



INSIDE THIS ISSUE WUCWO General Assembly in Fatima **PAGE 3**



AGM in Warwick – see you there! 12th – 14th September **PAGE**

National Coffee Morning

Where were you on Sunday 2nd March?

Judging by the photos a huge number of Catholic Women's League members were taking part in the National Coffee Morning. Invitations had been issued to Parishioners all over the Country entreating them to join us for this event. Most Sections pulled out the stops to compete against each other for a prize for the highest number of cups served. Blue aprons were donned, badges pinned on, sleeves rolled up, baking tins lined, pancakes tossed. Cakes were laid out for eating with the coffee or for buying and taking home for later. Raffle tickets were

sold. Tombola drums filled with winning tickets. Quizzes, colouring competitions, baking challenges for the men, a selection of events for the whole family to join in and see the work of the Catholic Women's League. Information boards dusted off and rejuvenated; leaflets, newspapers, flyers spread out giving potential members an insight into our organisation. How many cups of coffee etc. did your Section serve? Is your Section the winner? Reports of Sections signing up new Members are coming in as well. Charities will benefit from the proceeds of the event



National Coffee Morning 2nd March 2014

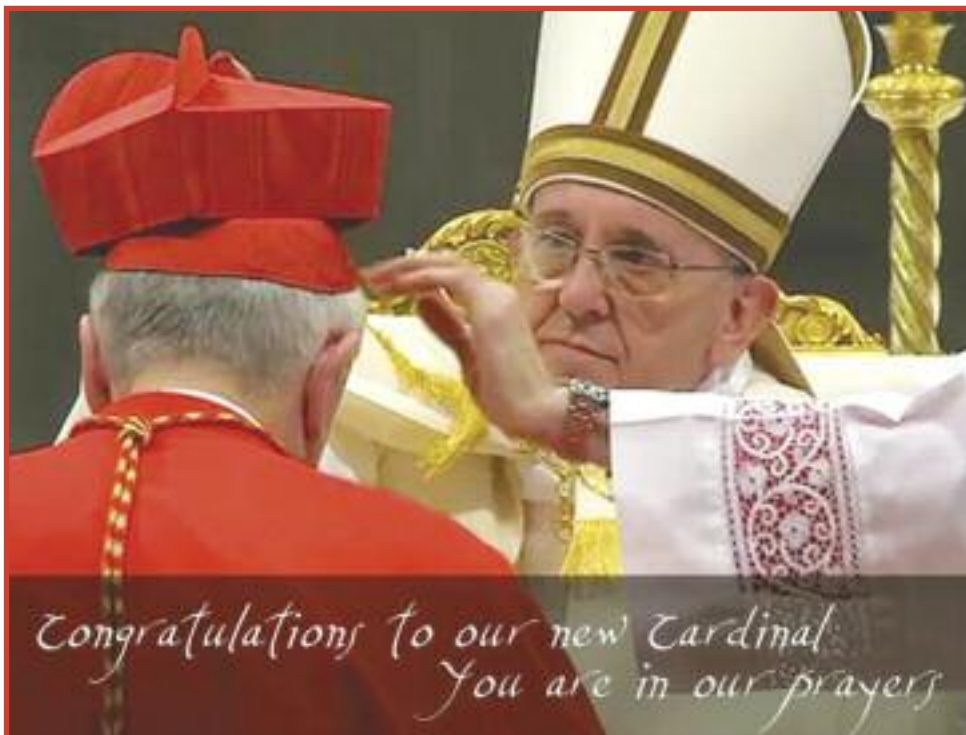
and hopefully Branch funds will have received a boost. Congratulations to everyone who helped to make this, our First National event, a success. Make a note in your diary for 2015 – 1st March could be our second event? It could be bigger and better! Try to solve the topical quiz sent in by Gray's Section, Brentwood Branch. You'll find it on page 2 with answers on page 11. As we go to press the front runner is Gerrards Cross Section who served a whopping 170 cups! They are followed closely by 5 other Sections who all did in excess of 100.

We will let you all know the final score and overall winner in the next edition. All over the Country nearly 3000 cups were served to say nothing of all the cakes, biscuits, pancakes etc. Well done to everyone who took part and raised the profile of the League!

Margaret von Speyr, Publicity Officer
Cardinal Vincent Nichols



CWL Okehampton (Devon Branch)



*Congratulations to our new Cardinal
You are in our prayers*

Election of Archbishop Nichols to the College of Cardinals

The members of the Catholic Women's League of England and Wales express their joy and affection on the election of Archbishop Nichols to the College of Cardinals. The National President assures Cardinal Vincent Nichols of the prayers of the League as he begins to prepare for the very special ministry as a servant of the Apostolic See.



Elizabeth Upsher, National President, at Wales UCM Annual Council. Elizabeth is 2nd right.

National President's Blog

I expect you are thinking, 'here she goes again, using that Social Media speak'. Sorry, just trying to put a new spin on the Message from the National President piece. So, I thought you would like to know what I have been doing on your behalf as well as what we have in store for the future. So please turn to page 2 to read more....

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Readers' Letters

Thank you to those members who have written here. The National Executive would like to suggest to members that the many e-petitions circulating at the present time (particularly on clerical abuse, female genital mutilation, assisted dying and stolen childhood) may, of course, be signed by members individually. HQ will not be signing any petitions on behalf of CWL.

**Joyce Fannon, Weymouth Section,
Dorset Branch**

Handing out extra copies of CWL News after Mass to raise awareness of the breadth of our work has been easy with the last two editions. I was able "to sell" our freebies on the strength of the central page articles on the Marian Shrines and the English Martyrs. Even men were interested! I am looking forward to the next scoop!

**Jeanette Collins, Jersey East Section,
Portsmouth Branch**

Following the launch of the Poppy project at this year's OAM, Jersey East Section have teamed up with Jersey Festival Choir to knit or crochet 80 poppies made from the "Woman's Weekly" pattern for the ladies of the choir to wear when they perform their Spring Concert in May 2014. They will be singing as part of their programme, "The Requiem – In Flanders Fields", as a tribute to the Centenary of the First World War and Jersey East are raising a sum of money from this project for the British Legion. I have so far made 7 poppies towards the total!

**Bryony Foley, Direct Member
Hexham & Newcastle**

During the recent celebrations in 'Unity' week 19th – 25th January, it brought to mind one soul who prayed and offered many Masses 'for the Unity of the churches in England'. Her name is Charlotte Pearson Boyd (1837-1906). On 8th October 2013 I visited the somewhat neglected grave of Miss Boyd at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery at Kensal Green in London. As most of you may know, in the late 19th century Charlotte Boyd bought and renovated the Slipper Chapel at Walsingham, donated it to the Catholic Church, and became a Catholic herself.

Hers is a fabulous and saintly story of a life dedicated to rebuilding the church in England. Sadly, she did not live to see the Slipper Chapel become England's National Shrine of Our Lady in 1934. What is not so well known is that while she was rebuilding Monasteries and Abbeys, Ms Boyd also housed and educated orphans in London for some forty years. There are several written accounts of her life available to read up, and I'll not begin any of that within this limited space. What I would like to draw attention to, is the fact that Charlotte Boyd's mortal remains lie in Kensal Green cemetery. Walsingham pilgrims will recall that Benedictine Oblate Iron Cross, outside of the Slipper Chapel, near the entrance. It was brought from her London grave in 1983, but her body still lies in her 1906 grave at St Mary's cemetery. It would be wonderful if the mortal remains could be brought to rest at her beloved Slipper Chapel in Walsingham.

Editor's note: Please see the pictures and a Prayer for Charlotte Boyd on page 11

Maureen Reynolds, Bridport, Dorset

I am designing a processional banner for a local group of CWL members, and need some further explanation of the symbolism of the images on the Badge. The Holy Spirit Dove at the badge top and the CWL lettering seem straightforward, but the symbols to left and right of the lettering are puzzling; do they represent supporting wings, or might they be the scallop shell pilgrim symbols? Also, not I am not clear about the bottom edge of the design. I should add that I am working from a photocopy of your information leaflet! Any help you can offer by way of explanation would be most appreciated as my previous experience of Christian symbolism has been within the Anglican tradition.

Editor's note: we were able to provide Maureen with the full explanation of the badge from the leaflet in the Promotions Pack. It is printed again here on page 11 for your interest

**Teresa Baldwinson, Mill Hill Section,
Westminster Branch**

We have a lot of older ladies now, some of whom were founder members. To keep

them in the loop but also maybe to have younger potential members interested, could one part of a page per issue be given to current thoughts on different specific aspects of our lives, e.g. one issue on how we pray, another on what most enrages us? Written without any by-lines both to allow us to be truly honest and also to prevent any of us from becoming big-headed, it might well interest others. Just a notion. (Cake-cutting is nice but it would be even nicer if a slice of the cake came with it!)

**Carole Cooper, St Bart's Section,
Westminster Branch**

First - a thank you all for all the work you put into organising such a purposeful weekend in Swanwick. It all seemed to go without a hitch – from where I was sitting! Plus the usual entertaining quiz! May I offer some personal thoughts - Very pleased to see more of our funds being paid out to needy causes – individuals and organisations. Feel more comfortable asking members to raise more funds for CWL charities.

I missed having an outside speaker, to break up the amount of introspection! As usual Bishop Peter brought a breath of fresh air but this year even he concentrated on similar issues.

Very happy to listen to Alison Love, such interesting and pertinent suggestions put forward with great enthusiasm.

The Social Media presentation was helpful to members in many ways. But the website is still very out of date. I worry that anyone visiting it would give up and not return. If the idea, as suggested, was to simplify and reduce the website could we please have a section or separate website for resources. Often it is just so much easier to look for something on line rather than search through bags and boxes.

Obviously you and we wish for a fresh look for the CWL News. But our members value greatly the announcement of deceased members – their dear friends. I wondered if there could be more of a celebratory side to this topic, marking the loyalty and work of past members with their names etc maybe framed in a church doorway or some such?

**Monica Garlick, Weymouth Section,
Dorset Branch**

National President's Blog

National President's Blog contd.

...Over the weekend 14th -16th February we held our Officers' Annual Meeting at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick, with a great deal of discussion about the 3 Year Plan for CWL – we are trying to revamp, revitalise and restore! A very surprising enthusiasm was found for Social Media - people were face-booking all over the place - really exciting!

'Thank you', Mary Kilcoyne, for your sterling work in collating our Gift Aid lists over all these years. As HMRC now require more online application the work of this has been taken on by the National Secretary and National Treasurer so have a well-earned rest, Mary.

All Branch Officers took part in several discussion sessions giving a great deal of feedback and all these responses can be seen attached to the report of the meeting which the National Secretary has already sent to Branches. From these responses a plan for Year 1 (up to February 2015) will be formulated and we will be sending this out to all Sections – expect this information at the beginning of May (after the April National Executive meeting). Please follow the plan just as enthusiastically as you did with the National Coffee Morning.

And on that subject – I hope you all had a good day on 2nd March supporting the National Coffee Morning. I would dearly like this to be an annual event so please let us have your feedback. I noticed there are already some wonderful photographs included on the National Facebook page – thank you for supporting this with such enthusiasm. Let us all hope this is a Launch pad for the future.

Thanks must be given to Margaret Von Speyr, National Publicity Officer, for formulating the National Coffee Morning and putting so much effort into making everyone take part – we are very lucky to

have National Officers who care so much - they work from the heart.

What else have I been doing? Well, on Saturday 22nd February I attended the Board meeting of the National Board of Catholic Women where we spent time discussing the future and planning for NBCW in much the same way as we spent our time at Swanwick. It is very obvious that there are many study days and events organised by NBCW of which we need to keep you aware (sometimes we get very short notice) so the Board are going to try to keep a diary of events up to date which we can send out and then you can access the particular event which may be of interest to you. Please make sure you read all the new information in CWL News and do let us know what you like and what you don't like so we can make sure the News is your paper.

I also attended a funeral on 20th February - the husband of a very dear member in my Branch. It is times like this we are thankful for the family members who support us in our work even if it means they seem to be asking all the time, "Are you up at that church again!"

So that is all for now – I am writing this whilst on the train to Cardiff for the Union of Catholic Mothers (Wales) National Council. Watch out for the 'Year 1 things to do list' and try to access our Facebook page as Claire is keeping things current on there. The Website is the very next thing we are discussing so please be a little more patient with us in updating and revamping.

I'll finish with this thought – I am on the train returning from the UCM Wales meeting. Archbishop George Stack read a letter from Pope Francis - it was a letter to families. It seemed very pertinent to our daily lives and I would like you to read and share it, too. You can find it at <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-francis-letter-to-families>

COPY DEADLINE DATE

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Any amendments to distribution,
notify the National Secretary

Book Reviews

A big 'thank you' to our readers who share their thoughts with you on the following books:

**Eileen Sandy, Birmingham Branch
Minutes Secretary, writes about POPE
FRANCIS, UNTYING THE KNOTS
Author: Paul Vallely**

The first introduction I had to 'Untying the Knots' was at the Birmingham Branch AGM last year. Father Carrick, our CWL chaplain, gave us a brief outline of how Pope Francis had been sent to Germany in the 1980s. There he had entered the Church of Saint Peter Am Perlach in Augsburg, and seen an eighteenth century painting of Our Lady called 'Mary, Untier of Knots'. In it Our Lady was doing just that: untying knots in a piece of white ribbon. He was very moved by this picture and bought an image of it before returning to Argentina. And so when I was presented with this book as a Christmas present, I was eager to read it. It was impossible to put down. It is well written and details the life of Pope Francis through his childhood until the present day. It tells of the influence of his Italian grandmother on his upbringing; his life as the Jesuit Superior in Argentina during the 'Dirty War' of the 1970s, and goes on to detail the change in him after he was sent away from Argentina in the 1980s. The book brings us right up to the present day, with the reaction to his being created Pope. Small wonder that Pope Francis is called 'A Pope of Surprises'

**Lorna Mullett,
President Lancaster Branch:
Band of Angels: The Forgotten World of
Early Christian Women
Author: Professor Kate Cooper**

In this very readable book Kate Cooper tells the story of the early beginnings of Christianity from the woman's point of view. The women she studies came from all walks of life – peasants, businesswomen, empresses – and she shows how they played an invaluable if often forgotten part in the development of our faith. Of great interest is her demonstration of how St Paul tapped into the domestic (and business) circles of the women with whom he came into contact – Chloe, Lydia, Phoebe, Junia, Prisca and many others – to establish and further the growth of the nascent Christian churches. Her catchment is wide – the women of Galilee, the female martyrs, the desert mothers, the empresses, and finally 'The Queen of Heaven'. For the most part the women of the ancient world live out their lives anonymously so there is a problem of evidence but using what little evidence that is available Professor Cooper paints a vivid and convincing picture of these women whose lives were changed by their new-found faith and who, in turn, helped to change the world around them and created an enduring legacy. A book well worth the reading.

**Helen Gannon, Birmingham Branch
Vice-President reviews
SISTERS OF THE EAST END
Author: Helen Batten**

A delightful story based on the lives of the Sisters of the Anglican community of St John the Divine. Based in the East End it follows the progress of Sister Catherine Mary and her friends who share both the spiritual highs and lows within the community from a rewarding nursing career as a midwife in the East End to setting up and running a school of midwifery in Malawi.

**This review is written by Fr Philip Griffin,
PP at Small Heath, Birmingham
Pope John, Author: Meriol Trevor**

The canonisation of Pope John XXIII has led to interest in this biography, written in the years immediately after his death. It is an affectionate tribute to a great Pope, and a lasting memorial to its author. Pope John enjoyed a short pontificate, but was responsible for initiating a period of change in the Catholic Church which continues today. At the time of his election in 1958, he was described as a transitional Pope. It was assumed that he would be a quiet caretaker of the papal throne until Montini was appointed Cardinal, and was available as 'palpable' at the next consistory. However, Pope John was indeed a man of transition, who emerged from semi obscurity to bring the Catholic Church into the modern world. Meriol Trevor presents John as a man who trusted in God; charismatic, a man of simplicity, humour, and shrewd wisdom. He wished only to draw people to God. As Pope he was pastor and shepherd, seeing his role as one of service to the Church and the world. Pius XII, Trevor argues, ruled the church; John XXIII served it. He reached out to God's people with a message of peace, renewal and reconciliation. The calling of the council was just one part of this vision.

The fascination with John lies largely in the obscurity of his life before his election as Pope. Trevor writes warmly and perceptively about his home life, his formation, and his early years as priest, assessing his contact with the various lay movements in the Church at the time, and his response to them. His experiences in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey gave him a unique breadth of experience which deeply influenced his later calls for Christian reconciliation and unity. Meriol's description of Pope John's last days is a moving and poignant reflection on a man who was loved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Pope John was an historian and had a vision of the inevitability of chance and development. History taught Pope John, and teaches us, that nothing is unalterable. Pope John's profound faith in God, his love for the Church and for all humanity, combined with this historian perspective, led him to change the course of the Catholic Church irreversibly. Good Pope John was a shepherd who called the Church to embrace humanity and the modern world, to incite the children of God to encounter Christ alive today in the Church.

**Joan Cheetham, Leeds Branch Secretary
comments on The 'Teacher' Series
Author: Jack Sheffield**

This is a set of seven books with another in progress which may be read independently of each other but you will find the main character appearing throughout the series. Jack Sheffield, a former headteacher of two primary schools in North Yorkshire, writes with great humour about day to day life in a small Yorkshire village including the ups and downs of family life as seen through the eyes and ears of local shopkeepers. Many a time the thought crosses the mind, 'out of the mouths of babes and sucklings!' These are an ideal read for cosy hunching up on the sofa or for bedtime – but beware as there are many laugh out loud moments! Published by Bantam Press they come highly recommended.

WOMEN OF WUCWO: SOWERS OF HOPE

**This is the theme of the WUCWO 2014
General Assembly in Fatima Portugal
from 22nd - 28th October.**

The Assembly is open to every member of CWL. Please consider whether you would like to attend.

In the introductory letter from President General, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, everyone has been invited to join in this Assembly which represents the highest expression of WUCWO life. She says the choice of this Shrine has a particular meaning for us. We have chosen Mary, Queen of Peace as our patroness and we wish to invoke her protection on our Assembly. Caption Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

The Assembly starts on 22nd October when you will be met at Lisbon for onward transfer to your hotel. The full package will cost approximately £1250 for double occupancy (single occupancy will carry a surcharge). The price includes Assembly registration fees, accommodation in a first class/4 star hotel for 6 nights, all hotel taxes, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, sightseeing and all entrance fees (as per itinerary with professional local guides) and arrival and departure transfers for set times throughout the day from/to Lisbon Airport. This does not include airfares. There will be optional extension tours to Fatima, Santarem, Lisbon, Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca but at additional cost. The bookings must be made by 1st May with a deposit and final payments due no later than 25th July. Final documentation will be distributed within 4 weeks of departure provided the full payment has been received by George's International Tours. All Branches are in receipt of more detailed information, so if you are interested please contact them. I do hope you will consider going to this World Assembly, as our President General says this is an important time to listen to each other, to share, propose and offer our sincere contribution for Evangelization. The WUCWO Day of Prayer Service for 13th May is also in the Branches. Please make every opportunity to use the service (or parts of) at Branch and/or Section level and maybe you could take the opportunity of a collection for WUCWO.

**Veronica Cross
CWL International Officer**



**Come to Jordan!
22 - 27 May 2014
Celebrate Mass with
Pope Francis in Amman**



A 6-day pilgrimage for 5th Gospel led by Fr Paul Fitzpatrick (St Mary's College, Oscott) to celebrate Mass with the Pope in Jordan. Meet the Christians of the Middle East, visit the World Heritage site of Petra and follow the Exodus journey to Mount Nebo. Renew Baptismal Promises in the River Jordan where Jesus was baptised, see the shrine of St John the Baptist, Ruth's Moabite well and the Mosaic Madaba Map. Relax in the Dead Sea.

Cost £475.00 per person includes all land costs – tickets for the Pope's Mass, accommodation in new 3-star hotel en-suite (two sharing), full board, modern air-conditioned coach transport throughout, entrances, licensed Christian guide, all gratuities and donations. Single room supplement £80.00.

British Airways direct scheduled flights (5 hours) purchased by pilgrims online cost approx. £420.00 each return. LHR – AMM – LHR
Out 22 May 14:40 BA 0147
Ret 27 May 11:20 BA 0146

The only extras will be personal travel insurance, drinks and personal spending



**5th Gospel
Retreats**

**For full details and booking please contact 5th Gospel Retreats
info@5gr.org 01579 340343 www.5gr.org**

BRANCH NEWS

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH Kingswinford Section

50th Anniversary Mass and AGM – Thursday 6th March 2014
Kingswinford Section of the Catholic Women's League in Birmingham Branch commenced their Golden Jubilee with a lovely sung Mass celebrated by Parish Priest, Father Cecil Rogerson and assisted by Deacon John Brindley. Unfortunately, our Branch Chaplain, Father Brendan Carrick, was unable to be with us due to a spiritual emergency and he was sadly missed to concelebrate Mass. We were, however, very pleased to welcome our immediate past National President, Mrs Margaret Richards and National Secretary, Mrs Jean Clarke together with our Regional Officer, Miss Catherine McDonald; Branch President, Mrs Rosaleen Norris; Branch Vice President and Secretary, Mrs Helen Gannon and Branch Treasurer, Mrs Denise Poole and ladies from St Michael's, Penn Section, Wolverhampton. We were also very pleased Sister Dominica and Sister Grace of the Daughters of Divine Love at Brierley Hill were able to be with us and all our guests were welcomed very warmly. At the end of Mass, Mrs Richards thanked Father Cecil and Deacon John for the lovely Mass and said what an achievement it was to celebrate 50 years in these challenging times and wished the Section well for the future.

During Mass, the fairies had delivered a lovely Buffet Lunch to the Church Hall

which was much enjoyed by members, past members and our guests. A celebratory 50th anniversary cake was then cut. After lunch the business of the AGM commenced presided over by Branch Vice President and Secretary, Mrs Helen Gannon with Mrs Eileen Sandy as Section Chairman.



L-R – Catherine McDonald, Regional Representative; Margaret Richards, immediate Past National President CWL; Denise Poole, Branch Treasurer; Fr Cecil Rogerson; Rosaleen Norris, Branch President; Jean Clarke, National Secretary CWL; Deacon John Brindley; Ellen Sandy, Section Chairman

BRENTWOOD BRANCH

Brentwood Branch are supporting and promoting A Day of Prayer at Aylesford, 'Women of Faith'. Please come along and join us if you are in the area.

Leigh on Sea Section

Leigh on Sea Parish Centre was blessed and opened by Bishop Thomas McMahon



Women of faith
You are warmly invited by
The Friars Aylesford
to
A Day of Prayer
as part of the pilgrimage in honour of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sunday, 13th July 2014

11.30 am Gathering
12.15 pm Mass
2.45 pm Talk
3.30 pm Rosary Procession in honour of Our Lady,
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

The Friars, Aylesford, KM M020 7BY, Tel: 01622 717372 www.thefriars.org.uk email: pilgrimages@thefriars.org.uk



The new Parish Centre

took the part of a farmer who owned the stable where Jesus was born. The choreography was constructed by a parishioner who is a drama teacher and whose Dad and sister provided the sound system. The New Year started for the Section after Midnight Mass when members served parishioners in the church porch with warm mince pies and a chocolate drink. On 3rd January the Section arranged a bus to take members and friends to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff to see the musical Singing in the Rain. On the 31st January a buffet and Bingo took place in the church hall. 'Panto-ivity' proceeds raised were £250 for Cafod and £250 for Cancer Charity.

Cardiff Section

The Section's Charity of the year 2013 was Air Ambulance, for which they raised £300. Their December Charity coffee morning raised £200 for the Huggard Centre for the homeless in Cardiff. An afternoon tea raised £500 of which £300 was given to their Curate for the St. Augustine's Order in Kerala, India providing lunches for the needy, and £200 going to Branch funds. One of their members held a lunch at her home last November, this raised £227 which contributed to Section/Branch funds also. Their Christmas dinner was held in December at Cardiff Golf Club which was enjoyed by all, a marvellous atmosphere exuded. More than thirty members and friends attended and both Priests who serve the combined parishes.

CLIFTON BRANCH

Clifton Branch recently held their Spring Branch meeting in Bridgwater and the sun actually shone that day which was a bonus for the people of the Somerset Levels who have been badly affected by flooding this winter. In fact Bridgett Bere, their Section chairman, told me that because their farm was on high ground they were sheltering livestock from the surrounding area. Money from the raffle and donations were sent to a flood relief fund in the area. It was nice to see that every Section within Clifton Branch had a representative at the meeting and we learnt that 3 of our six Sections have gained new members. Great news!
The 3 Branch Officers attended the OAM at Swanwick which we all enjoyed, even though we came nowhere near winning the quiz on Saturday night! All our Sections



Jane receiving a heartfelt 'thank you'

on 9th February with the CWL serving the refreshments. At the Section AGM Jane Allard resigned as Secretary. She has been both Chairman and also Secretary in past years and was warmly thanked for her service to the League.

CARDIFF BRANCH Briton Ferry Section

The Section held a Christmas lunch on 12th December at a local hotel in Port Talbot. On 22nd December they took part in a 'Panto-ivity' combining the Christmas Nativity in a light-hearted way. This was a nativity plus humour with the three wise men portrayed as Elvis Presley, David Hasselhof and Simon Cowell. They wore facemasks to show the image and a modern type of singing such as Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no valley low enough which was sung by a chorus of angels. Fr. Ceirion Gilbert, Parish Priest,



Panto-ivity at Briton Ferry

Are you a Mature Woman
(45 – 65 yrs)
wishing to find out if
Religious life is for you?

The Sisters of the Congregation
of Mater Ecclesiae,
a semi-contemplative order,
invite you to 'Come and See'.
Day and short visits available



For more information, please contact
The Superior, Mater Ecclesiae Convent,
Street Ashton, Rugby,
Warwickshire, CV23 0PJ
Telephone 01788 833825
admin@mater-ecclesiae-convent.co.uk

prepared for the National Coffee Morning and many are hosting Lenten Lunches again this year. Members from several of our Sections support their local food banks and it is a sad fact that more and more people have to rely on these places for assistance. We are looking forward to June of this year when Clifton Branch is helping CAFOD to celebrate 25 years in the diocese. Each Section will be holding a Teas For Bees event throughout the month to celebrate with CAFOD and also raise funds for them. We are hoping that we can get an interview with local radio to publicise these events. David Brinn, Diocesan Manager for CAFOD, Clifton Diocese, says "We are delighted to be working so closely with the CWL this year, as the CWL was so involved in setting CAFOD up over 50 years ago. It is always good to do things together for the benefit of the world's poorest people"

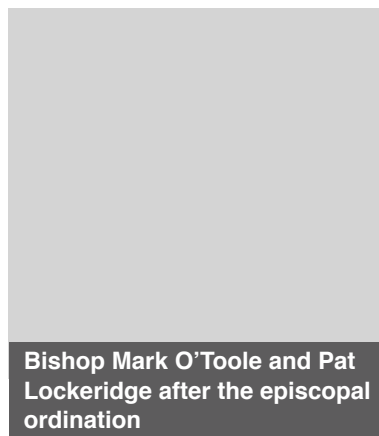
Charlton Kings Section held their annual Day of Reflection at Nazareth House, Cheltenham on Saturday 22nd March and the Branch is planning a retreat to Glastonbury later this year.



Charlton Kings Section with items donated for their local food bank

Editor's note – readers can see Bishop Declan's statement on page

CORNWALL BRANCH



Bishop Mark O'Toole and Pat Lockeridge after the episcopal ordination

Episcopal Ordination of the Reverend Monsignor Mark O'Toole
On 28th January 2014 Bishop elect Mark O'Toole was ordained Bishop of Plymouth at a service in Plymouth Cathedral. Retiring Bishop Christopher Budd was the Principal Consecrator. Dignitaries from around the diocese were present along with his Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Antonio Mennini as well as seminarians and Bishops from around the country, along with other denominations, lay people and parishioners. The ordination service with Holy Mass was very moving and

emotional, with beautiful music by the seminarians and cathedral choir. At the end of Mass there was huge applause for retiring Bishop Christopher who has been very supportive to the Catholic Women's League. A reception for invited guests was held in Plymouth Pavilions where I was able to introduce myself to Bishop Mark (and get a photo for the paper)! I assured him of our loyalty and prayers and that we look forward to working closely with him. I left feeling very privileged to have been invited to share a day I will never forget.

Pat Lockeridge, Regional Representative Region 4

DEVON BRANCH Ottery St Mary Section

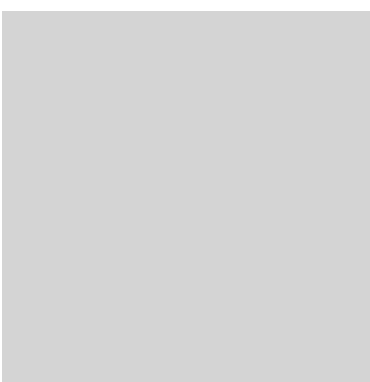
The Section held a successful Ecumenical Carols and Nibbles Evening in December. The Speaker was Rosemary Stapley, a Missionary, who worked 41 years with the International Christian Fellowship in India.



Daphne Chapple, Chairman, with the Speaker

Okehampton Section

Each Christmas the Section collects shoe boxes for Moldova. The boxes are wrapped in Christmas paper and filled with items for children and families e.g. toys, sweets, cosmetics, shaving gear, soap, knitted sets of hat, scarf and gloves and food. The contents of each box are written down for customs purposes and attached to the outside of the lid is a pound coin. For Christmas 2013 we more than doubled our previous record by sending 68 boxes. Because we had so many boxes to fill we had some Box Wrapping Afternoon teas to prepare them for packing. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and the area to which we send our boxes is without running water and not everyone has electricity and roads are poor.



Preparing the Christmas boxes

DORSET BRANCH

Founder's Day - Dorset Branch celebrated Founder's Day with a Mass including a procession of banners followed by a sherry reception in the church hall of St Joseph's, Branksome. The Branch meeting was held after this and then members were able to enjoy a festive shared lunch. After a quiz, a raffle and a short carol service the ladies left with some lovely memories of an occasion we shall want to repeat in 2014.



Branch Secretary, Carol Gregory and Vice-President, Sheila Watkins

Dorchester Section

Remembrance Sunday on 10th November 2013 in Holy Trinity Church, Dorchester, Dorset. Beth Lewis and Audrey Farley carried the CWL Poppy Wreath to the Altar at the 8.30am Mass. Beth served with the Women's Royal Naval Service during the Second World War, working at Bletchley Park. Audrey was Nursing in the Orthopaedic Hospital in Pyrford, Surrey caring for the Armed Forces and Air Raid Victims.



Remembrance Sunday in Holy Trinity Church

Branksome and Parkstone Section

The Section meeting in December started with a session of making a Christmas table decoration of a candle in a coffee jar lid. Every member had the chance to make one to take home and it proved to be a very enjoyable and seasonable activity. The ladies had brought with them gifts of warm socks and towels to be handed on to the local charity for the homeless, and their reward was a feast of food and some entertainment from some talented members.



The Christmas Spirit at Branksome & Parkstone

EAST ANGLIA BRANCH Felixstowe Section

Last September, Barbara



Barbara Lamberton

Lamberton set off from Felixstowe on an interesting journey. Barbara had decided that during the Year of Faith and her own 70th year to walk the last 100 miles of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela to raise funds for CAFOD. She went on her own but made many friends along the way, especially over a glass of wine at the end of a day's walk. Barbara found it very uplifting and raised £1600 for CAFOD.

LEEDS BRANCH

Women's World Day of Prayer Services were held across the Diocese, members taking an active part in many of the celebrations. This year's Service, prepared by the Christian women of Egypt, with a theme of 'Streams in the Desert', was written long before the present

political situation arose and really brought home to us all the urgent need for prayers for our Egyptian sisters and their families. Plans are well in hand for our two Pilgrimages of the year. Firstly, our Annual Pilgrimage to the Wayside Shrine at Ripon will take place on 26th June. As 2014 is the centenary of the start of the First World War the pilgrimage will have a special significance. We are pleased that we will be able to welcome our National President, Elizabeth and her husband, and the Ordinary to the Forces, Bishop Richard Moth. During September members will be visiting the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to spend four days in this wonderful, picturesque spot of Northumbria.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH Aylesbury Section

Our last afternoon tea hosted by Mrs Maureen Walsh raised £180 for Children in Need. We have found these teas throughout the year help our CWL, local, national and international charities and also our local parishes. £710 was raised at five afternoon teas last year with a further £360 from the Garden Party. Aylesbury Section also looked into the possibility of helping families coping with hospital visiting – see page 11 for full report.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH Lymington Section

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Devon Branch, Okehampton Section

Okehampton Section is situated in the foothills of Dartmoor Devon in a parish that spans approximately 400 square miles. St Boniface in Okehampton and Holy Family in Chagford are very small and served by one priest. It is not unusual for parishioners to have a round trip of 26 miles or more to attend Mass. St Boniface has a parish hall where our coffee morning was held.

The hall is small. It is the width of a garage and the length of two, but despite its small size and the fact that our congregation is also small, we decided that we would make the CWL National Coffee Morning 2014 a memorable event. What could we do to achieve this? Our coffee mornings, held twice a month, are not well attended - no more than ten regular attendees.

Then the idea came. Competitions. Nothing like this had been done before and it would really make the day different. To involve the whole parish I thought that i) a simple competition for children would be to decorate a paper cup using whatever material they wanted; ii) for the men to bake a Victoria sponge; iii) for everyone, a Prayer For Our Parish.

After first seeking permission from our Parish Priest, Fr Darline, a committed CWL supporter, then putting the ideas to Section at our next meeting, we were off.

Enthusiasm was catching and as I had already prepared the congregation via the weekly parish bulletin that the day was going to be something special I spent the weekend before the Annual Officers Meeting at Swanwick in Derbyshire speaking after each Mass in our parish explaining the work of CWL nationally and internationally and giving information of the cake sale, raffle and competitions. This meant I attended 6pm Mass on Saturday evening in Okehampton, 26 miles. On Sunday the 9am Mass in Chagford followed by the 11am Mass in Okehampton 56 miles making a total of 82 miles from my little hamlet. In such a rural parish where the cost of petrol is so high one might question the value of this. However, we all know the importance of the "personal touch" so yes it was worth it. Also, attending the three Masses was wonderful food for the soul.

Next job was to find suitable judges for the competitions and write out the schedules for the entry forms. A retired primary school teacher agreed to judge the children's competition. A domestic science teacher would judge the men's and Fr Darline agreed to judge the prayer. What about prizes? Well, Swanwick solved that problem. What could be better than a CWL mug, a very worthy trophy. Along with this we had to organise all our material for the exhibition to show the wonderful work of the League. This, plus arranging tables to house the competition entries, cake sale and raffle! Would there be room for parishioners in our very small hall? Would there be any entries for the competitions? Again yes, except sadly there were no entries from the children. As already stated, we are small and only have a handful of children. We had four entries from the men and four entries for the prayer. To many this might seem a failure but for us it was success.

At the end of the day with 55 servings of tea, coffee and squash served we know we will not win the Section prize for the highest number of servings. However, for such a diminutive parish the turnout was great. The atmosphere and enthusiasm shown by

everyone in the hall together with the teamwork from the ladies in our Section meant we really did fulfil the brief put out by the National Executive. Our exhibition showed that CWL does wonderful work nationally and throughout the world. Plus, it has a voice that is listened to in high places and best of all an organisation of which we are proud to be members. The cake sale, raffle and competitions successfully brought a wonderful sense of togetherness within the parish with attendance from both churches and a real possibility that we will get some new members. Was it worth all the effort? You bet it was.

To close, here is the winning prayer which I read out after announcing the winner. Everyone agreed it was very worthy to be a "Prayer For Our Parish".

Dear Lord,

We ask for your blessing on our parish. We thank you for the beauty of our county. The solitary beauty of the moor with skylarks, tors and streams, The deep valleys with tumbling rivers. The villages and towns providing company and care. We thank you for inviting us to join you in its

design. We ask you now to help us protect and cherish your beautiful creation.

You pour out your love on us. You give us life and feed us with the sacraments especially the

Eucharist. Help us to respond to that overwhelming love.

Amen



A grand time was had by all at Okehampton on 2nd March

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Milton, Hythe and Totton knitted these woollen vests for the 'Fish and Chip' babies, babies that are wrapped in newspaper because they are born to desperately poor mothers. There are also some pretty woollen hats as well. Eileen Rayner is co-ordinating the parcelling and sending these off to Africa. It was in answer to an appeal in a church publication in Sunderland.



Margaret Hobbs, Eileen Rayner and Ann Reynolds with the knitted garments

the ladies became members at the inauguration of the Section in 1956 and the other three just a couple of years later. Of course they have shared many experiences, both happy and sad, over those years but they all agree that the League has been a source of friendship and many blessings. As one lady put it, "Please God, our efforts and prayers will bring a new generation of Catholic women to appreciate all the benefits that can be found by belonging to the Catholic Women's League."



A cake to celebrate the occasion

SALFORD BRANCH Ashton Section

Long Service Awards - at this time of the year CWL Sections up and down the country are holding their AGMs, celebrating the events and achievements of the last twelve months. Here in Ashton Section, however, we have been looking a bit further back. Our Section celebrated its 58th AGM this year and we felt it was high time that we recognised the work of five of our ladies who have been faithfully working for the League for most of those 58 years. Two of



Anne Fox (Branch President) presenting certificates to: Winnie Dunne, 58 years' service; Lillian McDermott, 58 years' service; Gladys Wills, 56 years' service; Barbara Parkhurst, 53 years' service; Barbara Bulmore, 53 years' service

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

Crewe Section

Members attended a CAFOD evening in January. Apart from celebrating anew the League's role in the very first Fast Days and the subsequent founding of CAFOD, they gained further insights of the current work of CAFOD by listening to Fr Naccho about his visit to Guatemala in November last. At the end of the evening a generous donation was made to CAFOD.



Crewe members thoroughly enjoyed the meeting

WESTMINSTER BRANCH

Adeyfield Section

Adeyfield Section continued their 30 year celebrations with two performances of a show entitled "Carry on, Committee". The show represented a "typical" meeting including references to events that had taken place in the parish during the past year and some very strange, but funny, suggestions for future fund raising. There was audience participation in the singing and all enjoyed either afternoon tea or an evening dinner prior to the show. A sum of £1370.00 was raised and the audience left with some very strange ideas about the members of the CWL!

Boxmoor Section

The Section runs a Soup Special Lunch once a month in our Parish Centre to raise funds for CWL and other charities. Our February lunch coincided with the 90th Birthday of Peggy Hailes, one of our members. We made it an extra special lunch to celebrate, complete with cake, flowers and of course a singing of Happy Birthday. We donated the proceeds to a charity of Peggy's choosing, the Hemel Hempstead Blind Club, who had given support to her late husband.



'Carry on, Committee'

Coffee Morning Quiz

Please enjoy having an attempt at this CWL Coffee Morning Quiz from Sue Adams-Cundick (Grays Section - Brentwood Branch) - Answers on page 11

Identify the following cakes or biscuits from the cryptic clues (number of words as a clue in the brackets)

1. Rhubarb's partner is a happy cat who got this (7,5)
2. A whisky from France? The Americans like it (7)
3. Wealthy golf ball support (4,3)
4. Helps the cart move (5,5)
5. No stomach ache after this biscuit (9)
6. Lovely (4)
7. A British Queen's bath buddy (8,6)
8. Roger Federer's strange serve? (5,4)
9. Hans Christian Anderson's nationality (6)
10. Lucky and Artful (5,6)
11. Action of a comedian's enemy who drops their "h"s (6)
12. A good cook does this sourly (8,4)
13. As American as it gets (5,3)
14. Very hard hairstyles for ballerinas (4,4)
15. Definitely not Conservative German Kitchens (11)
16. wo felines (6)
17. Diminutive loaf (10)
18. Frosty digit (4,6)
19. A caveman's weapon (4)
20. Sold by the man from Drury Lane (6)

Coffee Morning Quiz Answers
 1. Custard Cream; 2. Bourbon; 3. Rich Tea; 4. Wagon Wheel; 5. Digestive; 6. Nice; 7. Victoria Sponge; 8. Swiss Roll; 9. Danish; 10. Jammy Dodger; 11. Eccles; 12. Bakewell Tart; 13. Apple Pie; 14. Rock Buns; 15. Lebkuchen; 16. Kitkat; 17. Shortbread; 18. Iced Finger; 19. Club; 20. Muffin

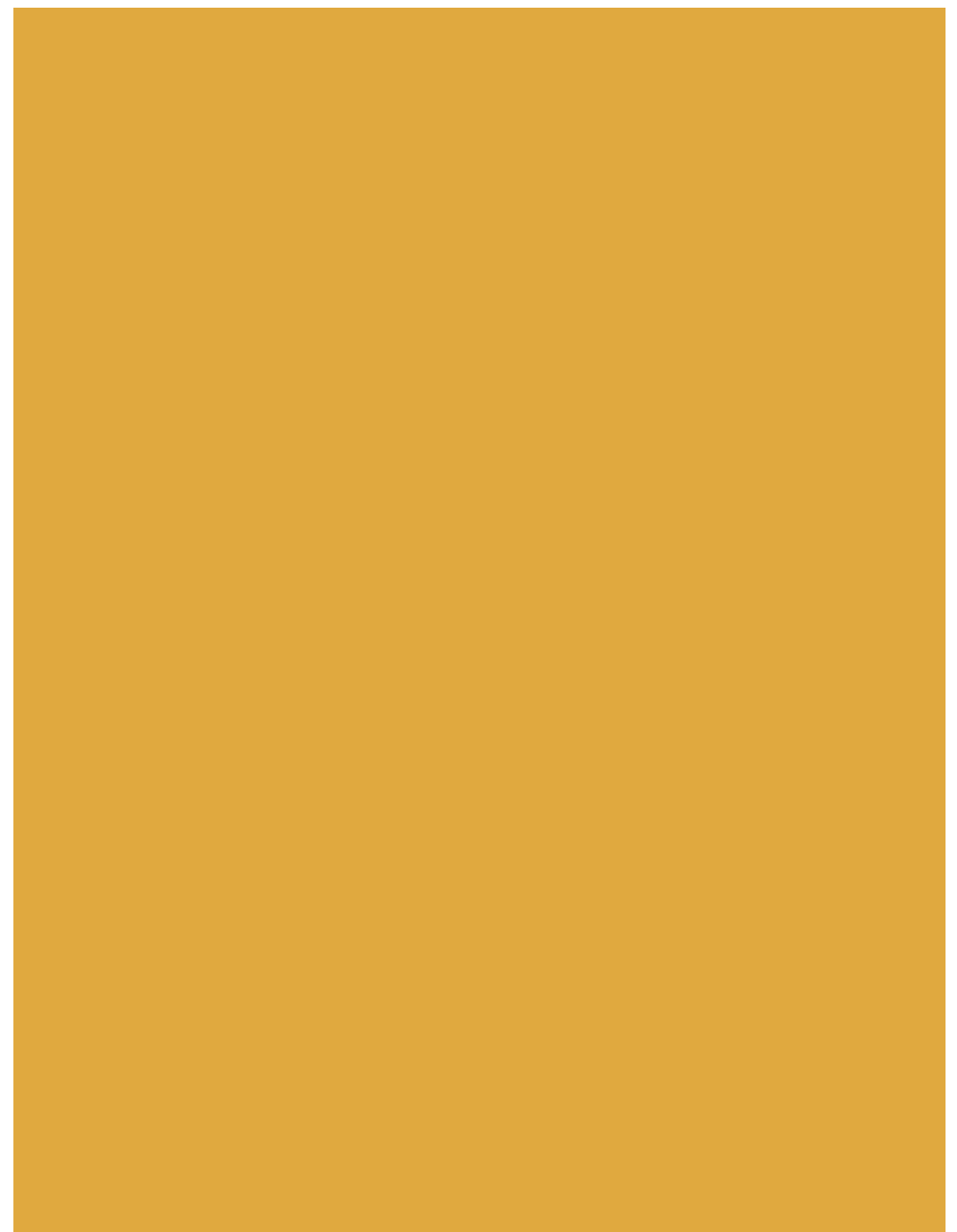
The CWL? An Endangered Species?!

As a matter of fact, we are ... friendship-forming, heart-warming, praise the Lord-ing, community-bonding, crisis-responding, all-embracing, celebrating, fund-raising, trail-blazing, ground-breaking, difference-making, praying, praising, world-wide, sanctified, far-reaching, Bible-teaching, pioneering, volunteering, charity-giving, faith-living, Lent-lunching, biscuit-crunching, tea-brewing, always-doing, Parish-supporting, party-xorling, organising, quite surprising! loyal and caring, laughter-sharing, theatre tripping, speaking, listening, spiritual-nourishing, growing and flourishing, joy-seeking, unifying, age-defying, on-the-go-ing, St Margaret Clicherow-ing, Relief and Refugee-ing, Christ among us, members of the

Catholic Women's League

Ever thought about joining?

Registered Charity No. 250120 Courtesy of All Saints Parish (South Devon) Section February 2014



Signature dish

or should I say Recipe

CWL at work

From Alison Love, Health and Family Life Officer

I see my role as a little bit like the great British Bake off. Sharing a signature dish, then offering you a technical challenge and then finishing off with a showstopper. So let's start by calling this the Great CWL take off.

So here is the plan - or should I say recipe?

Signature dish - Something we have done before. This time it is our friends at the Medaille Trust. Sadly, they are still in business and still well worth our continuing support. Please look at their website. www.medaille.co.uk. Most importantly, be vigilant. Feel free to check with your local Police force and council to see what priority combating trafficking has and what is happening to those they rescue. Look out for the Modern Slavery Bill which is in Committee stage at the moment. You can read about it on www.parliament.uk

Technical Challenge is Healthwatch. This is where I give you some basics and hopefully you will gather the rest of the information from the internet or locally. Healthwatch is the body that works alongside the Health commissioning groups. They are there to advise the commissioning group and to flag up any issues and concerns that its members may have regarding the services offered in their area. If any of your Sections have concerns about their health service locally, then they need to be in touch with this group. There is a lot to be concerned about, especially care of the elderly and the mental health provision. Please look at www.healthwatch.co.uk and there you can find the Healthwatch group working in your area.

Show stopper - That's the one that the Bakers want to be remembered for. Big ask then. So my show stopper for you is Loneliness. What I would like to do, is to explore with you the whole issue of loneliness, because it is a Health issue and it certainly affects family life.

My day job is offering admin support to the Age UK Suffolk befriending co-ordinator in Lowestoft, where I live. This service places a volunteer with an elderly person who is now living alone in their own home and for a variety of reasons is isolated and yes, you guessed, Lonely. All that my lovely volunteers do, is go in for one hour a week for a chat and a cuppa. No social or Health care involved. Wow, have I seen the difference it makes!

Loneliness isolates, it brings on stress and related medical conditions. It changes personalities from assertive to passive; from happy to sad. Loneliness embraces you like a Python's coils. Getting tighter and tighter till ??? Just imagine if it was you not seeing anyone but rushed carers or officialdom from day to day. No one to relax with; no one to share with.

If you are housebound, you may be getting a visit from a Priest or a Eucharistic minister who will bring Holy Communion. The Permanent Deacon, in my Parish tells me that he would love to stay longer as he knows some of these lovely folk are lonely but..... So we are looking at providing a Parish based befriending service, Lots to think about and plan including safeguarding. We will also include all age groups because, sadly, loneliness affects all

ages and backgrounds – let's not forget mums at home with small children and on a tight budget; folk from other countries, here for all sorts of reasons, but a long way from home and community; the newly retired or made redundant suddenly facing a whole new way of life and set of rules; carers looking after relatives and being expected to cope. People apart but wanting to be, a part.

I am sure you could add to my list of vulnerable people or groups and I hope that your thought process will start you identifying with these groups and think and more importantly, pray about what you can do in your Section and what your Section can offer your Parish, to help loosen those Python coils constricting the most vulnerable members of our parish communities.

I hope to use the CWL News, our Facebook and Twitter pages and Website as my major means of communication and email for things that need to be brought to your attention straight away. I believe that it is time to raise awareness again of issues that are, or will be, affecting your life and the lives of those around you; be it the family or the bigger picture, your parish family.

So, as they say on Bake off. **Ready, steady. Make;** make something happen that will turn the lives of so many lonely people into something special and rewarding.

I would love to hear your ideas too. Please contact me on alisonlove1952@googlemail.com or via the National Secretary.

Refugee Team

From Jane Dawson for the Relief and Refugee Team

The Relief and Refugee Team thank members for their generosity once again. Over £10,000 was raised by Sections and Branches last year and £16,550 was awarded to asylum seekers and refugees. The first quarter of 2014 saw £3,650 being awarded to families and individuals.

A big thankyou must go to the Catholic Clothing Guilds of Bristol, Brentwood and Southwark. Many children now have school uniform, thanks to their members. Also to individual members who have supported asylum seekers by offering clothing and bedding. Olton Section and Hall Green Small Section in Birmingham Branch have answered our plea for help in abundance - members recently donated bedding, towels and clothing for a young woman in great need and for her expected child a cot, bedding and a pram. The Sections also donated clothing for another lady who had worn the same clothing all year for 6 years. We greatly appreciate their charity.

The majority of our applicants' country of origin is The Congo (65 individuals and families last year). Refugees from this war torn country have topped the list of applicants for the past four years. But recently we have seen 25 applicants from Eritrea, 18 from Nigeria and 17 from the Ivory Coast with 16 having come from Iran. Many of those seeking asylum suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and require intensive treatment.

A Christmas card, sent by the Jesuit Refugee Service, written by Justina from Ghana shows how much your support is appreciated.

"Dear Friends, thank you for your

kindness and support. May God Bless you and reward you in a thousand folds, as you have put a smile on the faces of the less privileged and the needy in society, by your interest and your contributions. I have received so much support from the Jesuit Refugee Service, physically, spiritually and emotionally. May God Bless you and replenish you. Thank you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. On behalf of staff, volunteers and refugees, Justina from Ghana"

Women's World Day of Prayer

From Veronica Cross, International Officer

I would first of all like to say that the Women's World Day of Prayer, Streams in the Desert prepared by the women of Egypt and which we hosted in our Church this year was very well attended as always by the women of different faiths in Great Dunmow. I was volunteered to be Isis, the Ancient Egyptian goddess - no comments please!

On 6th March, International Women's Day, I attended a seminar at the invitation of The National Council of Women in Portcullis House, Westminster under the heading 'Women in the Commonwealth Today'. The speaker was Ms. Esther Eghobamien (Interim Director and Head of Gender, Social Transformation Programmes Division Commonwealth Secretariat) - a long title but a good speaker. She stated that given a third of all women in the world are members of the Commonwealth it is important we understand some of the challenges and opportunities (or lack of them) women face - whether a developed, emerging, or least developing country. Of course this ties in with WUCWO having 5 million members in 66 countries, incorporating 100 Catholic Women's Organizations.

photo caption Esther Eghobamien

Esther started her presentation mentioning the fact that Commonwealth countries have made great progress in empowering women. Yet millions of women and girls still lack access to education, healthcare, justice and economic opportunities. Sustainable development can only be achieved if gender equality and women's rights are secured. We have a long way to go, so we must urgently tap into the capabilities and intelligence of women in getting there.

Why Women Matter was food for thought during the day and by the end we were reminded that the participation of women is indispensable because of their social, economic and political roles. Women have contributed significantly in peace processes, preventative diplomacy, capacity building initiatives, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building.

Some Commonwealth Milestones also provided food for thought: the world's first woman Prime Minister came from Sri Lanka in the 1960s, the Africa region ranks high in the number of women in governance and the UK has the highest representation of women in decision-making in the European region.

The majority of gender-based victims of violence are women, girls and children. This manifests itself in physical, psychological,

economic and sexual abuse. Harmful traditional practices include widowhood rites, widow inheritance, widow cleansing, female genital cutting, forced marriage and honour killings and these are particularly widespread in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. It was so good to hear that many Commonwealth countries have enacted laws and established institutional frameworks to address all violence against women and children.

Esther also spoke of the barriers to women's economic empowerment and the addressing of these barriers to scaling-up women's enterprises. Quote for the day perhaps? "Women need to be Verbs not Nouns" (NCW member)

On 29th March I attended A Day of Information, Reflection and Discussion for Catholic Women on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking to be led by Sister Patricia Mulhall. Please look out for my report in the next issue on Why is the sale of people a growing business? What are the causes? Who are the victims? Who profits?

Italian Consolata Sister Eugenia Bonetti, a driving force in the fight against trafficking and prostitution, and someone instantly recognisable by CWL members who attended the WUCWO European Conference in Verona, was among the recipients of the European Citizens Prize 2013. This is an award to recognize exceptional achievements of those who facilitate cross-border cooperation. For the past two decades Sr. Eugenia has been the frontline of the Catholic Church's efforts in Italy to combat this trade in human beings and to break the chain of this modern day slavery.

Please see page 10 for all the news about the WUCWO General Assembly in Fatima in October

CAFOD

From Maria Elena Arana, Campaign Coordinator CAFOD

Hungry for change campaign continues until 1st May 2014 Keep encouraging action calling for power to be shared between rich and poor so that everyone has enough to eat. Find resources on <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Get-clued-up/Food>

CAFOD has expressed its disappointment after the House of Lords agreed to pass the controversial lobbying bill that will now become law. The government has passed the bill without making many of the changes that hundreds of charities, think tanks and other affected organisations were calling out for. Now that the bill has been passed into law, the new regulations will only capture a fraction of the lobbying industry. That means it is unlikely to contain any significant information about the true scale of lobbying activities. CAFOD's Director of Advocacy, Neil Thorns, said: "CAFOD is extremely disappointed that the government has decided to rush through this inherently flawed bill. Despite huge pressure from the Commission for Civil Society, which includes over a hundred NGOs, in conjunction with CAFOD supporters and other Catholic agencies, the government has created a situation that puts democratic participation at risk."

CAFOD Campaign on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy for all will launch next September 2014 and is a three year campaign. It will be crucial to campaign on

this important issue in the run up to the General Election in May 2015. We will be working closely with the Climate Coalition formally known as the Stop Climate Chaos.

Some pre-launch campaign events will be held: 28th June in Preston, 10th July in London and 12th July in Birmingham. More information from Maria Elena marana@cafod.org.uk

The next climate change big mobilisation will be held immediately after the next General Election sometime in June 2015.

Brazilian environmental activist wins human rights award, and vows to continue her fight for justice. Laísa Sampaio, an environmental activist supported by CAFOD, has been awarded the Human Rights Dorothy Stang award. It is the highest award given by the Brazilian government to those who work tirelessly in defence of justice and human rights. Laísa is a high-profile critic of illegal logging and charcoal burning in her home state of Pará, one of the most violent regions in Brazil. Her sister Maria and brother-in-law José Cláudio were killed in 2011 for campaigning against illegal logging in the Amazon.

CAFOD FAST DAY – Dig Deep: Join us on 14th March

Philippines Appeal: The typhoon that hit the Philippines on 8th November 2013 was one of the most powerful ever to make landfall. It tore apart the lives of more than 14 million people and left at least five million homeless. CAFOD supporters have responded with amazing generosity to our Philippines Typhoon Haiyan appeal, donating more than £4.7 million in the first three months.

Syria Crisis 9.3 million need aid in Syria, 2.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries, CAFOD appeal has raised more than £2.4 million. Anne Street, CAFOD's Head of Humanitarian Policy, says: "It's essential that we see immediate progress on allowing life-saving provisions – like food, water, blankets and medicine – to reach those most in need throughout Syria. We know that the only lasting solution to this conflict will be through diplomacy, so – above all – it's vital that all sides keep talking. CAFOD now partners with Triodos Bank and Eco-tricity. If you open an account, CAFOD will receive £40. See www.triodos.co.uk/cafod and www.ecotricity.co.uk/cafod.

The livesimply award We now have 11 livesimply awardees including Brentwood Cathedral and 19 Catholic parishes are now registered as livesimply

Diploma Course

From Marie Francis, Secretary Our Lady's Catechists

Our Courses are progressing smoothly. We now have a Diploma Course student from the English speaking Catholic Mission in Zurich, in addition to our student from South Africa who is very enthusiastic about the course. Our Diploma Course Registrar will be speaking on our work at all the Masses on 15th-16th March in Studley, Warks. One of our HMP students on the Foundation Course, has now completed Part 1. Of the 37 CMS students on our books, 19 are in Prisons. At our forthcoming AGM in Northampton, we will be launching "Mysteries of the Christian Life" a course based on the Holy Rosary. We request members of the Catholic Women's League to apply for tutoring on our courses. You need to be a qualified teacher of religion. Please apply to our Chairman, Beryl Wakefield or myself, Marie Francis. There must be many retired qualified teachers of the Catholic religion among the lovely ladies of the League. So we ask for your help.

Our Annual Conference and AGM is from 25th-27th April – our speaker is Fr Rob Taylerson, who will be speaking on "Praying with the Church". We cordially invite you all to attend, if only for the Saturday which costs £21.25 plus £10 Conference fee. We will be holding our Autumn Day on 4th October in Coventry, details will be out shortly.

Catholic Woman of the Year

From Christine Pugh, Catholic Woman of the Year

You are invited to nominate someone as a Catholic Woman of the Year. We are looking for 'unsung heroines', women who care for the sick or elderly, who are good neighbours and active in the community, who speak up for spiritual and moral truths and give witness to God.

To be a 'Catholic Woman of the Year' is to receive no cash prize or glittering medal but instead to be a symbol of love and loyalty given by women to Christ and Church in Britain today.

Anyone can send in a nomination by sending a letter, either handwritten or typed, to the Chairman at 22 Milton Road, WARE, Herts, SG12 0PZ, giving the nominee's full name and the reason for the nomination in a few paragraphs. Do not forget to add your own full name and address.

Nominations to be in by 30th April, 2014. THE 2014 CATHOLIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

You are warmly invited to attend the 46th Annual Luncheon to be held on Friday 10th October at the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1H 7EH.

Tickets cost £40 each. To obtain your ticket please contact Christine Pugh on 01707 642940 or email pughsofittleheath@btinternet.com Final date for application for tickets 1st September, 2014.

May they rest in peace

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

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON BRANCH SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Fr Kevin Gaskin died 5th March 2014. Fr Kevin was born in Birmingham and entered Mark Cross Junior Seminary, Sussex, to begin his priestly vocation; he then moved to Wonsersh, Surrey, until his ordination on 29th June 1962. He was appointed Branch Spiritual Director in 1985 and remained in post until his death on 5th March (Ash Wednesday). Fr. Kevin left East Grinstead in 1999 when he became Parish Priest at Wadhurst, East Sussex, returning to East Grinstead to enjoy retirement after celebrating his Golden Jubilee, but by this time he was in the early stages of cancer. At Branch meetings Fr. Kevin kept us fully informed of all that was happening in the Diocese and even Rome. During his time at Wadhurst he invited all Sections to join him each year for Mass and a summer picnic in his beautiful garden. Fr. Kevin was a much-loved friend to us all and will be sadly missed.

OLTON SECTION, BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Daisy McElhannan died on 18th January 2014

Tess McLoughlin died on 8th February 2014. For both of them the Section formed a guard of honour at the funerals.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SECTION, CLIFTON

Pat Doyle died 25th December 2013. Pat held the post of Section Treasurer and Section Chair and then became Vice-President and President for Clifton Branch. Pat helped St. Augustine's Section organise their 40th anniversary in 2002 and in 2009, when Clifton Branch celebrated their centenary, helped give an interview to the Bristol Evening Post about the work of the League within the diocese. Pat, aged 80, passed away in the early hours of Christmas morning 2013.

TRURO SECTION, CORNWALL


Jean Richards died on 2nd February 2014

OTTERY ST MARY SECTION, DEVON

Annie Rolls died on 14th January 2014 aged 102 years. She was a Founder Member of the Section. She attended the Devon Branch Mass in honour of St Margaret Clitherow in August last year.

DIRECT MEMBER, SOUTHWARK BRANCH

Liz Thompson died on 25th January aged 80, after a long illness, bravely borne. She was a former Branch President and the Branch Liaison Officer until her death.



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Even though you're almost at the end of the paper you still may not be able to answer that tantalising question from a prospective member, 'Well, what exactly does the League do?' Read on...

THE RISE AND RISE OF TEIGNMOUTH SECTION

Dawlish in Devon has been in international headlines with the scene of that dramatic stretch of railway left suspended and unsupported in mid-air after the recent storms.

On 28th February there was another noteworthy event in this pleasant seaside town; the Teignmouth Section of the CWL held their AGM. The Church Hall at St Agatha's was almost full, most of the 40 members attended from Dawlish, Shaldon and Teignmouth with 11 apologies. This represents a remarkable increase in membership from just nineteen two years ago. How do they do it? The members themselves put it down to having two meetings on the same day; older members usually attend in the afternoon and those with work and other commitments (yes there are a good number of young members), come in the evening. The organisation behind this is very slick; prayers are said at each meeting, but minutes are read in full only in the afternoon, with a summary in the evening and access to the full version being to hand. Guest speakers are invited to attend both meetings and have been happy to cooperate. All this is down to the inspirational work of the enthusiastic committee who at the AGM were all re-elected with the exception of the vice chairman who has had to stand down for family reasons. Apart from the reports and elections the main business of the AGM was to change the name of the Section to All Saints Parish (South Devon) Section reflecting that membership is drawn from the three congregations of St Agatha's, Dawlish, St Ignatius, Shaldon and Our Lady and St Patrick, Teignmouth.

But the most inspiring moment of the evening surely was the enthusiastic welcome given to a new recruitment poster in the style of a rap. Dawlish achieved widespread fame for a devastating breakdown in communication when the railway link was severed but this new poster sets a new standard in CWL promotion, getting over in dramatic but realistic terms what the League is all about, and may well inspire a widespread increase in membership just as has been seen in this part of Devon.

This is how it goes :

Brian this is a pdf file, bit of it shown here

...ship-forming,

heart-warming, praise the Lord-ing, community-bonding, crisis-responding, all-embracing, celebrating, fund-raising, trail-blazing, ground-breaking, difference-making, praying, praising, world-wide, sanctified.....

Richmond Section, Southwark Branch had a brainstorming exercise and this was the result...

WHAT DO WE DO IN THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE?

- We share our Faith
- We have a good laugh, drink wine and tea, eat a lot
- We share skills and learn from one another
- We support one another in sickness and in health
- We keep in touch with local and national issues
- We keep the Parish and the World in our hearts
- We support the local community
- We go on pilgrimages and outings
- We invite speakers to enrich and entertain our community
- We blend spirituality and sociability
- We do together what we would never do on our own
- We help one another to discover new horizons
- We welcome newcomers and remember old friends
- We are a National and International Church organisation
- CWL is our school for patience and tolerance
- CWL is our springboard for other activities

And believe it or not, people have been asking that same question for years. Browsing through CWL Archive I came across this. It is,

of course, of a different time and place but...

'...a criticism of the Catholic Women's League which one has sometimes heard, and which has very often been repeated to one by others who have heard it, has involuntarily and reiteratedly occurred to the mind of the writer – the critical query, namely:- "What does the League do?" Oh, dear lady, or ladies, who make that criticism, don't waste another minute of time, or fraction of energy in critical speech, but come and do something with us! Come and visit the Catholic Wounded Soldiers, come and make Clothing for the Wounded, come and help our Belgian Mothers to cut out clothes for their babies, come and help us collect Pennies for our Red Cross Hospitals at the Front, come and help us in the many works we are engaged in; and if you only will, we assure you that you will have no time or energy left to criticise our loss of time or lack of energy!

Do you remember Teresa Baldwinson's parachute jump? Here is an update. Teresa writes '...The original idea was to get a village especially for Alzheimer's patients similar to those in Amsterdam and Switzerland where all their needs are specifically addressed. My sponsored jump was to raise both money and awareness of the project. For the money it worked well, raising almost £800 - not bad for a one-off action. For awareness it did less well. To create a village it would need its infrastructure. Unless money were growing on trees, that entails being close to other dwellings and, even so, the cost would still be in millions not hundreds. But I firmly believe, with our mother Mary caring for any work we do for her other children, if God wishes it we will get there somehow.

I wrote, first of all, to Mr Shawcross, the Chairman of the Charity Commissioners, explaining the idea and that, research into the disease being both very costly and, in my estimation, of immense importance, I had no wish to take anything from the Alzheimer's Society itself. Therefore I wanted to set up, at first, a small charity, hopefully becoming a registered one. He courteously gave me the name of someone there to help me. I also contacted a gentleman offering a quarter of a million pounds to anyone coming up with a viable idea for a new garden city, asking if it could be applied to a group of people. Again, it could and I was given a contact. The devil, however, may not want this done. My e-mail was hacked, getting through my password and wiping out my work. Patience is not my strongest virtue and it did take an interminable time to get half-way to going again. The idea, though, of a new town almost attached to the village, however, is very appealing. All the people working in the village must be skilled carers for such patients. They need a life of their own, too, if they are to be of good help to their charges. Furthermore, relatives may wish to visit so nearby B&Bs and a campers' park would be helpful. The town, too, if done well can be commercially viable. The village, on the other hand, must be funded by a charity as I have yet to meet a full-time carer able to salt away enough money to pay for their relative's keep in such a place.

I am not asking, here, for your donations although, if you want to, feel free to do so. More than that I need the backing of your prayers. If we have enough people, in odd moments, thinking the prayer Mary taught, through Catherine Labore, and which, lest you forget it, is on the Miraculous Medal she had her engrave, we have her promise that, if it is God's will, it will be hers too. That prayer takes only seconds; the old definition of prayer, "The raising of the mind and the heart to God", takes even less time. When waiting for buses, trains, friends or family members who don't seem able to tell the time accurately, don't get cross just mentally pray for that village, please. And thank you for reading this.

Teresa Baldwinson

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

National Executive 28th and 29th April 2014
30th June Nominations for Regional Representatives for Regions 5, 6 and 7
12th – 14th September CWL AGM & Conference w/e

The Badge

further to the letter from
Maureen Reynolds, Bridport



In 1953 Mrs Edna Swan (mother of Sir Conrad Swan, KCVO, Ph.D., FSA) had just returned to England from some 4 years work in the refugee camps of West Germany and Austria. It was in that year that she was elected to be the National President of the Catholic Women's League of England and Wales.

Back from the Indian Army Sir Conrad was up at Cambridge University reading and writing his Ph.D. thesis on "The Introduction

of the Elizabethan Settlement of Religion into the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, with particular reference to Roman Catholics, 1558-1603". A request came from CWL HQ that he should suggest a new Badge for the League. The badge up to then included the Dove of the Holy Spirit along with the helping hands of friendship and achievement, and the wings of speed in getting things done. However, Sir Conrad felt that the current

interpretation and presentation of these excellent ideas invited serious consideration. At least, to Sir Conrad, it seemed that the badge was a monument to middle age spread: it was sound, solid, somewhat curvaceous and corpulent – hardly a reflection of, let alone an inspiration to ladies doing such estimable work. He designed in order to incorporate the symbolic elements of the original badge and give a radically new and fresh interpretation. The original elements were made to form the very outline of the design and emphasize the inspiration and work of the league – placing the well-known declamatory initials, CWL as the central, cohesive element. Some years later Sir Conrad Swan was invited to become a member of the Royal Household in the department known as the College of Arms and progressed to being its head as Garter Principal King of Arms.

Hospital Visiting

further information from Aylesbury Section, Northampton Branch

Following on from a suggestion made at the National AGM at Scarborough our Chairman Mrs Marion Payne had a meeting with our Section Chaplain Father John Beirne regarding setting up a scheme to help relatives of long term patients in hospital by meeting them for a cup of coffee and a chat and Marion and her husband David would also offer emergency overnight accommodation at a minimal cost. Our local hospital is Stoke Mandeville and we intended covering the whole hospital but felt that the Spinal Unit would benefit most, as patients and their families come from all over the world for this excellent facility. Father John approved and a meeting was arranged with the Stoke Mandeville Hospital Chaplain who thought it a reasonable idea but asked for bullet points to be sent for the approval of the NHS Trust. We sent the following:

- Subject - Relatives Support
1. To offer a friendly face and a listening ear to relatives of patients with long term illness/disability who find themselves a long way from home.
 2. To advertise this service, we propose to place posters and/or leaflets around the hospital with a possible mention in the hospital magazine.
 3. It will be organised and run by the Catholic Women's League in Aylesbury.
 4. Non-denominational.
 5. Contact number available from the advert.
 6. Meeting relatives away from hospital premises.
 7. CRB check a requirement?
 8. Emergency accommodation available. This service could be recommended via the Chaplaincy or other appropriate department to ensure it is not abused. A small fee would be arranged to cover costs.
 9. Supported by our Section Chaplain.

We have just heard from the Hospital Chaplain and it seems we would not be allowed to advertise in the hospital and they seemed to think we would not be able to obtain a CRB check. They also said they would like us to attend a two year Bereavement Course. Our Chairman brought this up at our Section AGM yesterday and the members agreed with her that this was not a viable proposition. Our Section Chaplain has agreed to meet and it is possible we will advertise on our Deanery Website.

BBC interest in the Wayside Crucifix at Ripon

It would seem that the site of the CWL's memorial at Ripon was of real interest to BBC Glasgow Gaelic when, as part of a series of three half hour TV programmes about the contrasting fortunes of two soldiers of the First World War, were being researched. One was Private John MacDonald who was stationed at the Ripon Army Training Camp, in Yorkshire, in June and July, 1916 and was killed at Arras, in April, 1917, and the other, Captain John Livingstone Stewart, who, though wounded in the War, survived to lead a successful and fulfilling life.

Councillor Derrick Slater, of Fountains Parish Council, informed them that the memorial near Studley Roger, to the soldiers who were at the Ripon camp during the Great War, is in the care of the Catholic Women's League and the Leeds Diocesan Branch and so our permission was given for them to film a short sequence with their contributor, Emeritus Professor Donald E. Meek a native of Tiree, "which is the most westerly island of the Inner Hebrides. He is one of the outstanding Gaelic scholars of his and indeed any generation. During his glittering career at Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh Universities, he has written many outstanding books in the field of Gaelic and Highland history – seen from the inside."

Those members at the AGM in Scarborough last October will recall the wonderful presentation made by Bernie Townsend, Chair of the Services Committee, giving details of the "Mother Hut" erected just outside Ripon in North Yorkshire. The Northern and Southern Command depots were built for the volunteers and draftees for basic training as well as for medical rehabilitation after treatment in the Army Hospital which was situated half a mile away in what is now known as Hospital Wood. The Wayside Crucifix was erected on its granite plinth in 1921, even as the hut was being dismantled. The service of blessing and dedication was led possibly by the Catholic Bishop of Leeds at that time Joseph Robert Cowgill.

Every year on the Thursday before 1st July members of CWL's Northern Branches, together with representatives from the Executive and clergy, hold a short memorial service at the site, followed by Mass in St. Wilfrid's Catholic Church in Ripon, to remember the fallen dead of both World Wars. This year it will be held on 26th June and Bishop Richard Moth, Roman Catholic Bishop in Ordinary to the Forces, will be the celebrant and we will also welcome our National President, Mrs Elizabeth Upsher.

From 16th - 21st June Leeds Branch will mount an exhibition illustrating the history of the CWL memorial, in the glass fronted foyer of the Anglican Church, St. Peter's which fronts onto the pedestrianized shopping area in the heart of Harrogate. The local paper, the Harrogate Advertiser is also seeking anyone who has a story to tell of the Great War to contact them, and since they also publish and print the Ripon Gazette, it is probable that many readers who have never heard of the Crucifix or know its story will be able to appreciate this singular local history and the memories of the 57, 000 men who died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme-1st July 1916. R.I.P.

Barbara Stitt, Leeds Branch President

St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green



Further to the letter from Bryony Foley, Hexham & Newcastle

The entrance is near Kensal Green Tube Station. Cross the main road and it's on the left. On entering, turn right, and walk along to the end.

The Cemetery Keeper swept the gravestones, and we both tidied the grave a little. I placed a picture of 'Our Lady of Walsingham' at the headstone and prayed that 'the remains of Charlotte Pearson Boyd, an R.C. Oblate of St Benedict, might one day be re-interred at her beloved Slipper Chapel at Walsingham'.



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SPORTS PAGE

Veronica Cross, Sports Editor

This is my first interview for the sports page so I hope you enjoy it as much as I did! Christine Bennett, Brentwood Branch Treasurer, gave me her reaction and joy on watching Elizabeth Yarnold winning a gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Sochi. Christine writes...

'Where were you when Great Britain won only their 10th Gold Medal EVER at the Winter Olympics in Sochi? The date was 14th February so you should know where you were – well, the Romantics among you at least! For those of you who know me I am an avid sports fan. I was never good at sport but really enjoyed my role for 17 years of what used to be called PE Co-ordinator at the Catholic Primary School. This involved all sports and what I lacked in knowledge (you taught your own class all subjects and took after school clubs as well as all competitive activities) I was told, was made up for in my enthusiasm. We never

won much but always took part and on the two or three occasions my teams did win it made it even more special! You will not be surprised, if you did not already know, that I was absolutely honoured and thrilled to have been a gamesmaker at Olympics 2012.

Anyway, back to my original question. On 14th February I was at the Officers' Annual Meeting at Swanwick. We had had a safe journey from Essex which considering the rain, high winds and flooded rivers we had experienced, was a great relief. We checked in about 4.30pm and had until 6.15pm before the meeting began. Being the avid sports fan I am, I suddenly remembered that Elizabeth Yarnold, one of our Olympic skeleton competitors, could have won a gold medal by now and if she were successful then that would have been only our 10th ever gold in Winter Olympic history! It was approaching 5.30pm. Thus

began the search for a TV. I found out there was one in our block and having gone up down and along many corridors (those who have been to Swanwick know what I mean) I found the TV room. Oh no! No Signal. I quickly dashed to the main house only to discover that the room with a TV already had a meeting going on! Eventually I found my way to the main lounge, found it empty and much to my relief was able to watch Elizabeth's fantastic achievement. I had a cheer on my own and had a nice chat with people from other groups who had heard me! I was then able to inform others of her achievement.

Now I do not want you to get the idea that I was not ready for the Catholic Women's League OAM as I was. The meeting for me was invigorating, positive, innovative (new ideas from various officers which I am sure have been reported on in detail in the OAM Report) prayerful and fulfilling. My mind had



Gold Medallist, Elizabeth Yarnold

not wandered onto sport again until that narrow window of time between the end of meeting and Mass on Saturday evening. That's when I realised Final Score was on. So I trotted off to find the TV again and God does work in mysterious ways as the lounge was now vacant. I turned on and to my great surprise Elizabeth was receiving her Gold Medal. So you see CWL and your interests can mix!'

Editor - Thank you, Chris. Your face was a picture as you enthusiastically told me about this fantastic win!



Elisabeth on the slippery slopes

This year I was skiing in Paradise! Report from Elisabeth Cooper, Nottingham Branch President.

No, I am not talking about the beauty of the scenery (although it was spectacular and certainly would have justified the description) but Paradise is the name of this particular ski area.

At the bottom of the chairlift, the serpent climbing the tree welcomed skiers to paradise, and all of the chairs were decorated with serpents or cherubs. The theme continued as the chairlift ascended the mountain, with signs, shaped like clouds, attached to the pylons on the way up and the very top station was painted with clouds and cherubs to ensure that we knew we had reached the destination we were promised. Indeed the deck chairs and

hammocks, with blankets, at the top of the mountain were enough to complete the idea.

The runs down were wide and open with a mogul field for skiers with a love of bumps and smooth slopes for the sensible souls who prefer their knees to survive their activities. There was also a long, gliding trail down from this ski area to the rest of the resort and the fantastic range of runs suitable for skiers of all abilities. Most importantly, I was actually able to see what I was doing and where I was going! I know it sounds silly, but you really do enjoy things more when you can see where you are going and what the terrain is like as you ski. The previous day, the cloud had been so low that visibility was not much more than 40 metres and it was hard to tell which runs

you were skiing. With the possibility of accidentally heading down a world championship race piste rather than a gentle intermediate piste you wanted, seeing where you were going was really important.

A member of my Section asked if her cycling proficiency badge counted as a sport and was it important enough for me to mention on my page? I said a definite yes! So now members I want to hear if any of you have got your cycling proficiency badge as the list will be in the next edition - no point in hiding your talents under a bushel as they say - so go, go, go! I am sure our Olympians all started somewhere. I wonder if our GB Women's Team just winning another cycling gold started off with their cycling proficiency badges? I expect so!

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p2 letters overmatter

In the past year, our new Liaison Officer, Mrs Joyce Fannon, has been instrumental in getting an icon for the C.W.L. attached to the website for our parish here at Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Weymouth.

(www.ourladystarofthesea.com) Our Church was recently extended and renovated, to incorporate the parishes of St Augustine and St Joseph, and the newly amalgamated parish enjoys a greater unity with the aid of the website. By working closely with the Webmaster of the site, Joyce has prevailed upon him to post the monthly reports of our achievements. She does sterling work in keeping the parish well informed of all new and relevant issues, which anyone with a computer may access.

In recent months Joyce has brought to our notice the Purple Teardrop Campaign, which is concerned with stopping the trafficking of women and children, an issue close to the hearts of us all, and has

arranged for a speaker on the subject to address us in May. We are indebted to her for her inspirational ideas and presence within the Section.

**Elizabeth Dixon, Morpeth Section,
Hexham & Newcastle Branch**

Hot off the press! Our Lady's Catechists will be launching a new course at their Annual General Meeting in April 2014, prepared by Father Harry Curtis Med STL BSc, OLC Director of Studies / Spiritual Director. This course, Mysteries of the Christian Life, is based on the exploration of the Rosary and by thinking about all the mysteries we gain an understanding of the whole of the Gospel message. This makes it a special way to study the Christian faith in a simple way. The leaflet for the course is now available.

BBC Scotland, Gaelic TV
We, at the BBC Scotland's Gaelic Department in Glasgow, are currently

making a series of three half hour TV programmes about the contrasting fortunes of two soldiers of the First World War. One, Private John MacDonald, was killed at Arras, in April, 1917, and the other, Captain John Livingstone Stewart, who, though wounded in the War, survived to lead a successful and fulfilling life. Private MacDonald was stationed at the Ripon Army Training Camp, in Yorkshire, in June and July, 1916 and in connection with that period of his life we will be filming in the Ripon area this week.

I understand from Councillor Derrick Slater, of Fountains Parish Council, that the memorial near Studley Roger, to the soldiers who were at the Ripon camp during the Great War, is in your care.

We would like to film a short sequence with our contributor, Professor Donald Meek, there and I write hoping that this meets with your approval.

I hope you will be able to help with our

request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Editor's note: Both Leeds Branch and the Services Committee helped the BBC in further research. See The Ripon Shrine on page 11