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A message from the League's new National President

Let me begin by firstly thanking you for giving me the opportunity to lead our beloved organisation. I have dedicated 46 years to supporting the great work of the Catholic Women's League and I am extremely proud and humbled that you have placed your trust in me to be your President. I commit to give this role my all and dedicate myself to you, the members.

So we have embarked upon a period of change - a positive step that will help our organisation remain fit for purpose for the future. But I also recognize that change can be disruptive and for some, unwelcome. I want to reassure you that I am here for all our members and that if you have concerns I will be here to listen to them. Indeed, I plan to be visible throughout my tenure as President and hope that over the coming months and years I will get to visit you in the communities in which you serve. I will be listening to what you have to say and working to address any concerns you might

have. Together, we are the lifeblood of the Catholic Women's League and I hope also to be part of the celebration of the good work you all do in supporting our goals. I have also talked to you about the need to address our declining membership numbers. As I look around today I remain optimistic that the energy and passion of you all will continue to keep our organisation alive and vibrant. However, I would be naive to think that we didn't have a challenge looming down on us. We need to think differently about how we attract new members and sustain the CWL for many years to come.

The role of women in society has been changing over the past few decades and where once it was thought the women's role was to marry, bear children, keep house and do as we were told, we now see role models who give our young ladies inspiration and ambition to do more - Teresa May, Angela Merkel, Hilary Clinton just three ladies who hold significant positions in

our world today and, of course, not forgetting Margaret Fletcher our founder who worked for the education of women. What might you ask, has this got to do with our declining membership? Social responsibility is big on the agenda of all our young people today. Now more than ever employers and employees see the need to be socially responsible and to give something back to the communities across the world who are in need of help. I'd like to tap into this trend and look at how we could create a 'Young Ladies of the Catholic Women's League'.

Thinking differently about our membership, how we attract people into our community, the role new blood can play and many things aside need input from all. The Young Ladies of the CWL is just one idea that I'd like to explore with you all and will over the coming months seek your views and ideas on how we can turnaround our reducing numbers.

Educating others about our work and



thinking differently about how we can grow are just two of the principles I will be pushing as your President. Education is after all, as Nelson Mandela put it, the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

I WILL listen to what you have to say. Thank you

**Margaret Valentine
National President CWL**

The League's Spiritual Adviser, Bishop Peter Doyle

I want to begin by thanking you for your welcome, your friendship and your kindness and hospitality, and I want to express my appreciation for everyone involved in organising the AGM and for Elizabeth as she completes her term of office as National President. Last year I spoke to you on Skype from the English College



in Rome while attending the Synod on Marriage and Family Life, and it is good to be with you here in Southport. As I have mentioned before, being at the Synod was exhausting, exhilarating and an immense privilege. What has happened since last October's Synod? In April Pope Francis produced an Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of Love, based on the Scriptures, on the teaching of the Church and of his predecessors and, importantly, on the deliberations of the two Synods.

One of the things that has saddened me is that the media have presented neither the Synod nor the Apostolic Exhortation in an accurate way, always trying to create conflict and division. That was not and is not my own experience and yet it leaves people feeling anxious and uncertain.

The Exhortation itself is very readable, and addresses our lives as they are. The focus is on realities more than ideas. Beginning with Bible stories about Marriage and Family Life, the document moves on to our own experience of Marriage and Family Life. We see that realities are more important than ideas and there is a concern that excessive idealism can be counter productive.

The document moves on with the long Christian tradition of teaching about love - the gaze of the love of Jesus - and the practice of love in our brokenness.

Married couples are encouraged to journey in the Spirit

without pretence and without masks, and to develop a spirituality of relationship towards autonomy, a freedom growing out of commitment to each other.

In a marriage and Family Life there is a call for discernment - discerning grace and discerning sin. It is not just a matter of applying 'rules' which does not allow for our human complexity and the work of God.

The backdrop to the Exhortation is the Year of Mercy which invites us to see God's grace and goodness at work in each person. That is a renewal of the culture of the Church and the invitation of the Holy Father to accompaniment, discernment and the integration of weakness. Of course, there are tensions, that is the nature of true and holy living in the Church. The Church is 'a field hospital' and the Church's teaching must be put into a deeply human and empathetic context.

I spoke of skyping from Rome, and I know that many of you keep in touch with children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren who live far away and many of whom do not practice the faith or have not been baptised. The love of God is with them. Continue to be disciples of God's mercy in your love for them, recognising in them the love and goodness of God.

Be hopeful, be courageous, be people of faith, mercy, hope and love.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have been using this prayer to help me pray for the sick. I found it in a little book called "Prayers for Every Occasion" when I was on my annual visit to Scotland one year. It seems there are so many people who I know who are currently not well & it is such a lovely prayer, I have learnt it by heart. I thought it would be good to share in the CWL News if there is room!!

Prayer for the Sick
*Sweet Jesus may your gentle hand
Bless every weary head of those who lie
So patiently In sickness on their beds
Gentle physician of all souls
Take pity on their plight
O let your kind heart comfort them
Throughout each lonely night
For where your wisdom deems it best
That they should suffer pain
Your grace shall be sufficient
We will not ask in vain
O light, O life, O food divine
To you do we impart, ourselves to you and
Keep them close to your most sacred heart.
Amen*

Veronica Comparini
Westminster Branch
veedotcomp@gmail.com

Dear Colleague,
I have been asked widely to circulate a segment from a TV show of comedian Frank Skinner (a Catholic, as it happens), "On Demand with..."?
In this episode, he speaks with fellow comedian and actress Sally Phillips (of Smack the Pony, Notting Hill, Bridget Jones fame). Amongst other things, she talks about her son Ollie, and the insidious move to get rid of Down Syndrome.
I was asked to make the point that "the great value of the video is her personal experience as a Mother with a Down Syndrome child and the exposure of the prominent ethicist, Peter Singer. His influence and that of like-minded people has

led to the Danish Government's express aim to eradicate Down Syndrome by 2020. It makes for powerful viewing."
Watch the video via:
<https://youtu.be/cjpVQeApWS4?t=16m19s>
I have also been asked to invite you to visit <http://dontscreenusout.org> and to consider signing the open letter to the Health Secretary on behalf of those special children of God, our friends with Down Syndrome.
I hope this is helpful.
With kind regards and all good wishes.

Chris Whitehouse KSG
Secretary
Catholic Legislators' Network UK

I recently came across a letter dated 16th May 1973 which reveals some of CWL's history and its impact on my own personal history.
I was raised in Father Hudson's Homes (Coleshill, Birmingham) from 1964 to 1981, and was privileged enough to be chosen to go on an all-expenses paid trip to Lourdes in 1973, courtesy of the Birmingham City Branch of the CWL when I was 9 years old. I have never forgotten the pilgrimage nor the kindness of the ladies who were kind enough to fund my pilgrimage.
Since then I have been lucky enough to have a university education (i.e. Birmingham University where I studied theology). I am now an HR and Legal Director of an international Children's Services Group, and studying to be an employment law solicitor. There is something of a 'full circle' in working for an organisation which seeks to better the lives of children across the globe.
I thought you might like to see the attached.
Yours sincerely

Greg Hartigan
(address supplied)



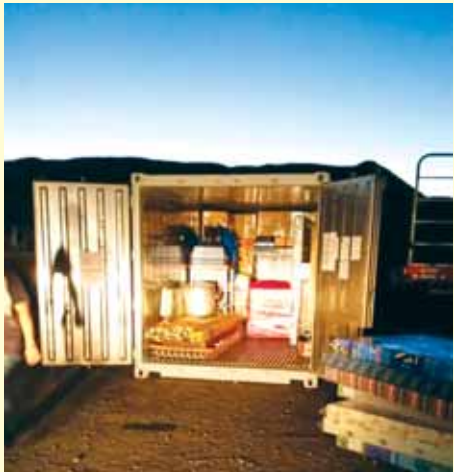
Thank you for the latest edition of CWL News (Spring 2016) where I was very pleased to see you had not remained anonymous! After all, as a voluntary church-based organization it is important not to lose sight of the fact that we are joined in a 'league of friendship' with our sister members, and organized religion is as much about building communities as about worship and obeying church rules – community building cannot be done anonymously. In the same context I find it very disappointing that the 'contact details' of national officers contains not one physical address. I speak as a former editor where not all the copy we received was sent electronically and it is important not to forget that a number of our more senior (and much valued) members are not computer literate and are only alienated by an innovation which appears to overlook their needs. Sad to say one of the Sections in our Branch closed recently largely because they felt 'out of the loop' as none of their members were on-line. If we are going to have a League newspaper let us make sure it is available to all our members as contributors as well as readers.
Yours sincerely

Gaby Allison, Alcester Section,
Birmingham Branch)
(address not supplied)

To all members of the Catholic Women's League,

I just wanted to give you a quick update on the progress of the village support and let you know that further information will be provided in a newsletter detailing where funding was allocated and summary of assistance provided. In further conversations with the school, Mr Jack Kivi confirmed that the school has accessed some funding to assist in the rebuilding process separately. Jack asked that the materials and funding be allocated towards the project of a health clinic for the village. This would involve using the shipping container as the structure and building around this. The school would still receive our desks and any building material we could assist in supplying. Over the previous 4 months, we have been able to send 20 chests with much needed immediate supplies such as tools, clothing and kitchenware. Last week I spent a few days packing a shipping container with the materials we had purchased as well as donations. Within this we were able to include 150 sheets of roofing iron, 45 lengths of timber as well as decking materials and A LOT of roofing screws. We also purchased a welder and





I have attached some photographs for you to see the steps we are taking in the recovery.
Kind regards,

Kelly



World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland

What a spiritual experience! What a privilege!
What an adventure! Where to begin?

To be part of the 80 strong East Anglia Pilgrimage was a spur of the moment decision. After very little thought Ann Jackson and I decided to apply for a place. No time to think yourselves out of this challenging opportunity. Christine Storman (one of the Leaders) made up the trio of CWL members which included me – President, East Anglia Branch.

Twelve amazing days in Poland on a pilgrimage of two halves - the first half was spent in Zakopane at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, a time of spiritual preparation and getting to know fellow pilgrims before travelling to the city of Krakow.

Representing all corners of the diocese the group included clergy, seminarians youth leaders and most importantly, young people.

In Zakopane we stayed in the Malenka Retreat House of the La Selette Order. The welcome, hospitality and spiritual atmosphere helped equip us for the second week. From day one it was evident walking was to be the main way of getting around with an occasional coach journey. With a local guide, from the University, we walked in the footsteps of Saint Pope John Paul II, who had frequented this area on numerous occasions. Shrines and churches visited included Krzeptowki (Our Lady of Fatima Church), Olcza (Miraculous Medallion Shrine), Bachledowka (Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa) and Saint Brother Albert Chmielowski Hermitage to name but a few. Mountain walks, a funicular railway and a chair lift ride gave us picturesque, panoramic views of the Tatra Mountains. This inspired silent and shared prayer along with hundreds of photographs! The fun and laughter kept everyone going in the sweltering heat. On Saturday evening we were guests at a traditional Polish barbecue with folk music. Our guide was one of the musicians and she shared some fascinating details about the customs and traditions in that area of Poland. Sunday, attired in our official WYD uniform of white tee-shirt or red hoodie, we attended Mass in the local



Baptismal Font of Saint Pope John Paul II

parish church. By this time we were beginning to feel very at home in Zakopane. It was time for the second part of our pilgrimage so with heartfelt thanks and fond farewells we boarded the coaches for the long journey to Krakow stopping at St Bernard's Monastery where the church had been given Minor Basilica status by Saint Pope John Paul II. Then on to Wadowice, the home town of Karl Wojtyla and the Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary where he attended Mass as a child.

Journeys end, a hotel on the southern edge of Krakow and in time for Mass with Bishop Alan Hopes, Monsignor Eugene Harkness and Father Pdraig Hawkins which was followed by supper. There was little time to adjust to the city environment. The streets were crowded and the trams were full to bursting point. The crush was unbelievable but the singing and fellowship was entertaining and exhilarating.

On day seven (26th July), the first of many walks into the city centre. The escalating

numbers of singing, dancing, chanting pilgrims of all nationalities created a loving, inclusive atmosphere and the universal greeting was a 'high five'. The second long walk of the day took us North West of the city to Blonia Park for the opening Mass celebrated in the traditional Latin rite by Cardinal Stanislaw Dzwisz. We were surrounded by over a million young people uninhibited and passionate about their faith. The intensity of worship within a vast crowd was balanced with time spent at daily mass and prayer as a group. This time included a very moving Reconciliation Service followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Bishop Alan and six priests in the La Selette Seminary.

The next three mornings were spent in the Tauron Arena for Mass and Catechesis. It was impossible to count the number of Cardinals, Bishops, Monsignors and priests on the stage for the Masses. There were several speakers including Cardinal Tagle from the Philippines who so inspired those present that standing ovations punctuated his speech.

Thursday 28th July the day came when we would see Pope Francis, even if it was only on a huge screen! We walked to Blonia Park for the Papal Welcome and Opening Ceremony which included music, song and dance from every continent. Tuned into radio we were able to listen to a translation of all the Masses and addresses, however we watched huge screens to see the action. We returned to the hotel on foot and became part of a human river filling the streets, waving to residents hanging out of windows and balconies.

Day ten and another exceptional experience, a visit to the John Paul Sanctuary and Divine Mercy Shrine where Bishop Alan, Monsignor Eugene, and three of the priests concelebrated Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Within the complex is the chapel of Saint Faustina. Some of us were fortunate enough to view an exhibition of a copy of the Turin Shroud and listen to a very moving informative talk delivered by a French Priest. Later as a group we sat on a grassy bank in the sun praying the rosary and sharing personal prayer intentions.

On Saturday 30th July we set out at 6am juggling two rucksacks containing sleeping bag, food, bottles of water and other essential items. We were on route to the Campus Misericordiae (Field of Mercy) North East of the city. After many hours walking in the blistering sun we arrived to stake a claim in a corner of our designated area. Some passed the time constructing an altar from wooden pallets on which Father Henry celebrated Mass for those in the vicinity before the Vigil. The Pope's arrival signified the start of the celebrations. He implored the young present to renounce the ways of the world, in particular the materialistic ways of living and instead carry a different type of truth in their hearts: one that is Christ centred. He also advised that they listen to the 'grandparents.' This places a great responsibility on the older Catholic generation, to live and pass on the faith. Yes, that is you and me.

As the sun set about two million candles were distributed and lit. Some pilgrims sat, some stood, others knelt and they all prayed. The natural light faded with a spectacular sun set and the flickering candle light illuminated the faces of the faithful. In every direction tiny embers created a carpet of devotion and total trust. A silence descended and The Holy Spirit certainly enveloped that vast 'place'. After a while many continued to pray whilst others listened and danced to the music of the concert that played until about 1 am. Some settled down to try and get a little sleep before the dawn and the final Mass not to mention the long, long walk back to the



Ann and Teresa at 6 am ready for the trek to the Campus Misericordiae

hotel. During the final Mass the Field of Mercy became an extension of the High Altar. A great number of priests carrying ciboria stood amongst the pilgrims concelebrating Mass. Approximately two million pilgrims received the Eucharist in a short space of time. As we walked back to the hotel a few of us were blessed with a sighting of Pope Francis in his distinctive 'Pope Mobile'.

Whilst out in the field and on the long treks, averaging eight to ten miles a day, every sense was challenged, stamina was tested and exposure to extreme elements endured. But the youthful dedicated spiritual fervour of thousands of enthusiastic voices chanting the name of Pope Francis and singing 'Jesus Christ you are my life' made any discomfort fade into insignificance. The final Mass for this weary band of pilgrims from East Anglia was celebrated in a tiny chapel at Katowice airport. A Mass of thanks giving for the personal and shared journey which encompassed spirituality, friendship, care and fellowship each one of us had experienced in our own unique way. I left home at 3am on 20th July and returned at 3am on the 2nd August. Has the experience changed me? The answer is a resounding, yes. I am challenged every day with thoughts and remembered experiences of my time in Poland. The Pilgrimage was amazing in every way and there were numerous moments that left me speechless and occasions that moved me to tears. It is always a privilege and very humbling to witness the sincere dedication and developing faith of young people. The youth from East Anglia and those representing every continent restored and strengthened my faith and belief in a positive vibrant universal church now and in the future.

Teresa Wiseman
East Anglia Branch President



Candle-lit Vigil at the Campus Misericordiae



Bishop Hopes celebrating Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Cross at the Divine Mercy Sanctuary



Statue of Jesus using the details imprinted on the Turin shroud

BRANCH NEWS

ARIUNDEL & BRIGHTON BRANCH

Bexhill Section

On the 4th July - a typically chilly, cloudy English evening - members of the Bexhill Catholic Women's League gathered on the seafront to support two of its members : Jac Young and her daughter Millie, aged 12, take part in a sponsored cycle ride from Bexhill Colonnades to Hastings Pier and back - just under 11 miles. With a cold buffet, Pimms and Rose wine to sustain them during the 1hr and 40 minutes duration of the ride, the ladies settled down to await the return of the two heroic cyclists. On their return, Jac said that the cheers from the assembled group was very uplifting. The marvellous sum of £460 was raised for Refuge : a charity who supports women and child victims of severe domestic violence. This was in addition to the 600 items of toiletries, towels and blankets the CWL ladies had collected and donated, in hand-made toiletry bags, to the local Women's Refuge. Our photo shows the group on Bexhill seafront before the cyclists set off on their journey.



Ready for the Ride

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Elizabeth McDonald presented an entry for the St Chad's Cathedral Annual Flower Festival in June this year. The theme was the Year of Mercy and this shows a door of Mercy and the Hail Holy Queen - Through Mary to Jesus.



Through Mary to Jesus

BRENTWOOD BRANCH

The Branch has had an eventful summer. Shortly before the National Pilgrimage they held their annual Assembly Day with guest



speakers from the Medaille Trust and from the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary to inform members of their work carried out in the Philippines which the Branch have supported.

This year members celebrated the Feast of Margaret Clitherow with a guided tour around Ingatestone Hall in Essex followed by Mass at the Parish of St John the Evangelist and St Erconwald. They were privileged that the celebrant Monsignor David Manson wore a vestment containing an original panel from St John Payne's vestment circa 16th century, and informed members of the history linking the church to Ingatestone Hall. For more information please see <http://www.ingatestoneparish.org/html/ingatestone1.html>. It is well worth a visit.

At their recent Branch meeting members celebrated their forthcoming 95th Anniversary - 6th October, a milestone which will also be reached by Chelmsford OLI Section later this year. The first President of Brentwood CWL when it was established in 1921 was Lady Audrey Petre a descendant of the Petre family of Ingatestone Hall!

CWL Housing which was founded by Brentwood CWL celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer with mass led by Bishop Alan, followed by a summer tea party enjoyed by all.

The Catholic Clothing Guild (CCG) in Brentwood Diocese continue to support those in need and this summer provided clothing and footwear to the St John Bosco summer camp and were invited to attend the 30th anniversary celebration mass for the girls camp.

CARDIFF BRANCH

Members from Briton Ferry, Cardiff and Swansea Sections attended the pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral on 16th July. All enjoyed the mass and the day. In August, Cardiff Section ladies attended an afternoon tea at Mansion House, Cardiff. This was followed by a very interesting guided tour of the house.



And a lovely cup of tea was had by all

SWINDON DIRECT SECTION

The Section took part in the Mary's Meals Backpack project again this year as well as supporting the local Women's Refuge who



Mary's Meals Backpacks

wanted new bedding so, in true CWL style, a cake sale was held to raise extra money. This coincided with Aldi having a special promotion on and the Section was able to buy lots of pillows and duvets for the Refuge.

The Section also has three new Zambian members who were delighted with the National Pilgrimage at Westminster.

DEVON BRANCH

A Talk on the project Feet First was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Plympton on 7th May arranged by CWL Devon Branch. The speakers were Mr Mannion (Orthopaedic surgeon from Blackpool) and Dr Clive Chenery (a Headmaster of a local school in Blackpool). Along with Members who attended came a family from the parish who had lived in Malawi for some years and who had been involved in education whilst in that country.

Both Speakers updated everyone on the work that they are carrying out in Malawi, operating on both children and adults with club foot. They have been carrying out this work for a number of years now and we in Devon Branch have supported them during this time. The Headmaster, Dr Clive Chenery, has visited Malawi on a number of occasions so he is well placed to explain to his pupils how things are very different there - no paper, no electricity, no pencils etc. The children are now supporting their peers in Malawi. Devon members were impressed to learn that Mr Mannion and Dr Chenery, along with their Team, go to Malawi to carry out their duties in their own time. The Talk was interesting and demonstrated how the work is progressing. Devon Branch were able to contribute £100 to help them continue with their excellent work.



Branch President, Joan Screech with Mr Mannion

All Saints Parish (South Devon) Section On Saturday 14th May this year, All Saints Parish Section Branched Out by inviting members from all other Devon Sections to a special day of celebration. The separate parishes of Dawlish, Teignmouth and Shaldon were brought together to form All Saints Parish. Teignmouth was the only one of the three parishes to still have a CWL Section (the others having closed), therefore in 2014 we changed our name to All Saints Parish (South Devon) Section. Our number continues to grow and thrive, currently with 45 members from all three church communities. To mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of Teignmouth Section in 1951 one of our members dismantled our original banner, re-proportioned it and created a new design for the reverse side - we now have a beautiful double-sided banner of which we are very proud! It was ready just in time for our "Branching Out!" Day, which began with Holy Mass, followed by lunch and



Branching out in Devon

a chance for everyone to look around the beautifully re-ordered Church of Our Lady & St Patrick. We displayed photographs and memorabilia, including minute books from those early years. What a great opportunity for us to get to know each other a little better - fellowship is our game, All Saints Parish is our name!

DORSET BRANCH

Members will remember Natalie Williams who addressed the CWL AGM in Torquay last year. She has commented on how the Committee spent the £500 received from the pre-Mass Collection - 'the £500 from the collections taken at the National AGM in Torquay was put towards the flooring for a marquee costing just over £1000, which we would never have contemplated without the donation from the AGM talk. We've had the marquee since 2010. Thank you all so much.'



Junior Camp say a big 'thank you'

Members of Bridport Section happily gave their services to prepare and manage the refreshments at the reopening of SS Mary & Catherine Church, Bridport. The church had been closed for several months whilst undergoing major refurbishment. In addition to the work carried out, Fr Richard Meyer blessed a newly installed bell. The bell, is a gift to the church and parish of Bridport from Father Richard, in memory of his late wife, Jan.



(L to R) Catherine Spellman, Jeannie Parry, Sheila Murphy and Mary Cattell

EAST ANGLIA BRANCH

During the summer, sections have taken part in a variety of activities, which have included, visits to Walsingham, places of interest, fish and chip supper, lunches, all the usual things.

Thorpe section took a very active part in a Flower, Art and Craft Exhibition as part of St. George's Catholic Church 50th anniversary.



Ann and Teresa at 6am ready for the trek to the Campus Miseriecordiae

Sections have donated items to the Women's Refuge, one section continues their support of a charity that supplies items for personal hygiene for women in Africa, another continue their support of the Far Eastern Prisoner of War Association. Branch held their Spiritual Day at the beginning of September. We began the day with the Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, then discussed what it means to be a catholic and women in the church. We enjoyed a shared lunch before four ladies shared their favourite parables with us, we then finished with ten favourite sayings from Saint Mother Teresa. We went home very uplifted.

Three of our ladies (including our Branch President) attended the World Youth Day in Poland.

HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE BRANCH

On 3rd September 2016 Hexham and Newcastle Branch members, family and friends were invited to take part in our now annual Prayer Walk. The theme of the walk was taken from our W.U.C.W.O. promise to help people who have been victims of human trafficking. So we walked together sharing our time, we said our prayers, and then we shared our food and finished the afternoon by making a donation to the Medaille Trust. The Medaille Trust is an organisation that provides safe housing, giving opportunities for physical and psychological healing to people rescued from the hands of human traffickers. One of the Stops on our Prayer Walk was by a bridge. We looked around and noticed people walking across the bridge and the rowing boats on the river. We then reflected on Bridges and thought how they allow us to cross rivers, seas and other obstacles and how a bridge can be something connecting or reconciling two different things or groups. For Reflection: What bridges should we try to build in our lives to reach out and be compassionate to other people and communities? Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking- O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bridge of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



On the Bridge in prayer

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH Driffild Section

The Section invited a member of staff from the Hull Women's Centre to speak at our July meeting and she was then presented with 26 items of women's & children's wear and bedding - all of which had been bought and selected with great affection and care. Many members also gave her private donations of money to support the work of



Fr David White, Branch Chaplain, cutting the celebratory cake

activities for 27 children (currently resident there) during the school holidays. All our members have appreciated being involved in this project and the recipients have been overjoyed to know that the CWL has singled them out for special attention. All members celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Branch -and the Church- with a wonderful lunch at St. Marys at Acomb. There were strawberry teas, talks by the Red Cross, cake stalls to raise funds for the SVP and afternoon tea to raise funds to build houses for Gurkha Veterans who lost their homes in the big Earthquake.



Member Joan Fenwick walked the Pennine Way (284 miles) she did it by herself and raised money for Zoe's Place Children's Hospice.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH Aylesbury Section

The Section was delighted to receive £6,000 from the Rose Crosby Fund to help the orphaned son and daughter of a parishioner. This will most definitely help them to complete their education at university.

We are represented at an Independent Advisory Group meeting held at Aylesbury Vale District Council when we are given an opportunity to publicise our work in our local parishes and community. Our Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended an evening with the Mayor when they were able to meet with members from other Organisations in the town. We were asked to take care of the refreshments at a Race Night run by the Knights of St Columba and received a £50 donation and also covered the refreshments at the Pastoral Fun Day. Six of us enjoyed the National Pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral and a Retreat Day and Pilgrimage organised by Branch to St Joseph's Church at Gerrards Cross which has the Holy Door for the south of the Northampton Diocese.

Afternoon teas have raised £130 for the Stroke Association, £170 for Women's Aid which purchased dressing gowns and bath towels and along with other donations from members amounted to 56 items. The Garden Party raised £510 which will be used to help our parishes, CWL and local charities and we could not achieve this



Members enjoying the Garden Party held by Aylesbury Section in July

without the continued support of parishioners.

Mary and Maurice Lyons celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and our Chairman (now Treasurer) celebrated her 60th birthday. Sadly we have lost Laetitia Dube and Mary Lyons who have moved away from Aylesbury but we welcome Angela Gavin as a very welcome new member.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

Portsmouth Branch hosted the Annual Joint Study Day with the Union of Catholic Mothers which saw a total of about 40 members gather together. In the morning Lynda Mussell, Community Participation Coordinator, gave a very moving power point presentation on the work of CAFOD in Refugee Camps in Syria, Lebanon and Greece. In Greece they work on the Island of Lesbos with Caritas International. We learned how families have fled their homes with few possessions and often they cannot afford to bring all the family. One mother had left two of her children behind. A father returned home to find his home destroyed and his wife dead. He then fled with his children. A photographer from Saatchi & Saatchi went to the Camps and took photos for the CAFOD website. Family groups often included empty chairs to remember those who could not come! Lynda also told us the story of the Lampedusa Cross. Replicas are on display in many cathedrals and churches in England and Wales. The original cross was made by the local carpenter on Lampedusa Island, Italy, following the sinking of a Refugee ship. The carpenter used wood from the shipwreck and gave a cross to each of the survivors. CAFOD have also produced cards whereby one can send a message to a Refugee offering support and prayers. The cards are obtainable from the CAFOD website and any cards sent will personally be distributed in the camps where CAFOD volunteers are working. Collections had been made in some Sections and at the Meeting and the Branch were delighted to give Lynda a cheque for £880.00 towards their wonderful work. After lunch Jane Dawson of the Relief & Refugee Team gave a talk on CWL's


history and day-to-day involvement with Refugees in England and Wales – it was a real eye-opener!



CWL and UCM Portsmouth Presidents with Lynda Mussell




Fleet Section, 'In Jesus' Steps' 'What an amazing miraculous fortnight was had in our Fleet Catholic Church of Our Lady in June inviting everyone of any faith to come and see. A very ambitious project by parishioners, also involving local schools and colleges helped transform our Church into the Holy Land entitled 'In Jesus Steps' using Art, Imagery, Music and Flowers. Events such as Prayer and Praise, Stations of the Cross, Night Adoration, a Papagena concert and Youth event as well as a schools choir evening, and a Churches Together service all added to the celebration. 92 Olive trees purchased and nurtured by parishioners all helped bring to life the places where Jesus' missions took place. All this took place to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church of Our Lady. The altar for Mass was the boat on the Sea of Galilee – how moving and the fishes were decorated with prayers written by a local year six class. Mosaics designed by the Sunday liturgy children encompassed all ages in the project. I loved the sheep in the fields which needed shelter from the rain. All in all an amazing, ambitious, but very successful project.' Genie

Branch News continued on
Page 8



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NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Saturday 16th July 2016



Your Eminence, Bishop Peter, Reverend Fathers, ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to thank Cardinal Nichols for being so kind as to celebrate this Anniversary Mass for us. We wanted to mark 110 years of CWL and this has been a wonderful way to achieve it. Thank you Bishop Peter, as always, for your guidance and support as our spiritual advisor and for the wonderful homily you have given us today. The CWL was formed in 1906 for the education of women and the League encourages its members to work both in the parish and in the wider community. This work has been carried out with selfless dedication and continues with the same faithfulness today. In this Year of Mercy it is appropriate to remember the many thousands of people we have helped over 110 years. This help can be seen practically through the work of our Relief and Refugee and Services Committees and in the thousands of pounds raised for charitable causes in our own Sections. The catechetical work of Our Lady's Catechists and the many hours of devoted work in our communities have been the hallmarks of CWL. All of this has made CWL the lifeblood of parishes throughout England and Wales. For that, as your National President, I

thank you most sincerely.

I would like to thank members also for all they have done to contribute to our National Project to support local Women's Refuges - approximate figures so far show 6,500 items and £2,300 cash have been donated by you in your Sections. It is a wonderful effort but it is not too late still to run an event or collection and report it to the National Secretary in time for the National AGM at the end of September.

As a token of our appreciation for being able to gather here in the mother church of England, we would like to give a donation to a local charity of Westminster Diocese. The Passage has for 30 years run London's largest voluntary sector day centre for homeless and vulnerable people, helping over 200 people every day to access diverse services, including primary services, housing and welfare advice, health services and employment and training services. I would like to ask Canon Tuckwell to accept a cheque for £1000 to aid the wonderful work of The Passage.

And now let us join in the League Prayer which seems most appropriate for today and for the many, many years to come. Thank you!

**Elizabeth
National President**

“

Dear National President,
Thanks to you and to everyone involved in the organisation of such a wonderful pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral. There were 9 of us from Kingswinford Section who enjoyed it immensely - so much so that I have just received flowers from them all for organising the travel arrangements! A wonderful Mass - we don't get enough of that sort of thing these days - the Cardinal being in very good form to say nothing of Bishop Peter. The cake and memento were lovely. Again, very many thanks from all in Kingswinford Section for such a wonderful day.

Bernie Townsend, Kingswinford Section

”

IMAGE



“

Dear National President,
Just to thank you and the National Executive for organising such a wonderful Pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral. It was a great privilege to attend Mass celebrated by Cardinal Vincent and with him, our own Bishop Peter. Their addresses were excellent and I thought Bishop Peter's sermon was particularly wise and pertinent.

We were delighted with our gifts of a special cake and water and the lovely pin we can always wear to remind us of the day.

Weybridge Section organised a parish raffle a few years ago for The Passage so we were so pleased that the CWL has donated £1000 to it. We also support The Cardinal Hume Centre.

Six members were able to make the journey to London but, unfortunately, it was too much for those other members who are in their 80's and 90's and not very mobile.

Again, thank you very much for a great day and for how you have served us during your years as National President.

With very best wishes,
Jean Clapham,
Weybridge Section

”

BRANCH NEWS

Branch News continued from Page 5



In Jesus' Steps

Jersey East Section held a Summer Party in aid of Women for Women International following a request from their Chaplain Deacon, Tony Ward. The Charity supports women in war torn countries and areas of conflict, helping marginalised women to rebuild their lives, learn to read and write, participate in business and vocational skills to change their lives and that of their families. Their Patron is Dame Helen Mirren OBE. The Section held an afternoon tea party in August for 90 people. Deacon Tony offered to match-fund us up to £1000. Well, the Section raised £2065 and with Tony's £1000 the total raised was a staggering £3065! The raffle had some generous prizes like a Fruit de Mer, Afternoon Tea for 2 and a 3 Course meal for 2 at a local hotel! It was an amazing experience – people were so generous and really took the Charity to their hearts! The CWL helpers were augmented by several parishioners and all the sandwiches, scones and cakes were donated. One of our younger parishioners serenaded our guest on his violin! Sadly, due to the weather we had to move into the Church Hall instead of using a member's beautiful garden. But it did not dampen people's spirits! It was a wonderful afternoon.



Jersey East members

SOUTHWARK BRANCH Roehampton Section



Celebratory Cake

At the July meeting 50 years were celebrated since Fr Simes became Parish Priest at St Joseph's Church and announced, "I can't run a parish without either a CWL or a UCM – you decide". Immediately 50 women created CWL Roehampton Section. The decision may have been influenced by the number of unmarried ladies – a sad legacy of two World Wars.

Now the Section is only 14, but growing, with the support of many parishioners who help us in our big events – the fund-raising Richmond May Fair and Christmas Bazaar, and the Senior's Lunch (originally "Housebound Lunch", but in these days of Community Transport to Lunch Clubs a misnomer). Many of these helpers, as their other activities allowed, were invited to the celebrations as a "Thankyou" for their support. Pat Stokes was the Guest of Honour, being the only original member still in the parish. Marie Potter and Aline Cook represented Branch Officers and parish Priest, Fr David Gummatt, kindly provided champagne and joined in the festivities. The food was exotic, reflecting the international membership from the Philippines, Goa and African countries. The joy of the occasion bodes well for the future.



CWL members and their helpers

WESTMINSTER BRANCH Welwyn Garden City Section



Fr Norbert and Pat Kennedy

This delightful picture was taken at the Welwyn Garden City celebration for the Queen and also St. Georges Day. Pat made two beautiful cakes for the event. Also, Pat has been the main collector of clothes and toiletries for the CWL Charity this year for Women's Refuge. She has collected over 1,400 and has made sure the items are

washed, ironed and delivered herself so she has done a wonderful job and we wish to thank her from the CWL colleagues.

Watford Section
As Watford Section do not have an August meeting, we have a 'Summer Outing' instead. Although we happened to choose one of the wettest days of the summer, some members had a great time at Kenwood House, Hampstead. The beautiful house, now owned by English Heritage, has a spectacular art collection. We were truly made to feel welcome by all the guides who were full of information as we moved from room to room. Although we couldn't really enjoy the splendid gardens, we did manage to enjoy the fresh air by sheltering under the umbrellas of the cafe tables for our lunch, even though some of us got rather damp backs from the drips! Must add that free entrance was an added attraction!



Watford Section at Kenwood House

Cockfosters Section
The Ladies are quite adept when it comes to catering. Not only do they cater for Parish Functions, including funerals etc. they also cover catering for Marriage Care Sessions which are held in the church buildings, most months of the year. Here are some photographs of a recent Marriage Care Buffet Lunch, together with some of the Section Ladies who are involved with catering.



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MARCH 1st

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CWL at Work, in Loyalty and with Charity

Our Lady’s Catechists, CWL Special Committee



The work of Our Lady’s Catechists has continued steadily throughout the summer. Our catechists work tirelessly in many parishes helping to run catechesis programmes and our tutors continue to work with their students who are studying our courses. During the next few months, we will be looking to update and improve if necessary our publicity to take advantage of modern technology. Our weekend Conference and AGM for 2017 will be held from 21st to 23rd April, at Kings Park Conference Centre in Northampton. Our guest speaker will be Kathryn Turner who will share with us her thoughts on how we can help others to pray, which will be our theme for next year. This theme has particular relevance for the future when we are all likely to be affected by a shortage of priests and the need for lay people to step into new roles. The cost for the weekend will be £143.50 which includes all meals. All rooms are ensuite. It would be lovely if we could welcome more CWL members to the weekend which offers a great mix of friendly socialising, uplifting liturgy, and inspiring talks. Lastly, may I ask that you remember all of our students and tutors in your prayers, by reciting the Our Lady’s Catechists Prayer? Could I ask you especially to pray for Marie Francis and Marie Rowlands, both tutors and former Chairmen of Our Lady’s Catechists, who are suffering from ill health at this time? Thank you Elizabeth Dixon, OLC Chairman Our Lady’s Catechists Prayer O Mary, Seat of Wisdom. Watch over your catechists and help them to teach those entrusted to their care that together they may advance in the knowledge and love of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

For more information regarding the OLC Conference, please contact the Secretary, Sue Andrews. Email: suem.andrews@hotmail.co.uk Tel:01543 578542 Visit our website at: ourladyscatechists.wordpress.com

The National Secretary inadvertently omitted the OLC Report from the AGM Booklet for which she sincerely apologises. The Report submitted by Elizabeth is printed here – Following last year’s CWL conference in Torquay, we had our Autumn Study day in the picturesque city of York, where our patron, St Margaret Clitherow lived and was martyred. Our guest speaker was Fr. Kevin Melody who enlightened us on the life of St Teresa of Avila, as this was the 500 Anniversary of her birth. Everyone present enjoyed the day of learning, prayer, discussion and socialising. Then in March Pam Comerford our Foundation Course Registrar began her adventure, to walk the Camino Trail. Pam had waited nine years to do this walk. Not only did Pam complete the pilgrimage, but while walking she encountered the full array of continental weather, sometimes all in one day (her picture in Notes and News shows Pam walking in the snow). However, she did admit that it had given her much more than she could have expected or anticipated and she was very grateful to those who had sponsored the event for OLC. Our Conference and AGM in April took the theme of the family and we were delighted to have Bishop Peter Doyle recall his experiences in Rome with Cardinal Vincent Nichols whilst at the’ Synod of Bishops at

Rome’, speaking as Bishop for Marriage and Family. We were also privileged to have Canon Michael Cooley giving us his reflections on Family Life in his Parish – ‘Family Focused Approach’. Father John Minh (Prison Chaplain) spoke to us on the ‘Family Matters to Prisoners’ and of course no OLC conference would be complete without the input of the OLC Spiritual Director Father Harry Curtis. He informed us of the revised ‘Rite of the Order of Holy Matrimony’ and ‘A new Rite of the Order of Confirmation’ as well as helping us to explore the Year of Mercy. It was a very informative and inspirational meeting. If you are interested in attending the Conference and AGM (21st-23rd April 2017 King’s Park Northampton), you will be made very welcome. Please contact the OLC Secretary Mrs Sue Andrews. Before I leave the report on the AGM I would like to convey my grateful thanks to Miss Beryl Wakefield for all the work that she has done and continues to do in the name of the Our Lady’s Catechists. Beryl is an inspiration to us all, not only by leading the Executive over the last four years but also for all the effort that she has put in bringing the children’s books and CD’s up to date. I would also like to thank all the members of the Executive - Father Harry Curtis, Miss Catherine McDonald (CWL Representative), tutors, students, Diocesan Representatives and supporters of OLC for their time and financial support that they have given. I hope that with your prayers and continuing loyal support, Our Lady’s Catechists will continue to flourish spreading the Christian message and helping those seeking to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith.



Elizabeth Dixon, Chairman OLC

Services, CWL Special Committee

Rebuilding the Home of Mrs Nandakali Khatri, Widow of Rifleman Hikmat Bahadur Khatri Ex-2/3 Gurkha Rifles Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League Services Committee The late Rifleman Hikmat Bahadur Khatri ex 2/3rd Gurkha Rifles joined the British Indian Gurkhas during the height of WWII and was demobilised in December 1945. He is believed to have fought in the last battles of Tobruk in North Africa. He was granted a Welfare Pension in February 1993 but sadly died the following year at the age of 73. His Welfare Pension was later transferred to his surviving 2nd widow Mrs Nanada Kali Khatri. She has a son and daughter who look after her and, in return, she helps with their household expenses with her Welfare Pension. Following the earthquake in April 2015, our staff from Area Welfare Centre Kaski immediately visited and surveyed her home. It was found that the two storey mud and stone built house in which they were living was severely damaged with major structural cracks. The house was uninhabitable so she was issued with some CGI sheets to build a temporary shelter. As soon as the GWT approved the funding, her house was demolished and the rebuild project for two rooms started under the

close supervision of AWC Kaski. Three generations of her family now live happily in this newly built earthquake resistant house sponsored by the Catholic Women's League Services Committee and built by GWS. Mrs Khatri and her family greatly appreciate our assistance.



Relief & Refugee

Pope Francis asks us to Clothe the Naked as a Corporal Work of Mercy. To be charitable but remember in giving it is important to maintain a person’s sense of dignity. No one should be made to feel like a charity case. A Nigerian author informed a recent UN conference on the Global Refugee Crisis that her parents were displaced and were refugees from the Nigeria/Biafra war for 3 years. She reminded delegates that Sub-Saharan Africa is home to more than a quarter of the world’s refugee population, over 18 million people, fleeing conflict in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Somalia. Conflict has continued for years. Having looked at the country of origin of those refugees who have been helped by the R & R Team the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to be ‘top of the list’. 43 applications compared with 36 from Nigeria and 23 from Eritrea. Some of our applicants, women, men and children, have been trafficked to work as servants or work in the sex industry and were not registered as asylum seekers until

escaping or being rescued. Agencies are aware of their need for registration to avoid detention and subsequent deportation. All children under the age of 18 years old are legally cared for by Social Services. On reaching their 18th birthday, all benefits, including accommodation are withdrawn. However, the government has recognised that they need to support vulnerable young people until the age of 21. Lone children, whether separated from their families during the arduous journey to the UK, or given to people traffickers by their parents, to give their child a better life, require special care due to the trauma they have suffered. Refugee Week, held in June, is a UK nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, to help foster understanding between communities. Greenwich Migrant Hub celebrated Refugee Week by looking at refugee poetry. Other centres around the country have held cookery demonstrations and exhibited visitor skills in woodwork, art and gardening. Projects, such as gardening, show the valuable work experienced by both men and women. The projects give a sense of community, achievement, dignity and well-being to all those who have taken part and the produce is eaten by everyone attending the centres. During July and August we have seen a rise in applications for help with school uniform, necessary to enable the children to ‘fit in’ at school. Grants have been awarded towards shoes and some clothing, whilst the Catholic Clothing Guild, Brentwood and Southwark, have generously always accepted our referrals for uniform and other clothing. We are very grateful to their members. The Guild needs to increase membership to continue its vital support for families, enabling the Relief and Refugee Team to continue awarding grants to asylum seekers and refugees on your behalf.

Jane Dawson, Relief and Refugee Team



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CWL News

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Deceased members of the League are remembered in our prayers at the Mass of the AGM

Birmingham
Margaret Lewis
Molly Mulrey
Joan Smith
Katie Jordan
Tess Yarnold
Cath Citching
Bridget Neild
Margaret O'Gara
Sylvia Eden
Eileen Rhodes
Sheila Betteridge
Mae Millar
Jo Gaborel

Brentwood
Pat Greene
Joyce Jones
Josie Heanue
Nancy Allen
Mary Lynch
Margaret Moss

Cardiff
Julia James

Clifton
Cathie Mair
Kate Doyle
Doreen Grisbrooke
Margaret Thomas
Cornwall
Zza Zza Eames

Devon
Betty Johnson
Jean Tonkin
Lorena Franks
Margaret Davis
Eylse Forty
Mary Barrett

Barbara Roberts
Grace Tonkin
Maureen Leach
Bridget Grant-Watson

Dorset
Maureen Trim

East Anglia
Marigold Quihampton
Maureen Harding
Freda Fitzgerald
Lena Sturman
Helen Gorham

Hexham & Newcastle
Cathie Martin
Kathleen Dowd
Marjorie Hill
Katherine Heath
Rose Liverdic
Connie Barclay

Lancaster
Ellen McKeever
Anne Baines
BridieMacintosh
Philippa Thomasen
Sheila Brown
Molly Hartley

Middlesbrough
Cecilia Igoe
Teresa Hume
Margaret White
Joan Williams

Northampton
Margaret Potter
Marilyn Klieran

Nottingham
Mary Aspill
Mary Howell

Portsmouth
Joyce Struckman
Jan Coakley
Kay Fagan
Doreen Dunn
Deirdre Hooker
Maura Elmer
Joan Hayward

Salford
Ameila Buckley
Margaret Kershaw

Shrewsbury
Elisabeth Moseley
Frances Murphy
Maureen Bodell
Pauline Slater
Bea Massey
Pat O'Connor

Southwark
May Gogarty
Domenica Lewis
Cathy Dewberry
Ginetta Gazzi
Jenny Holder
Alice Barradell

Westminster
Vera Rigney
Joan Mackie
Severine Tevari
Maria Nightingale
Jill Harris

† Requiescant in Pacem †
2016

We pray for all deceased members of the Catholic Women's
League. We remember those members who have died from
Region 1: Hexham and Newcastle, Leeds and Middlesbrough
Branches. We pray they share the eternal glory of the
risen Christ.

We remember those members who have died from Region 2, in
Lancaster and Salford Branches. Lord, lead them safely home to
heaven to be with you for ever.

We remember those members who have died from Region 3:
Birmingham, Nottingham and Shrewsbury Branches. May they
be bathed in eternal light.

We remember those members who have died from Region 4, in

Cornwall, Devon and Dorset Branches. We pray that they receive
the peace of your eternal home.

We remember those members who have died from Region 5:
Brentwood, East Anglia, Northampton and Westminster
Branches. May they rejoice with the Saints, having given much of
their life of service on earth to the League.

We remember those members who have died from Region 6, in
Arundel and Brighton, Portsmouth and Southwark Branches.
That they share in the Resurrection of Jesus.

We remember those members who have died from Region 7 in
Cardiff and Clifton Branches. We pray they rejoice with the
Saints in glory.

18250
items

The National President's Project for
2016 was to support local Women's
Refuges. The results were
astounding so a huge
'thankyou' to everyone. In
all, approximately 18250
staggeringly diverse
items were donated to
Refuges up and down the
country as well as
approximately £4850 to
Refuges who specifically
requested cash.

£4850

Buckfast Abbey, School of the Annunciation



Patricia Lockeridge leading the Procession at Buckfast in 2015



Devon Branch Officers with their Banner at Buckfast 2016


Buckfast is a Centre for the New Evangelisation, offering distance-learning in the Catholic Faith. It also acts as a venue for Region 4's Pilgrimage in May, always a wonderfully uplifting spiritual occasion for CWL members.

Lockeridge leading the Procession at Buckfast in 2015 In his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis reminded us of the importance of the work of evangelisation, telling us that "evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face, even in countries of ancient Christian tradition. All of them have a right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone." The Pope recognises the importance of the New Evangelisation – the re-evangelisation of those parts of the world which were once Christian, but have lost the Christian faith. The School of the Annunciation (SotA) has been founded to equip ordinary Catholics to reach out and joyfully share the fullness of the Catholic Faith, as Pope Francis asks us to do. SotA has been recognised as a Catholic Institute of Higher Education by the Bishop of Plymouth. We are based at Buckfast Abbey in Devon. Most of our programmes are taught online, with residential

weekends at Buckfast Abbey. Like the Catholic women's League we aim to offer the opportunity to develop and learn new skills, enabling Catholics to fulfil their mission of service to one another, to their parish and to the church. Our courses include the 18 month Foundations in the Faith for the New Evangelisation; our two year Diploma in the New Evangelisation (taught at the level of the first year of an undergraduate degree); and a variety of one year courses in philosophy, art and the New Media. In addition, a MA in Catechetics and Evangelisation is offered in association with Franciscan University of Steubenville in the United States. We hope to offer a BA course in the New Evangelisation, and discussions are advancing with a number of Catholic universities in Britain and overseas.


The School is just beginning, but we are very excited about the future: we invite you to join us. As Pope Francis said in *Evangelii Gaudium*, Catholics "should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet." That is the New Evangelisation – the mission of the School of the Annunciation, and the mission of all Catholics.




More details can be found on the School's website, www.schooloftheannunciation.com



The Catholic Women's League of England and Wales

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Clothing charity
for the needy

Brentwood
President

Kathleen Hurley

TheCCGuild@
hotmail.com

Founded in 1924.

AGM held annually in May at Brentwood
Cathedral hall.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESE

Hello, my name's Kathleen and I'm the current President of the Brentwood Diocese Catholic Clothing Guild. I've been involved with the charity for many years, and am



hoping to expand membership. This photo was taken at our 90th celebration of the Brentwood branch in 2014. My aim is to double our membership by the 100th anniversary. If you would like to become a member, it takes up very little time and only costs £2 per annum membership plus donation of two new garments. We currently have approximately 260 members across 19 parish groups. They collect new clothes once a year, which are displayed at our AGM in May. Established charities are invited to attend to collect suitable items. Donations are for newborns, children, adults and the elderly. Various charities have been helped, including Spitalfields Trust, Homeless Men in London, Women's Refuge, St. John's Bosco Summer Camps, hospices and premature baby units.



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TESCO Tesco is the only supermarket selling the calendar, but only in their larger stores.

See website for details of stockists:
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