALTH & FAMILY OFFICER

Alison Love
alisonlove1952@googlemail.com

TYPHOON HAIYAN: THE LEAGUE HAS JUST SENT CAFOD A CHEQUE FOR £10,000 FOR THE RELIEF OF AFFLICTED FAMILIES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Letter from the editor

Dear Members,

After five years of editing CWL News, Eileen and I are retiring. We are to be replaced by an ‘Editorial Team’ so all copy for the next issue is to be sent to our National Secretary by Saturday 1st March 2014, in any legible form. For this last issue I was delighted with the information on our English saints and martyrs, none of whom were more to me than vague names beforehand; I have learnt much. As we had no summer issue there was a huge amount of ‘News from Branches’ to be included and although I have endeavoured to include something from every Branch, all contributions have been shortened, also the reports from Representatives. For this reason also, we are not including a crossword (although we have one on hand); the solution to the last crossword is on the back page. One disappointment has been the quality of the photographs sent in. In future, please use a camera; and if it is a digital camera please make sure you have it set on the maximum number of ‘dots per inch’, using a mobile phone to take pictures just does not give sufficient picture definition which is why a lot of the photographs sent have been omitted. Happy Christmas to all and good luck to the new team,

with best wishes from Gaby

ENGLISH MARTYRS IN THE MIDLANDS

In reply to your request in the last CWL News, I would like to furnish you with some facts about those English Martyrs who are associated with Birmingham Archdiocese. The names are taken from the pamphlet which was issued for the Annual Pilgrimage to the shrine at Harvington Hall in Worcestershire, which I was fortunate to attend on Sunday 1st September 2013. This is a regular pilgrimage which I and my family and parents have attended since moving to the Midlands from Liverpool in 1966, my late father being in the Catholic Mission Society and serving every year as a steward at this event, myself having sung in the choir a number of times. In all the years we have attended this beautifully orchestrated service, it has only rained twice. The last hymn, ‘Faith of our fathers’ was a particular favourite of my late father, Ernie Edwards from Stourbridge. The list of martyrs includes four who are especially venerated at Harvington, these being St. Nicholas Owen, Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Blessed Arthur Bell and St. John Wall. If you wish

me to do another article about them, please let me know. I hope this will encourage interest in these martyrs in the Midlands.

From Margaret Pennington.

CWL NEWS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Some time ago it was suggested that the CWL News be recorded for members who are no longer able to read the printed copy. However, when members were asked if they knew of anyone in their Section who would benefit from this service there was little or no response. Can we once again ask if anyone needs this service and, depending on numbers, look into the viability of providing this. I understand that the technology has advanced and the type of transcription machines have changed so if any member can be of help, please contact the News Team, **from Margaret von Speyr.**

Thank you from Doreen Brown

I am writing to express my grateful thanks to the National President and Representatives of Committees and Regions who sent me cards and Mass intentions. Also the many individual members from whom I had letters, and who came to the Requiem Mass for my husband Leo. He was a great supporter of women and believed we were undervalued in society and the Church. We were fortunate to have had sixty- one years of marriage and to lose him so suddenly was a great shock to all the family. I could not write to each individual as I received 175 cards and letters and therefore am using the newspaper to express my thanks.

Sincerely, Doreen B. Brown.

The Forty Martyrs of England and Wales

I read with interest your request for information about the Forty Martyrs in CWL News, Spring 2013. I had the great privilege and joy of attending the canonisation of the Forty Martyrs with my cousin Helen and our granddad Mr. Alfred Cosgrove, travelling with the Mancunian pilgrimage. For your interest I enclose a booklet detailing the Mass, hymns, and a brief description of the lives of the Forty Martyrs. I hope it will be of interest.

Yours sincerely, Eileen Anne Killeen.

Vacancies

Do you think you could be part of our News Team?
Do you have what it takes to collect and collate news stories for the Catholic Women’s League News.

We would like to hear from you. We need you to communicate with other members in your area. It’s an exciting time and if you fancy making a contribution to our revamped CWL news, then let’s talk.

Main Duties/ Responsibilities

You will be joining a small team who will help to shape the way we get news to our Members. You will encourage members to contribute to the CWL News. Your role will involve only a few hours every month gathering information and encouraging Members to write about their experiences, events, etc. and finding enticing pictures. The team will work closely with the National Secretary.

Skills Required

Computer literacy and the use of a computer in order to formulate and pass on articles for inclusion in the CWL News. An ability to encourage members to contribute to the News. Some good ideas for features, topics, etc. ., and a sense of humour.

Secretary for Our Lady’s Catechists

If you feel that you would like to support OLC in this way then please contact Marie Francis at isabel@poppy34.freemove.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please send us details of your events and then maybe other CWL members may be able to join you if they find themselves in your area. Annual Retreats and Pilgrimages come to mind especially as most Branches hold these days in the summer months when there is a strong likelihood of people being in the area on holiday.

National Coffee Morning

2nd March 2014

Officers’ Annual Meeting 2014

14th – 15th – 16th February at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

National Executive Meetings 2014

8th - 9th January

28th - 29th April

9th – 10th July

5th – 6th November

Annual General Meeting 2014

12th – 13th – 14th September, University of Warwick

CWL is now on Twitter

CWL England & Wales

@CWLEngWales

CWL exerts influence on issues of social justice, peace and seeks to make the voice of Catholic women heard in the legislative system on issues of the Family.

Luke Coppen, Editor of The Catholic Herald is now following CWL on Twitter!

Please spread the word for members to follow @CWLEngWales

You can reach the Twitter page on

<https://twitter.com/CWLEngWales>

Additionally, if there is anything you want to highlight via Twitter please let Claire know - current affairs which engage discussion only please.

COPY DEADLINE DATE

1st March 2014

Any amendments to distribution, notify the National Secretary

Message From National President Elizabeth Upsher



National President, Elizabeth Upsher, grounded in her CWL roots and ready for work at her Section table sale.

Hello to all. I am writing this on the train as I return from my first Executive Meeting as National President so this message is definitely 'hot off the press'! Firstly I would like to thank Margaret Richards for all her hard work over the last three years and especially in giving her time to visiting Sections all over the country to bring the face of the National Executive to all

members. I know that this has been very much appreciated by you all. Secondly I would like to thank you for electing me to the position of National President and I will do my best to build on all the good work the League has achieved so far.

I won't go into too much detail about what I expect over the next three years but I will give you a flavour of what I would like to achieve. I have been reading through all the replies received regarding 'The Way Forward' and very many of your ideas are akin to mine, so that is heartening. I would like us to put together a 3 year plan which we will devise in full consultation at the Officers' meeting in Swanwick (February 2014). The plan would involve the National Executive looking at all areas of work and ensuring relevance to CWL and value for money; this will include budgeting carefully to be seen to be accountable for all money passing through our hands, and allowing us to include new projects. We can have discussion on national projects and pilgrimages; the work of Branch officers and how they interact with their members; similarly Section officers. We can also consider providing adequate training and information for all members on an on-going basis. We plan to work fully with the Publicity Officer and other National Officers in order to keep members informed of the progress of recruitment across the country. All this may sound good to you, or it may sound too vague, but that is because we want to take the League forward in full consultation with members, starting from our annual meeting for officers at Swanwick.

One thing I do ask is that you support the CWL National Coffee Morning on 2nd March 2014. This will be an opportunity for you to show what you do, and have information available on your meetings, and what you have achieved during the year. Please

contact Margaret von Speyr for leaflets and any other information you need. The question of charging for tea/coffee is optional but the main purpose of the event is to raise the profile of the League. If any funds are raised, part could be donated to

your Branch.

It only remains for me to wish you a very happy Christmas and a Blessed and peaceful New Year; I look forward to us all achieving great things in 2014.

Elizabeth Upsher

National President's Diary:

DATE	EVENT
8th – 9th January 2014	CWL National Executive Meeting
1st February	NBCW Executive Meeting
14th – 16th February	Officers' Annual Meeting
3rd – 5th March	UCM Wales Annual Conference & AGM
13th March	Services Committee AGM
22nd March	NBCW Board Meeting
12th April	Brentwood Branch AGM
26th April	East Anglia Branch AGM
28th – 29th	CWL National Executive Meeting
10th May	Portsmouth Branch AGM
14th May	Region 4 Annual Pilgrimage, Buckfast Abbey
21st June	Cardiff Centenary Branch AGM
26th June	Leeds Branch, Annual Pilgrimage to the Ripon Shrine

Have You Heard About The Catholic Women's League National Event?

Sunday March 2nd after Mass in church halls all over the country, members of the Catholic Women's League will be inviting all parishioners to join them in this National event. Has your Section signed up to take part? Is the church hall booked? Have you let your Branch Officer know that your Section is on board? Which Section will serve the most cups of coffee/tea etc.? There will be a prize for the best one. Spruce up your information boards to make the content appealing to parishioners. Spread the word about the Catholic Women's League and show our parishes what work we do locally, nationally and internationally. Many women in parishes who are not members think they know what we do. Take this opportunity to let them see that we are not just a group of women making tea. Let them see that there is something for all of them to get involved with. Give them a copy of our leaflets, CWL News, Branch newsletter etc. so that they can take them away after the coffee morning. Give them a friendly welcome, explain what the League does, encourage them to come along to a meeting, take them along with you, introduce them to all the other members, talk to them on a regular basis, ask them to help at Parish events.

Please use this as an opportunity to recruit as many women as possible into your Section. Ask everyone in the parish to join in so that all parishioners, not just the women,

can learn about the Catholic Women's League. Make it a family affair. For further information contact publicity@cwlhq.org or ask your Branch Officers.

Margaret von Speyr



National Promotions Officer Margaret von Speyr

Personal alarm **callsafe**
there if you need us

HELP
when you need it
SECURITY
when you don't

- Best value quality service
- Use it around the home and garden
- Sleek and modern technology
- Simple to order and easy to install
- UK telephone response team 24/7

Press the button callsafe Help is on the way



*For full details, please visit our website www.callsafe.org

From as little as
46p
per day*

www.callsafe.org
tel: 0845 21 707 21

Astraline callsafe is a part of "Johnnie" Johnson Housing Trust, an exempt charity

Saint Edmund Campion SJ 1540-1581

Mary Bowen

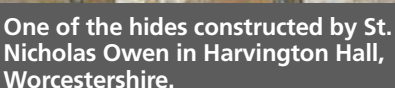
Saint David Lewis SJ 1616- 1679

Elizabeth Macnamara.

Saint Nicholas Owen 1562-1606

Nicholas Owen was born in Oxford in 1562, son of Walter Owen, a carpenter. He had two brothers who became Catholic priests and another who ran a secret Catholic printing press. He was a very small man, not much taller than a dwarf and he suffered from a hernia which, after torture, had to be held in place with a metal plate. He was trampled on by a horse in his youth which left him walking with a pronounced limp. He was apprenticed as a joiner to a friend of his father. In 1580 the Jesuit priest, Edmund Campion, came to England from France and was captured; Nicholas Owen is known to have defended him which resulted in him being thrown into gaol. On his release Nicholas again supported travelling priests, one of whom, the Jesuit Henry Garnett recognised Nicholas' carpentry skills and set him to create priest's hiding places in 'safe houses'. This had to be done in total secrecy and under cover of some other carpentry task; for example in Harvington Hall near Kidderminster he was constructing the 'priests' hides' at the same time as he was installing the Great Staircase. His real genius was in the way he altered floor levels to give space to construct a hiding place. The fact that he was a very small man also made it easier for him to work in confined spaces. An example of this in Harvington Hall is where the hide below the top landing of the Great Staircase has a hidden space for valuables at its entrance, concealing the entrance to a 'priest hole'. Nicholas was captured in 1594 in company with another Jesuit priest, John Gerard and imprisoned in the Counter Prison in London where he was tortured until his friends bought his release. Later he helped Gerard escape from the Tower of London by helping him on to a waiting boat. Nicholas continued with his work of constructing priest's holes until 1606 when, following the gunpowder plot he was in hiding at Hindlip Hall near Worcester with Fathers Garnett and Oldcorne where they were in hiding for several days until driven out by hunger. Nicholas Owen died under torture in the Tower of London in 1606, but in spite of being in terrible pain he never revealed any of his secrets. He was canonised in 1970.

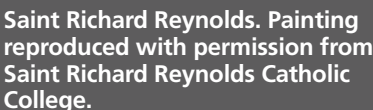
June Waterhouse



Saint Richard Reynolds d.1535

Saint Richard Reynolds, born in Devon and educated at Cambridge, came to the Brigittine Monastery at Syon, Isleworth as a priest and monk. This was an outstanding religious centre. The Brigittine (Order of the Most Holy Saviour) had been founded by Saint Bridget of Sweden in the 14th century. She was particularly active in supporting unmarried mothers. The rule of her order stipulated that each convent should associate women and men in separate cloisters and that in honour of the Virgin Mary, both houses should be ruled by an abbess. When Richard joined the monastery it was one of at least four communities established on the banks of the Thames at the invitation of the kings. When King Henry VIII imposed his Oath of Supremacy on his subjects Richard was one of the few who refused to swear. As a consequence of his 'treason' he was executed in a most horrible manner at Tyburn on May 4th 1535 along with five others who died that day. One of these was HUGH RICH a Franciscan or 'Grey Friar' who was among the first Catholic martyrs at Tyburn alongside another Franciscan friar, and ELIZABETH BARTON, the 'Holy Nun' and a visionary who opposed the king's divorce. In 1900 some parishioners at St. Elizabeth's church in Richmond decided to honour Hugh Rich's memory with a brass plaque and there was a debate as to whether the inscription should be in English or in Latin, so as a compromise the heading of the plaque is in Latin and the rest of the inscription in English.

Aline Cook



PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN APPEAL

The most powerful storm ever to hit land has caused devastation on an unprecedented scale in the Philippines. Over 9.8 million people have had their lives torn apart. But we can still help them as they try to recover and rebuild their lives.

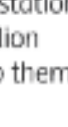
CAFOD is launching a major emergency appeal. We urgently need your support. Please make a donation today.

"Sadly, there are many, many victims and the damage is huge. Let's try to provide concrete help." Pope Francis

Your gift will help local church partners throughout the region provide emergency shelter, food, clean water and essential household items such as blankets, clothes and cooking equipment to those who have been left with nothing.

Please give to the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan appeal today.

cafod.org.uk/typhoon or call 0500 85 88 85



CAFOD
DEC MEMBER

**TOGETHER
WE'RE
STRONGER**

Alternatively, complete and post the coupon to the address below.

My gift of ☐ £25 ☐ £60 ☐ £150 ☐ £1000 or £_____ for the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan appeal

Title: _____ Initials: _____ Surname: _____

Home Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I enclose: ☐ a cheque/postal order (please make payable to CAFOD) OR please debit my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ CharityCard ☐ American Express ☐ Switch/Maestro

Card number: _____ Expiry date: ____/____/____

Valid from: ____/____/____ Switch/Maestro issue no: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please send to: **Freepost RSHJ-KJBY-YXL7, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, LONDON SE1 7JB**

R46550

Gift Aid Declaration (only valid with UK money and without gift aid element) - please tick as appropriate

☐ I confirm I have paid or will pay or intend to pay the appropriate Capital Gains Tax for the period covered by this form to at least equal the amount of tax that will be payable on the resulting income or gains from the gift for the period for which you intend that the gift will be used for the purposes of the appeal. I understand CAFOD will receive 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. **OK**

☐ I do not declare.

CAFOD will store and process your information in accordance with the Data Protection Act. We may contact you from time to time, where you have indicated your interest in our services. If you are working on our behalf

Saint Ambrose Barlow 1585-1641

Saint Ambrose Barlow was one of the forty martyrs canonised in 1970. He was born at Barlow Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy near Manchester, son of Sir Alexander and Mary Barlow. His grandfather died in 1584 whilst in prison for his faith and by the time Ambrose was born the family had lost most of their estates and become reluctant members of the Church of England. He was baptised into the Church of England in Didsbury but he converted to the Catholic faith when he was in his early 20s.

At age 12 he was apprenticed as a page to a relative, but then when he converted he recognised that his vocation was to become a priest. He studied at the English College in Douai, France then at the Royal College of St. Alban in Valladolid, Spain. He became a Benedictine and was ordained priest in 1617. Following his ordination he returned to Manchester before moving to Morleys Hall in Astley, home of Sir Thomas Tyldesley whose grandmother provided Ambrose with a pension to enable him to provide for his parishioners. He had a routine of travelling through his parish for several weeks then of staying several weeks at the hall. It is said he tramped around Lancashire posing as an itinerant artist. The church in Hall Green, Birmingham dedicated to St. Ambrose Barlow has a statue of him dressed in shabby clothes, saying his rosary as he walked, with his artist's brushes in his pocket.

When he was about 56 Fr. Ambrose was partially paralysed following a stroke, but he would not desert his parishioners. He had been arrested and released several times then on Easter Sunday 1641 the vicar of Leigh and his congregation surrounded Morleys Hall; Fr. Ambrose surrendered to them and his parishioners were allowed to go free. He was martyred at Lancaster Castle on 10th September; hung, drawn and quartered and his head displayed on a pike. The skull of St. Ambrose is kept at Wardley Hall, Salford diocese. It is said that terrible screams can be heard if the skull is removed from Wardley Hall, but this has been disproved by a former Bishop of Salford who told how the skull was accidentally left in the boot of his car and taken to Morecombe for the weekend.

Beryl Wakefield/Josephine Smith



Statue of Saint Ambrose Barlow in the parish church dedicated to him in Hall Green, Birmingham.

Saint Margaret Pole 1473-1541

Castle near Bath on 14th August 1473. Her father was George, Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV; her mother Isabelle Neville. Thus Margaret, whose family name was Plantagenet grew up very close to the throne. This was the time of the Wars of the Roses and the wearer of the crown of England changed several times during this period. Her mother died when Margaret was 3 years old. There are rumours that she may have been poisoned by her husband. Margaret became the ward of her aunt Anne Neville who was married to Richard III.

In 1491 aged 18 Margaret married Sir Richard Pole and had 5 children. One of these children was Reginald Pole who later became a Cardinal. All went well for Margaret and she became a trusted friend of Catherine of Aragon, wife of Henry VIII, until Henry wanted a divorce in order to marry Anne Boleyn. Cardinal Reginald Pole who by then was living in Italy wrote, 'Pro Ecclesiasticae Unitatis Defensione', denouncing Henry's policies. Henry's reaction was to arrest several members of the Pole family including Margaret, by then aged 65, and imprisoned them in the Tower of London. Amongst her belongings was found a tunic bearing the 5 wounds which was used as a symbol of the Pilgrimage of Grace and counted as evidence against her.

On 27th May 1541, Margaret Pole, last of the Plantagenets, aged 67 was led to her death; it took the executioner several minutes to completely sever Margaret's head. On the wall of her cell in the Tower of London are scratched the following words, indicating she never quite believed she would be executed,

'For traitors on the block shall die, I am no traitor, no not I.

My faithfulness stands fast and so, towards the block I shall not go, Nor make one step, as you shall see

Christ in thy mercy, save thou me.' She was beatified as a martyr by Pope Leo XIII in 1886 and her feast day is on 28th May.



Margaret Pole, last of the Plantagenets

Jean Coombs

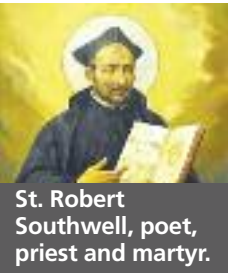
Blessed Nicholas Postgate c.1620-1679

Egton Bridge in Yorkshire is the birthplace of Blessed Nicholas Postgate who was educated at Douai and ordained in 1628 forty-two years after St. Margaret Clitherow was martyred in 1586. He said Mass in this area throughout the recusant period and served the people here for fifty years. For this he was hung, drawn and quartered at the Knavesmire in York on 7th August 1679, ninety-three years after Margaret Clitherow's martyrdom. This is what Nicholas Postgate said from the gallows after he had been dragged on a hurdle through York to the Knavesmire, "Mr. Sheriff, you know I die, not for the plot (the Titus Oates Plot) but for my religion. I pray God Bless the King and the Royal Family. Mr. Sheriff, I pray you tell the King that I never offended him, his grace and the light of truth. I forgive all that have wronged me and brought me to this death and I desire forgiveness of all people."

The annual 'Postgate Rally' is usually held on the first Sunday of July on the North Yorkshire Moors at either Egton Bridge or Ugthorpe. The church at Egton Bridge is called Saint Hedda's and the one at Ugthorpe is Saint Anne's. The rally is held each year alternately between these churches and there is a walk across the moors prior to Mass which can be indoors or out depending on the weather. In 2011 the Mass was celebrated inside Saint Hedda's because a new stained glass window featuring the martyr Blessed Nicholas Postgate was dedicated.

Lilian Finch

Saint Robert Southwell c. 1561- 1595



St. Robert Southwell, poet, priest and martyr.

Saint Robert Southwell, poet, priest and martyr, was born in Horsham St. Faith, a small village near Norwich. In 1576 at the age of 16 he was sent to Douai to be educated and from there he made his way to Rome to join the Society of Jesus. His first attempt failed but after a heartfelt letter which illustrated his poetic talents he was admitted despite his youth. He was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1584 at the age of 23. That same year Elizabeth I's government passed an act banning any ordained priest from remaining in England for more than 40 days 'on pain of death'. Despite this Robert arrived in England in 1586 with fellow Jesuit Henry Garnet. He became chaplain to Philip Howard's wife, Anne. Robert's return to England had been noted by Elizabeth I's spies and his association with known Catholics and whereabouts was discovered. This led to his arrest and torture by the notorious Richard Topcliffe, the queen's chief priest hunter.

After a period in the Tower of London where Robert wrote most of his poetry he was brought to trial and charged with treason. He admitted having broken the 'forty day law' but his only purpose in staying was to

administer the sacraments to those desiring them, not to plot against the queen, and he was not a traitor. He was still found guilty and condemned to death by hanging, drawn and quarter. On 21st February 1595 he was sent to Tyburn and was allowed to address the crowd gathered to witness his death. He quoted from Romans 14 and prayed for the salvation of the Queen and country. He was only hung briefly but as his executioner made to cut him down, Lord Mountjoy and others pulled on his legs to make sure he was dead and spared the pain of the next stage. When his severed head was displayed to the crowd, no one shouted, "Traitor!"

He is remembered in his native Norfolk and is one of the saints displayed behind the altar at Saint Thomas of Canterbury's church in Wymondham. He was canonised in 1970.

In his lifetime he was known as a poet and may have had a family connection with William Shakespeare. Robert's poems have remained popular and here follows a verse from 'The Nativity of Christ', Gift better than Himself God doth not know, Gift better than his God no man can see; This gift doth here the giver given bestow, Gift to this gift let each receiver be: God is my gift, Himself He freely gave me, God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.



Nicholas Postgate striding across the moors, from a stained glass window in Saint Hedda's Church, Egton Bridge.



www.stairlifts.co.uk
Find your perfect stairlift solution
Advice • Brochures • Prices
Call now on **FREEPHONE**
0800 326 5719

Daughters of the Heart of Mary

International Religious Congregation

We are committed to working for a more human future through education, healthcare, social and cultural activities.

We draw our inspiration from the life of the early Christians who were deeply imbued with the Spirit of Jesus.

We wear no distinguishing sign, and live either alone, in our family or in a community.

We welcome enquiries from single women

Further information from:
Daughters of the Heart of Mary,
41 Murray Road, Wimbledon,
London SW19 4PD
Tel. 0208 946 3564

Venerable Mary Ward 1585-1637

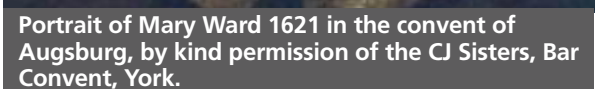
Mary Bowen

Adeyfield Section



Partly because the idea of women working in the world was novel, partly because the Jesuits themselves were wary of being linked to these outsiders, Mary faced opposition from lay people and clergy alike. She recognised the need for Papal approval of her work and so in October 1621, having recently suffered a severe illness and never of robust health, she set out from Brussels with seven companions to walk the 1,500 miles, including crossing the Alps, to Italy. They arrived in Rome on Christmas Eve so would have walked at an average speed of 30 miles per day. The visit to Rome was not conclusive. Pope Gregory XV had received Mary well but the petition was put into the hands of the Congregation of Bishops who took note of letters from English clergy making false accusations against Mary Ward and her followers. Unaware of this, Mary opened houses in Rome, Perugia, and Naples which shortly afterwards were closed on the grounds that the women were not enclosed. She walked from Rome to Munich and opened three more houses which by Papal decree were suppressed. Years of confusion followed. Mary, who had been received cordially by the Pope, was unable to believe in the suppression and advised the communities in Munich to ignore the suppression orders. In February 1631 Mary was arrested and imprisoned in a small unsanitary unheated cell in solitary confinement in the convent of Anger in Munich. Her health deteriorated and when she started to recover she demanded to be tried in Rome. There the Pope finally accepted that she was not a heretic, but she had to wait three months before the Cardinals of the Inquisition concluded she was innocent. However, the Bull of Suppression still held and Mary was obliged to remain in Rome. In failing health in September 1637 she was allowed to leave for England where she spent some time in London opening houses for the education of girls before travelling for the last time to Yorkshire where she settled in the village of Hewarth, about one mile outside the walls of York. These were turbulent times on account of the Civil War so Mary and her companions took shelter within the walls of York where they stayed for 6 weeks until the siege was over. On 30th January 1638 in the home in Hewarth in the presence of five of her companions Mary spoke her last words, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus" and died.

Rejection, isolation, denial, poverty and pain were all woven into Mary Ward's life. With a cheerful spirit she accepted all and never abandoned her goals which were that members of her community should not be bound by the rules of enclosure and should owe their obedience to a superior within the order, rather than to the local Bishop. Mary was a pioneer with vision, dying in obscurity but making it possible for generations of women to fulfil their potential by being offered the chance of an education. Forty-one years after her death, members of her order opened a house just outside the walls of York which was the foundation of the Bar Convent which flourishes to this day as a centre for prayer, study and hospitality to people of all faiths and none. In total there are seven convents in England and including the Loreto branches in Ireland, Canada and the United States they are in every continent. In 1749 a Bull of the Church forbade Mary to be recognised as a founder and this was not rescinded until 1909. Since then the title of Congregation of Mary was declared Venerable by



Mary Melling



CatholicBingo.co.uk

The online bingo site where
**Catholics meet &
play online**

**Launching
November
1st**

Join the fun

100%
of all profits
after basic expenses
go to catholic parishes,
charities & projects

click today

Email Help@catholicbingo.uk
Helpline 020 7277 0001 • 020 7277 2233 • 020 7701 2807

www.CatholicBingo.co.uk

Operated by Solihull Sports Limited - 122 Edgewood - Birmingham - Birmingham Business Park

AROUND THE BRANCHES

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON BRANCH

Weybridge Section. A group of 13 members went in June to visit the North West Surrey Synagogue in Weybridge. The building had been used as a school and was bought by the Weybridge Reform Jewish Community some time in the eighties. Our guide first showed us the large Star of David on the wall above the entrance, then once inside we sat in front of the Ark where the Torah Scrolls are kept, facing a table on which were placed various Jewish artefacts. Our guide explained the difference between the various strands of Judaism from Orthodox to Reform and Liberal, including the position of women in the various traditions. The high point of the visit was when the Ark was opened and the Torah Scrolls were brought out; we all stood up as a sign of respect. The Scrolls were placed on the Bimah (desk) where we had the privilege of seeing the scroll close up. The Torah is written in Hebrew and contains the first five books of the Old Testament - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. They are written by a scribe on parchment from a kosher animal, usually a cow, and the whole is read in sequence over the course of the year. Above the Ark hangs the Eternal Light which is kept always burning as a symbol of God's presence. We learned about the 'tallith' or prayer shawl, the Hanukkah Menorah and the Sabbath meal in the home with its special prayers and blessings. At the end of the really interesting visit our guide told us to go home and



Members of Weybridge Section looking at the Hebrew scroll in the North West Surrey Synagogue.

tell our friends. Greater understanding of other faiths can only lead to deeper respect.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Evesham Pilgrimage 7th May 2013. This was attended by 70 Birmingham Branch members plus our National President Margaret Richards, National Secretary Jean Clarke, and visitors from Clifton and Cardiff Branches. The weather was beautiful and after participating in the Rosary and Procession around the outside of the church our Branch Chaplain, Fr. Brendan Carrick, celebrated Mass for us in Saint Mary and Saint Eugin's church. Afterwards we enjoyed a shared tea in the newly refurbished parish hall. Birmingham Branch AGM 15th June 2013. This was held at Saint Bernadette's primary school at Yardley in Birmingham and hosted by Small Heath Section whose 40th anniversary was also being celebrated. We had a



Founder members from Small Heath Section, Mary Flaherty and Veronica Sheridan cutting the cake.

number of visitors present plus 60 Branch members and started the proceedings with Mass concelebrated by our Branch Chaplain, Fr. Brendan Carrick, with Fr. Anthony Rohan, parish priest of Holy Family Parish, Small Heath. Fr. Carrick who always gives very pertinent homilies spoke about, Our Lady 'Untier of knots'. Referring to a picture by an unknown artist which had been inspirational to Pope Francis when he spent 2 years in Germany it shows Our Lady with a knotted cord across her lap where she is shown as 'untying the knots' and he recommended that we Catholics, in the present difficult times we are experiencing in Europe, could appeal to this image. Mass was followed by lunch and the cutting of a celebratory 40th anniversary cake by founder members of Small Heath Section, Mary Flaherty and Veronica Sheridan.

Olton Section The Section hosted a coffee morning at Olton Friary on the 27th September for the 'World's



Olton members celebrate their Macmillan Coffee Morning achievement. L-R Mary Madgwick, Rosaleen Norris, Ann Donohoe and Una Mc Skeane

Biggest Coffee Morning' which raised £1,010 for Macmillan Nurses.

BRENTWOOD BRANCH

Almost 200 members attended the annual pilgrimage to Aylesford on a glorious day in June where Mass was celebrated in the open air, following lunch and the Stations of the Cross led by Branch Chaplain, Fr. Jim McCormack plus several friars from Aylesford Priory. The Branch's Annual Assembly Day was held in July where following Mass the members listened to presentations from 'Stand by Me' and 'Apostleship of the Sea'. The charity, 'Stand by Me' looks after orphaned, abandoned and abused children, all over the world, including victims of war. 'Apostleship of the Sea' serves seafarers across the world by providing chaplaincy services in Britain's largest seaports and spiritual support through volunteer ship visitors. Members celebrated the feast of Saint Margaret Clitherow by holding Mass in the parish church of



Brentwood Branch Annual Pilgrimage to Aylesford.

Great Dunmow dedicated to 'Our Lady and Saint Anne Line'. The event included Stations of the Cross seen through the 'Sorrowful Eyes of Mary' and touched the hearts of all who attended. **Great Dunmow Section.** The Section celebrated its 65th anniversary with a visit to Beth Chatto's Garden near Colchester. They looked at old archives and were interested in the Minutes of their first meeting in 1947 which mentioned a £20 donation for the church hall fund, and a thank-you letter from CWL Dusseldorf for 2 parcels sent. In 1954 they started the 'Dunmow Handicapped Club', now called the 'Disabled Club' and still going strong after 60 years. They hold a number of other interesting old letters plus the Brentwood Branch Minute book dating from 1938.

CARDIFF BRANCH

Briton Ferry Section. The Section celebrated the opening of a new parish at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Briton Ferry with Bishop Tom of Menevia as the celebrant. A well supported retreat was held at Llantarnam Abbey near Newport, plus a day out to Tredegar House, a National Trust house with wonderful gardens. In conjunction with 'Churches Together' the members participated in a Macmillan Coffee Morning and a combined Harvest Festival where 700 apples were given out to local school children. They raised £200 in a sponsored walk for the children of Sudan, together with the SVP, and raised £100 in a table-top sale at the Rotary Fair.

Cardiff Section. The Section holds a monthly charity coffee morning, this year in aid of 'Wales Air Ambulance'. The Branch AGM was held in Our Lady and Saint Michael Church in Abergavenny with celebrant and Branch Chaplain, Dom Richard Simons. The annual outing was to Hampton Castle and gardens in Herefordshire. Section Chairman, Barbara Cole, hosted a charity tea which raised £500. Members attended the Branch Retreat at Llantarnam Abbey.

Ross on Wye Section. In June the Section heard speaker Rev. David Vonberg, Chaplain to Saint Michael's Hospice, and in July they listened to speaker Bernie Townsend Chairman of the Services Committee on the work of CWL Services. In August they visited Feddw Gardens near Chepstow, and in September they had a speaker on Ethiopian Churches.

Ledbury Section. The Section is changing the format of its meetings. Members want to address their faith more closely and make a closer commitment to Christ. Jean Clarke, National Secretary, gave a talk about her visit to the Lindisfarne Gospels. its 60th anniversary.

CLIFTON BRANCH

At the Branch AGM in May, instead of a guest speaker, members were asked for their ideas on how to re-invigorate the Branch and make it attractive to new members. In June we held a Day of Reflection and Prayer led by Deacon Vince Cauder at the church of Saint John Fisher in Bristol. The Branch President and Secretary were invited to attend the CAFOD supporters' day in Clifton Cathedral where they gained valuable insight into the advocacy work of CAFOD. Next year marks the 25th anniversary of CAFOD within Clifton Diocese; we look forward to joining in the celebrations.

A stunning retirement community set on the edge of the Ribble Valley

NEXT PHASE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Enjoy a trial in style
Our new trial apartment is now open
Telephone: 01254 677926 for details

Located at Beardwood in Lancashire, these elegant one and two and three-bedroom apartments and bungalows are situated in the delightful wooded grounds of the former Nazareth House. Facilities include: lounge areas, restaurant, bar, allotment area, coffee shop, hairdressing salon, games room, activities room, library, BBQ terrace, minibus, guest suite, cinema, visiting GP's surgery and therapy room. A daily Mass is celebrated in the Chapel, which is always open for quiet reflection; spiritual support is provided by a priest and visiting Sister. Available support services include handyman, domestic cleaning, laundry, 24hr emergency response and personal care. Selected properties are available for purchase or rent. One week 'Trial in style' and 'Try before you buy' schemes are also offered. Prices from: **£106,000 to £275,500** Telephone: **01254 677926** to arrange your village tour www.nazarethretirementvillages.co.uk

Nazareth Retirement Villages

Larmenier Village

NAZARETH RETIREMENT VILLAGES IN ASSOCIATION WITH Nazareth Care Charitable Trust



Clifton Branch members at their Day of Reflection and Prayer at Saint John Fisher, Bristol.

Frome Section has 2 new members. **Wells Section** held a Day of Reflection at the Ammerdown Centre near Bath. Charlton Kings Section had an interesting talk about Gloucester Cathedral. **Downend Section** had a Cream Tea event in June with money raised going to the Princes William and Harry Trust. The Section also helps with the local food bank.

CORNWALL BRANCH

Liskeard Section celebrated the 150th anniversary of their church, Our Lady and Saint Neot with a flower festival and buffet lunch in the presbytery garden in August. The church was the first to be built in the Plymouth diocese after the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. Fr. Oleron, the French parish priest, bought a house in 1830 for use as a place of worship and as a school. In 1863, due to the influx of Irish miners, the present building was added alongside the original house. Various ministries of the parish were illustrated in the displays of flowers and CWL members took their part in arranging exhibits of their parish involvements which included readers, welcomers, choir members etc. CWL members helped to serve the lunch in the garden. We felt it had been a wonderful day of celebration and fellowship. **St Austell Section** On 5th April 2013 Fr. Peter Morgan, Parish Priest of Saint Augustine of Hippo, St. Austell, blessed a new Section banner designed and made by Section Secretary, Cathy Chappell. The banner was put into use the next day at the Cornwall Branch AGM.



St. Austell Section's new banner

St. Austell Section provided light lunches after Friday morning Mass, followed by their Big Cream Tea in aid of the Children's Hospice, Little Harbour, Porthpean. The event was well supported and raised £702 for the hospice. One of the Section members, Cynthia Longthorpe celebrated her 70th Wedding Anniversary in September. Parish Priest, Fr. Peter Morgan, celebrated a special wedding anniversary



Paul and Cynthia Longthorpe celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary

Mass for Cynthia and her husband, Paul. **DEVON BRANCH** Due to the difficulty in finding Area Officers it was decided that the three areas in Devon, namely Exeter, Plymouth and Torquay would be dissolved and no longer have formal meetings. The three area banners were displayed during the final meeting and will be found a safe place in the archives.



Sheelagh Pyle, Torquay Area chairman with the three Area banners

DORSET BRANCH

Members gathered for their annual Mass and picnic at Lulworth Chapel in the grounds of Lulworth Castle on 19th June. Mass was concelebrated by Branch Chaplain, Fr. Richard Meyer, and Parish Priest, Fr. Ciaran McGuinness. In September the Branch held a Half Day of Recollection with Fr. Richard Meyer who based his talk on the advertising slogans, 'Because you're worth it', 'A Mars a day helps you work, rest and play' and 'Keep going well, keep going Shell'. He began with our value to God our Father, continued with needing balance in our life and ended with God wanting us to keep going despite difficulties, and 'filling up' with God's grace as fuel. He also pointed out that the shell is the symbol of the pilgrimage to Santiago del Compostela in Spain. Afterwards members fuelled up with tea and biscuits whilst participating in a Branch Meeting. A new Section has been started in Bridport; the archive from the old Bridport Section being



Dorset Branch Mass and picnic at Lulworth Castle



Dorset Branch Half Day of Recollection with Fr. Richard Meyer.

presented to the Bridport Parish Priest, Fr. Richard.

Weymouth Section

The Section has downloaded Safermedia's '10 steps to keeping your child safer on the Internet' and distributed copies to their members who, it is hoped, will pass them on to their children and grandchildren. Their parish priest will be giving a talk to the Section where it is hoped he will be persuaded to make the '10 steps' available to the whole parish. The Section has also been supporting the local Thomas Fowell Buxton Society by raising money towards having a monument to his memory placed on a Weymouth roundabout. Thomas Fowell Buxton took over from William Wilberforce in Parliament to continue the fight against slavery and he also voted for Catholic Emancipation in 1829. He and his wife had a Papal audience in 1838 with Pope Gregory XVI who was also passionately against slavery. We also have a Fr. Gerard Wilberforce in our diocese, a descendant of William Wilberforce.

Wool and Wareham Section had a summer outing to Kingston Maurwood, an agricultural college near Dorchester, Dorset where after a short training session they participated in a croquet match.

EAST ANGLIA BRANCH

Southwold Section celebrated the 75th birthday of their parish priest, Fr. Roger de Lacy Spencer, with afternoon tea including champagne and a cake decorated with a beehive and bees as Fr. Roger is an enthusiastic bee-keeper. Fr. Roger has been in the parish ten years and was instrumental in starting our CWL Section, also in purchasing the building which is now our parish hall.

Lowestoft Section. After 4 years absence the Section has re-opened with some previous members and some new faces. They participated in the running of the MacMillan Coffee Morning and are about to start fundraising for the East Anglia Children's hospices in memory of Barbara Cornish.

HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Branch members gathered on 27th October at St. Alban's Church in Pelaw for their annual Rosary afternoon. This year it took the form of short meditations on the 20 decades led by parish priest, Fr. Ian Patterson. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar throughout and the service concluded with Benediction.



Hexham and Newcastle Branch at their annual Rosary afternoon.

LEEDS BRANCH

Members and visitors gathered at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Church, Ripon for Mass celebrated by Canon Paul Moxon before visiting the Wayside shrine 2 miles away at Studley Roger. Here a decade of the Rosary was recited and prayers for peace said before laying a wreath in memory of the servicemen of Ripon Camp who died in two World Wars. In World War I an enormous encampment was established around Ripon to house the thousands of British, French Canadian and Australian troops in their final training before sailing from Hull for the trenches of the Western

Front, a journey from which so many never returned. In 1916 the CWL opened a Canteen at Studley, known as the Ripon Hut where members served 1,000 meals daily to men from the camp, providing also a library and games room. There was also a small chapel where Mass and Benediction was celebrated every Sunday by the chaplains and sometimes priests from St. Wilfrids. At the end of the War the hut was sold and the proceeds used to erect the Wayside Crucifix, the land being given by the Marquis of Ripon who had become a Catholic. The plinth with its memorial dedication was also a gift from the Marquis. Since 1920 every year, on a Thursday nearest to the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the CWL has organised a pilgrimage in memory of the servicemen from Leeds, Canada and Australia who died in action. This is now organised by Leeds and Middlesbrough Branch members. Leeds Branch has recently had the shrine refurbished. The inscription reads, 'This shrine was erected in 1921 on the site of their chapel and canteen by the Catholic Women's League of Leeds Diocese in memory of the British and Canadian servicemen of Ripon Camp who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918'. It also commemorates their successors who died in World War II 1939-1945. May they rest in peace.' The shrine stands alongside the B6265 road between Ripon and Fountains Abbey. If you pass that way spare time to stop, visit and pray a while.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

Cottingham Section recently celebrated its 60th anniversary with a meal at Charlotte's restaurant, Hull College. Photograph caption; Cottingham Section celebrates its 60th anniversary.

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

Lincoln Section. The Section conceived the idea of making a quilt early in the year and started work in March 2013 with seven League members meeting regularly in a flat adjacent to the Church of St. Peter and Paul, Lincoln, to cut, tack and hand-sew a double bed size quilt which was completed in July. Members enjoyed the experience of working together and plan to continue these informal craft sessions in the future. They are now in a position to raffle the quilt to raise money for various CWL projects.



Lincoln Section makes a quilt.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

Members recently celebrated the 84th birthday of Joan Hayward, many years chairman of Totland, Isle of Wight Section and now living in Lymington.

Lymington Section is proud of its member Ramona Heath-Saunders who received a special blessing from Pope Francis on the occasion of her 80th birthday for her faithfulness to the Gospel and the Church.



Ramona Heath-Saunders with her Papal Blessing.

Gosport and Portsmouth Sections held a strawberry tea in the garden of member Tressie Heather on 31st July. This raised over £800 to help support a local seminarian. In October Tressie spent a day with the Confraternity of the Rosary at Goring on Sea and then died in the night. At her funeral, in a packed church, we learned of all the other organisations she belonged to and supported.

SALFORD BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held at Saint Bernadette's in Whitefield. Our speaker was the Mayor of Bury, Mrs. Joan Grimshaw, who spoke about her experiences including an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace, dinner with her MP, a visit to the Tower of London and meeting the Fusiliers. She told us the mayoral chain weighs four and a half pounds but she can now wear it without discomfort. The year had been significant on account of the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, particularly when the Olympic torch came to Bury. All sections of the Branch were represented at the AGM and the altar servers were the children of the Branch Treasurer.



Members of Salford Branch with their Mayor at their AGM.

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

Members of Saint Patrick's parish in Wellington, Shropshire, helped to organise an International Mass in June. Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Alban Greenwood and Polish parish priest, Fr. Wiktor Ostrowski. The church was decorated with flags and colour was added by costumes representing the different nationalities within the parish. Bread and food from around the world was presented as part of the Offertory. The church rang out with the singing of English and Polish choirs as well as singing groups from Sri Lanka and India. The Lord's Prayer illustrated the diversity of languages as everyone said it in their own language. The Mass was followed by a shared table with food from all countries; a Mass to remember!

Chester Section

In June Mass was said for the second time since the Reformation at Norton Priory, Runcorn, in celebration of the Year of Faith. Three priests were concelebrating and 600 people were present from Runcorn and

Fordsham. The initial plan was to have the Mass in the ruins of the former Augustinian Priory but due to rain it was held in the undercroft. Norton Priory was founded in 1134 by the Augustinian canons and it earned Abbey status in 1391.

Shrewsbury Section

marked its 50th anniversary by presenting a garden bench to Saint Winefride's Church garden, dedicated to the memory of deceased members. A Flower Festival was organised in the cathedral by CWL members as part of the Year of Faith and also to enable members of three churches to work together as they were to be amalgamated into one parish. The event was a great success.



International Mass at St. Patrick's Parish, Wellington, Shropshire.

SOUTHWARK BRANCH

Following a suggestion made at Coventry AGM we organised a Branch outing to Rudyard Kipling's home at Burwash, East Sussex on the 5th June. We filled a coach including some husbands and were joined by members from Richmond and Orpington. The sun shone all day long and we could sit around in the gardens. The time raced by and after visiting the house, gardens and shop it was time to go home. We are already planning a pilgrimage to the new shrine to Saint Augustine in Ramsgate and the following year to Polesdon Lacey, another National Trust property. It is such a joy when so many of us can get together and have time to chat in a relaxing environment.

Hayes Section

held a Victorian Tea and invited members from other Sections and other churches in Hayes. The evening started with a quiz on 'tea', followed by a Victorian tea of sandwiches, scones, strawberry flans and jellies. At the end of the evening everyone joined in a medley of Victorian songs.



Hayes Section's Victorian Tea

WESTMINSTER BRANCH

At their AGM the Branch was overwhelmed by the sheer quantity (over 20kg.) of beautifully knitted little tank tops and bonnets for new born babies. Originally destined for destitute mothers in South Africa who had only newspaper to wrap their newborn babies in, hence dubbed 'Fish n Chip' babies, they are now to be sent to Malawi. After being warmly welcomed by Fr. Kevin O'Shea to his church, Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate in Mill Hill, we felt privileged to be part of the Holy Mass concelebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Fr. Gerard Skinner, our Westminster Branch Chaplain, and Fr. Raymond, the Archbishop's driver. With an inspirational homily from the Archbishop, outstanding singing from the choir and magnificent church flowers we all felt uplifted by the occasion. During the AGM we learned of plans to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of

Our Lady of Willesdon, a shrine we know little about at present. We were also interested to hear from Fr. Gerard of a statue of Our Lady in Nagasaki which was burnt in the atomic bombing and whose shell survives with eye sockets seemingly absorbing all the worry and stress of a mother. After the meeting Carole Cooper and Maureen Anderson posted seven tightly packed banana boxes of tank tops and bonnets to a charity which has a container waiting to be filled for Malawi. The charity, The Raven Trust, is now asking for bigger sizes, plus knitted eight inch squares for blankets. The contact details are John and Sue Challis, Bay Villa, Strachur, Argyll PA27 8DE telephone 01369 860436, email strachur@aol.com

(www.theraventrust.org.uk). They can also help you if you want a pattern.

Adeyfield Section

celebrated its 30th anniversary in June with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Raymond Legge. The Mass books were beautifully produced including a pearl to signify the anniversary and that Margaret Clitherow is known as the 'Pearl of York'. Mass was followed by lunch prepared by members and served to members, guests from Westminster and Northampton and past members who had moved away. We received many letters of appreciation after the event. The celebrations will continue with a new show planned called, 'Carry On Committee', due to be performed on 15th and 16th November.



Clothes for the 'Fish and Chip' babies.

Going away?
Find the local Mass Times...
www.catholicdirectory.org

Stay in touch on...
 Start the conversation

@CathComOrg

Search for CathCom

THE SISTERS OF NAZARETH

Do you believe there is more to Life?
Looking for a Challenge in
PRAYER? COMMUNITY? MINISTRY?



IF SO CONTACT... SISTER FRANCES
07906372786
vocinfo@sistersofnazareth.com

We practise and teach Christian contemplative meditation at residential and day courses at our centre in Dorchester and at other retreat centres in the UK.

We use meditative sentences to still the mind, to focus our attention on God, and to serve as channels through which the power of the Spirit can enter our hearts. Our members also gather in local groups throughout the UK.

For further details please contact:
The Secretary, The Fellowship of Meditation
8 Prince of Wales Road,
Dorchester, DT1 1PW
Tel: 01306 251396
E: fellowship.meditation@virgin.net

the Jesuits

For information about life as a priest or brother in the Society of Jesus please contact:

Vocations Promoter,
114 Mount St., London W1K 3AH
Email: vocations@jesuit.org.uk
www.jesuit.org.uk

TRAVEL INSURANCE
arranged for Catholic Womens League News Readers

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UP TO 85 YEARS OF AGE.
MOST PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACCEPTED.
TOP QUALITY COVER

With a 24 hour helpline and an air ambulance get-you-home service.

Mention this ad for £20 OFF any annual policy purchased this month

Don't forget we can also sell...
SINGLE-TRIP COVER
Any duration up to one year max. age 85.
86+ maximum duration 31 days

FT **CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRICES** **UK Based**
Travel Insurance **0116 272 0500**
Real people - not machines!
Authorised and regulated by the FCA

To advertise please
contact Nick at
CathCom on
**01440
730399**
or email David at
nick@cathcom.org

MY SKY DIVE



Skydiver
Teresa Baldwinson.

by Teresa Baldwinson

For some years I was asked to hold a tin once a year locally, collecting for Alzheimers Research. There would always be someone coming up to me wanting to talk; they had just had to put a relative into the best home they could find and felt deeply guilty about it. A home was not their choice but one person alone cannot look after someone with Alzheimers 24 hours a day; we all need regular sleep. Their concern was that in most homes for those unable to care for themselves, Alzheimers sufferers were often considered figures of fun. Then I read of a 1950s style Swiss village being built for Alzheimers sufferers only. There they are the norm and can wander freely around the village and use the facilities, shops, hairdressers, cafes etc. where all in attendance are qualified carers. I felt a new charity was needed for this and so in order to give it a jump-start, I booked a sky-dive. At eighty years old I had to have medical insurance. I have always had fluctuating blood pressure but this had to be stabilised for me to travel in an unpressurised aircraft at 8,000ft. Pills were necessary. My feet and ankles took unkindly to the pills; it looked as if I had a Papal dispensation to wear my legs upside-down but the regime worked. I had chosen to sky-jump near Beccles in Suffolk. Before the jump we were given training. We were told when leaving the plane to put the head back into the trainer behind, to cross arms and legs and scrunch the body into a tight ball. Clear of the aircraft the trainer would tap my shoulder as a sign to spread myself out flat like a bird until it was time to open the chute. We were then given our gear to wear.

Those jumping with me were youngish men and quite tall. I am a dumpy little old lady. In my kit I looked like Michelin woman. Told to sit down waiting for the plane was not so easy; all joints padded were loathe to bend. Equally hard was getting up again but I found unfailing courtesy among the other jumpers, and our trainers, one of whom had a relative with Alzheimers. In the plane I sat on the floor facing the rear, my trainer behind me, fastening our harnesses together. When it was time to drop I was helped into position not only by my trainer strapped to my back, but by another who was working outside the aircraft. On our way down we were imitating birds in flight, a cameraman in solo flight filming our descent. Later with the chute open, hanging there, the countryside is a glorious sight; uninterrupted by plane windows it truly takes the breath away. Coming to the landing patch I had the feeling I had left my stomach somewhere else; I was glad I had eaten a light breakfast. Finally, I had been told to hold my legs up to allow the trainer's feet to be first to land; we ended up in a seated position. I didn't even have to look around for a fork-lift truck to hoist me up. Two unfailingly courteous trainers got me to my feet. I would very gladly do it all again tomorrow, but for those pills.

NATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Before the AGM on the Friday evening, Chairman of the Services Committee, Bernie Townsend, gave her presentation on the History of the Services Committee with particular reference to their activities during both World Wars. The Presentation was received with many congratulations, particularly from the clergy present. Principal RC Chaplain (Naval), Monsignor Andrew McFadden, praised Bernie and the League for its support for servicemen and said how very short of Catholic chaplains the services are. He told us of Chief Petty Officer, Laura, aged 28 who was dying of cancer and who had been sponsored by the Services Committee to go to Lourdes the previous year. He asked us to pray for her. Sadly, she died that weekend. Bernie has her presentation on a CD which she is happy to send to Sections and she is willing to come and talk to Branches within convenient travelling distance, so, you only have to contact her.



Chairman of the Services Committee Bernie Townsend and The Reverend Monsignor Andrew McFadden QHC PhB STL VG (Royal Navy)

May they rest in peace

We are asked to remember in our prayers
the following members who have died

CARDIFF BRANCH

Joan Hardie who died January 2013 aged 90 years and Peggy Bromham who died June 2013 aged 81 years.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Margaret Hermolle former Branch Vice-President and long term member died in April 2013 aged 92.

Olton Section lost 2 long term members of their Section, Mary Lander who died on 8th April 2013 and Jay Newcombe who died on 4th May 2013

DEVON BRANCH

Exeter Section has recently lost 3 long serving members, who all died in October 2013:

Joan Wallace, aged 98. She was a Founder member of Poole, then Chairman and Treasurer of Exeter Section, as well as OLC representative in Devon.

Margaret Langdon, former Section Chairman, aged 86.
Peggy Webber, former Chairman and Treasurer of Exeter Section, aged 85.

DORSET BRANCH

Direct member, Dorothy Felton, died in October. Former member of Swanage Section she was Secretary and Treasurer for many years.

HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Hexham Section Thurza Peckover, aged 92, was a longstanding loyal member.

Sunderland, Saint Cecilia's Section Mary Erskine aged 97, founder member and 3 times Chairman

LEEDS BRANCH

Josephine Siney, died in June 2013, longstanding member and former Liverpool Branch President.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

Cottingham Section Maureen Burman died in July 2013

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

From Gosport and Portsmouth Sections Tressie Heather who died in October 2013

Lymington Section Peggy Walsh died July 2013 aged 92

SOUTHWARK BRANCH

Orpington Section Mary Dine, founder member and past Treasurer and Chairman died in September 2013 aged 91. Also Jackie Itier long term member, aged 89.

WESTMINSTER BRANCH

Buntingford Section Frances Caudwell died January 2013 aged 93, a renowned baker of cakes and maker of handicrafts.

OFFICERS

INTERNATIONAL AND LIAISON WITH WUCWO

Representative Veronica Cross gave a report on the WUCWO European Conference at Hinsley Hall in Leeds in September, where she gave us an alternative version to the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, Make me a channel of disturbance.
Where there is apathy let me provoke;
Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption.
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, grant the willingness to listen.
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked....
When tradition speaks louder than need.....
When we refuse to take control of our own lives...
Our own people....
Our own alienated...
Disturb us, O Lord, teach us to be radical.
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it,
To be with as well as for, the alienated,
To love the unlovable as well as the lovely,
To dare to touch the pain of those we meet,
To accept responsibility to be truly human.
Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

A week later Veronica was invited to a meeting in London called 'Many Streams, One River' at Methodist Central Hall with speakers Archbishop Vincent Nichols and Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor.

The next WUCWO General Assembly will be in Fatima, Portugal October 22nd-27th 2014 but further details will be sent out nearer the time.



WUCWO representative Veronica Cross at her display stand with Marie Potter of Southwark Branch.

RELIEF AND REFUGEE TEAM



Jane Dawson receives a donation for R&R from the Catenian Circle President

Members of the Relief and Refugee Team liaise with referring agencies and visit Refugee Centres as well as Sections and Branches to talk about the work of the Team. The team has gained much experience over many years, have learned a great deal about the plight of asylum seekers in the UK, the legal aspects and the various charitable organisations that offer support.

CWL members from Portsmouth and Nottingham Branches have recently referred asylum seeker families in need. Clifton Branch has requested application forms and the accompanying notes to circulate to local agencies. Refugee Action, Bristol has received a grant and clothing from the Catholic Clothing Guild on behalf of a family. We thank them and also Brentwood and Southwark Clothing Guilds for their continued support. Many refugees are placed in accommodation away from people they know but they move back to the Greater London area to be in a familiar community. We will be attending the Refugee Council AGM to learn of new initiatives and discuss refugee support in areas outside Greater London; we recently learned that the British Red Cross has refugee centres within 19 areas around the UK, some actively fund raise within their local areas.

Thank you to all members for your continuing support. Vulnerable people seeking asylum are very grateful to you all. We also thank Katie Severs, Southwark Branch, for selling paperbacks in aid of the Relief & Refugee Fund.

Having circulated our leaflets to the South Buckinghamshire Catenian Circle, the retiring President nominated the R & R Fund as one of his charities last year and recently presented us with a £400 donation.

The R & R Team

Health and Family Life

Newly appointed representative, Alison Love, is a member of Lowestoft Section. She works part time for Age UK Suffolk for their befriending programme. She has been a Branch Officer in East Anglia for a number of years, including Branch President. On the subject of 'Health' she mentions that many local health services have a 'Healthwatch Group' with membership open to individuals as well as organisations to monitor what the local health commissioning groups do. She will find out more about Healthwatch and keep us informed.

Family Life is to be considered at an Extraordinary Synod on the Family taking place in Rome next year and Alison will be reporting further on this when she has read the paperwork.

Alison feels that at the local level within our parishes us 'thrifty fifty somethings' may have something to teach the hard pressed younger generation on how to make money go further. She suggests us older folk could offer our skills to the youngsters in return for them offering their skills, particularly in regards to computers. Alison also plans to investigate recent social concerns in regard to human trafficking and spiritual care of the elderly.

Alison Love



Catholic Woman of the Year, Mary Cahill, nominated by Jersey Section for her work in 'Passing on the Faith'

CathCom are very proud to be the new publishers of the CWL News



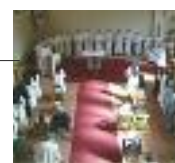
Boarbank Hall
Canonesses of St Augustine of the Mercy of Jesus

"You desire to be builders of peace, possess it yourselves first" - St Augustine

A Warm Welcome to Everyone

Prayer • Community • Hospitality
• Care of the poor and sick

Contact: Sr Anne Donockley
Boarbank Hall, Grange over Sands
Cumbria LA11 7NH
Telephone: 015395 32288
Website: www.boarbankhall.org.uk



Our Lady of Fidelity
The Church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignatian spirituality.

Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life.

If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette.
E-mail: bernadette_vloss@hotmail.com

Down: *Sister Fie & Dina*
Late vocations up to the age of 46 are welcomed.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY
Central Hill, Upper Norwood,
LONDON, SE19 1RS
Telephone: 07973 600253
or Fax 0208 766 6879
Mobile 07760 297001

FOR ALL
CHURCH
MAINTENANCE
Decorating and Roofing
www.churchrestorationukltd.com
enquiries@churchrestorationukltd.com
Phone Free:
0800 052 103

We practice and teach Christian contemplative meditation at residential and day courses at our centre in Dorchester and at other retreat centres in the UK.

The Fellowship of Meditation
a Christian based organisation

We use meditative sentences to still the mind, to focus our attention on God, and to serve as channels through which the power of the Spirit can enter our hearts.
Our members also gather in local groups throughout the UK.

For further details please contact:
The Secretary, The Fellowship of Meditation
8 Prince of Wales Road,
Dorchester DT1 1PW
Tel: 01306 251386
E: fellowship.meditation@virgin.net

To advertise please contact Nick at CathCom on 01440 730399 or email David at nick@cathcom.org

Our Lady’s Catechists

OLC celebrated its 90th birthday in April 2013 with a celebratory Mass at Kings Park concelebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle, Fr. John Scally from the English Speaking Mission in Zurich, Fr. John Minh, Prison Chaplain from Peterborough and OLC Chaplain, Fr. Harry Curtis. This was

followed by lunch where all 55 members present received an engraved candle and a prayer card. After lunch we were privileged to be shown Bishop Peter’s home, making it a truly memorable day. We held our Autumn Day in Liverpool at the church of Saint Francis Xavier with speaker

Fr. Chris Thomas on ‘A place for faith in our lives’. We learned that the image we have of ourselves could be influenced by negative remarks from our past; we need to be what God created us to be and try to fill our lives with love and goodness. OLC courses are progressing steadily with

21 prisoner students on ‘Catholicism Made Simple’ and 18 other students, non-prisoners. We have a new course to launch in 2014 written by Fr. Harry Curtis and called ‘The Mysteries of the Christian Life’.

Marie Francis

Answer to last issues Crossword Puzzle

The result of the crossword in the last issue. There were five correct entries. The winner drawn was Jean Clapham from Arundel & Brighton Branch. There was no room for a crossword in this issue. Thank you to Jill Sims.

A	K	M	B		B	B	Q	
A	R	T	I	F	A	C	E	
C	D		C		L	O	T	
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	
I		A		A		E		
T	E	M	P	L	E	O	F	
	O			L		S		
T	E	A	C	U	P	S		
G		O		O		U		
S								
P		K		T		I		
S								
I		T						
G								
N		O		O		N		

CWL Publicity Report on Christian Media Conference – Saturday 9th November 2013

The Conference got off to a lively introduction from Rev Dave Gilpin of Hope City Church, followed by a very lusty opening address by the Bishop of London, Rev Richard Chartres, followed by John Drane, a Theologian and Writer. All these speakers set the scene for Reimagining Church. After these opening addresses, everyone dispersed to other smaller rooms to hear about various aspects of how we can use social media for our own organisations. These included ‘The Social Organisation’ where the talk was about how different it is today to interact with each other, work and organise through the website and ‘Websites with a Mission’ about what makes a website compelling. After lunch there was rapid fire presentations. The first presenter had us rolling in our seats, crying with laughter. She is known as the ‘Dancing Vicar’. She became an overnight star when a wedding video went viral. Rev. Kate Bottley, Vicar of St Mary’s and St Martin’s Blyth treated us all to a showing of the video in which she leads the bride and groom in a crazy dance after pronouncing them ‘husband and wife’. The guests one by one stand and start to swing to the music but after a couple of minutes an elderly aunt is seen to leave her seat with a determined facial expression. Oh dear.

The music and dancing continue. At the end of this Rev. Kate , first of all told us that the elderly aunt, whom we assumed was not pleased, actually needed the loo. The Bishop was not too happy, but thousands of people have been able to check it out and now have seen a different side to Christianity. The Bishop has mellowed and Rev Kate has another 17 weddings to officiate at next year. The second speaker gave a more sobering message regarding cyber bullying and the darker side to social media and how everyone must be aware of this ever increasing problem. Parents need to monitor their children when they are using their computers. Our third speaker was Katharine Welby, daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has been writing a very frank blog about her experience with depression. She explained the family’s surprise at the announcement of her father’s appointment and her thoughts on how church, new media and mental health interact. She was incredibly brave to speak so openly about her problems. Another presentation was on effective email. - how do we get our message across? how do we even get recipients to open their emails? I have the tips if you’d like them!

Margaret von Speyr Publicity Officer

