

# Community of the Holy Name Newsletter 2024



## Inside

Open Gardens

The Crown of Thorns

ARC Zoom Conference

RIP ~ Sister Rosemary CHN

RIP ~ Sister Barbara CHN



Welcome to CHN's 3<sup>rd</sup> magazine from Hessle.

It's hard to believe we have now lived here for over 3 years - we know our way round and we are meeting and welcoming new visitors (both residential and 'droppers-in') and going to new places.

The Lodge (our residential guest accommodation) is very much appreciated by all who come to stay :

*Thank you and thank everyone for the lovely time we had staying those few days in the Lodge. It was comfortable and pleasant and there was such a sense of peace there. You could tell that people had been praying and reflecting there. It was almost as if the prayer had soaked into the walls!*

*I felt very refreshed after visiting the lodge. I benefited so much from the rhythm of prayer in the chapel, the quietness of my own room to reflect listen and pray or just be still. The peace is overwhelming. The garden is most delightful too. I enjoyed sharing tasty meals with the sisters. The whole atmosphere is peace. I hope to explore the area more on my next visit.*

Please come and see for yourself! See our website for more information. [www.comholyname.org](http://www.comholyname.org)

There are now just 10 of us living at Quarry Bank - last July Sister Barbara moved to Emmanuel House and died there in October. Sister Lisbeth moved into Bluebell Care Home in August. Sister Liliás is still very mobile on her 4 wheels at Emmanuel House (although she is now the only sister there) and joins in their activities and exercises her pastoral ministry among other residents and the staff. Sister Carol continues her 'solitary life' in the South West and visited us for a couple of weeks after Easter following her time at Southwell Minster in Holy Week. Sister Rosemary died in August, having been admitted to hospital from Emmanuel House as an emergency. We miss Rosemary and Barbara very much and give thanks for them and their varied ministries within and beyond our community.

Five of us go out to one of the local churches on Sunday morning - All Saints Hessle, Hull Minster, St Albans, St Nicholas and St John the Baptist Newington and we are involved with some of their activities and ministries,



**Visitors from Mirfield**

Bishop Humphrey Southern, our Bishop Visitor came for a few days last July and again in December. It is always good to welcome him and to hear about the latest developments in the training of clergy from the perspective of Cuddesdon Theological College.

Several brothers from the Community of the Resurrection visited us for a day during their Chapter in July - it was a lovely summer day and we shared a picnic lunch, then Sister Catherine led an expedition to the Foreshore where they

partook of ice-creams. We paid a return visit to Mirfield after Easter and joined in worship on the (transferred) Feast of the Annunciation with wonderful singing and lots of incense. This was followed by a splendid festive meal and a relaxing afternoon of catching up and making new friends.

We have had mini-bus outings to Bridlington and to Selby Abbey - where our sight-seeing was somewhat curtailed as we coincided with a wedding blessing and the photography that followed. We took refuge in the coffee shop and sat in the sunshine in the market square. We need to visit again to admire the architecture!

Catherine attended the Greenbelt Festival and again came back very enthused. Catherine and Monica attended a Monastic Taster Day in Sheffield and engaged with a few women who were looking at the religious life. In October Diana attended the Leaders' Conference at Mirfield and Julie was at the Bursars' Conference at Swanwick - both enjoyed the official input and the networking with other leaders/bursars. Julie is just back from a day for members of religious communities at Lambeth Palace, hosted by Archbishop Justin and the Chemin Neuf and St Anselm's communities. This was a good and happy event with the opportunity to catch up with members of other communities and to reflect and pray and share food together.

Over the past year Edith Margaret and Diana celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays and Monica and Carol the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their profession. Our Sister Hilda Tsepiso died in Lesotho and her funeral was a big occasion.

The West Hesse Open Gardens was in May - a gloriously hot summer's day and we were very busy 'on the gate' and welcoming people. It raised over £12,000 for Dove Hospice and other local charities so everyone was very pleased.

We have had visits from Fr George CR (our spiritual adviser) and from Simon Cocksedge our 'new' facilitator who has helped us look at where we have come from, where we are now and what the future might hold.

We have also welcomed Fr Joseph who is the warden of our sisters in Lesotho. He was in the UK as he is also the CEO of the Durham/Lesotho Link, a charity which sets out to develop rehabilitation, health and educational programmes in Lesotho and to foster closer spiritual links between the Anglican church in Lesotho and in Durham. He brought news and greetings from CHN in Lesotho.

We had invited Emma Hardy (who was our local MP until the general Election was announced) to come and meet us and tell us about what goes on in the Houses of Parliament and share concerns with us. By the time of her visit she was our Labour party candidate for the election. We are delighted that she is now our MP again and wish her well in Government.

We have also made the acquaintance of Zeke (Ezekiel) who accompanied Rev Wendy Bradley to a Friday Eucharist. Zeke is Wendy's puppet friend and he assists her at baptisms, family services and school assemblies. We had heard about him and wanted to meet him so he came along and with his help we learned all about St. Alphege (whose feast day it was).



***Revd Wendy and Zeke***

After presiding at the Eucharist Revd David Truby stayed on one Wednesday as he had asked if we would be 'guinea pigs' for a presentation he was giving to a local Mothers' Union on the work of Missions to Seafarers and his involvement with them as a volunteer. We all found it very stimulating and informative and it gave us a lot to think and pray about.

A full and varied year indeed - Thanks be to God.

**Provincial Sister Diana CHN**

## Community Contact Details

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One of the favourite things the community does in Hessle is take part in the Open Gardens which happens every year during May. It is a wonderful local event that involves a lot of organisation and effort but is well worth the time spent on it. A local group of residents organise it and it has been running for 30 years with only the pandemic interrupting its run. This year the sun shone down all day and it was a great event, with lots of people visiting and admiring the gardens – one couple we spoke with had travelled all the way from Halifax and another couple from Bridlington.

It's a charitable event so a £5 fee per adult was charged that gave access to all the 22 gardens that opened their gates. Because some of the gardens were a fair distance from one another a free minibus offered lifts all day to the various areas where there were gardens.

As well as admiring all the beautiful gardens many offered other things. One garden was selling masses of plants, in another books were on offer or pottery, free seeds were available from the people at Dove House Hospice and in a garden just down from us a ride-on miniature railway offered children a ride around the large garden, while others held a treasure

trail around their gardens. For those who were peckish or thirsty there were lots of lovely things to eat and drink such as cream teas, ice cream, a barbecue, or bacon and eggs.

One of my favourite gardens to visit offers, for a donation, a taste of home brewed ales and beers. A local enthusiast creates lots of different beers and then offers a third of a pint 'taste'. Everything from a lovely pale ale to a dark stout. Delicious!

It is also a chance to discover new plants – my favourite this year was 'honey garlic' also known as Mediterranean bells, which is a form of allium. The garden's owner very kindly offered to provide us with some seeds when hers produce seeds.

We opened our garden to visitors and it was great fun to talk with people about gardens and also to tell them about ourselves for people are very curious. We are fortunate to be able to offer one of the few gardens that is more disability friendly than most with a tarmac path running all around the house and we were also able to offer a disabled toilet to any who need it – this is very gratefully received!

I love to go and walk around the different gardens, seeing people's imaginations and different styles. Some are very 'Chelsea Gardens Show' others more comfortable and homely, the type of garden you could sit in for hours. No two are the same and God's abundance and joy in his creation is evident in every flower, leaf, bush and tree. Gardens and green places bring people together and all the conversations happening all over the place is a wonderful thing to see, with a marvellous sense of community.

The entry fee and any other monies raised this year went to Dove House Hospice, Hessle Scouts, Hessle Community Centre, Fire Service Welfare Fund, Hedgehog Hospital, Hessle and Anlaby Foodbank, FIND3, Let's Play Toddler Group, Rooted in Hull and Tranby Gates Wild Flowers. Altogether the day raised £12, 260!

*Sister Catherine CHN*



## **Revd Sister Rosemary CHN**

**Born - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1944**

**Professed – 28<sup>th</sup> September 1979**

**Died - 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023**

Rosemary was incredibly talented and used her many gifts to serve God and the church. She was born in Coventry in 1944. Her parents were strict Baptists and were politically and socially motivated – a great love of hymns and a concern for justice and for a fair world were passed on to Rosemary and remained with her throughout her life.



Rosemary was an only child who loved to read and read and read. She once said that she could read before she could walk – she always had her nose in a book and there’s no doubt that she preferred reading to walking or any physical activity – neither sport nor exercise was ever on her agenda. In later life she was diagnosed with dyspraxia.

Rosemary did well at school academically and musically. Her musical competence (piano, oboe and recorder) stood her in good stead after she joined the Community and she served as choir mistress for some years and composed many hymns and hymn tunes.

Rosemary went on from Barr’s Hill School in Coventry to read Classics at Newnham College Cambridge. She graduated with a BA in 1966 followed by PCGE teaching qualification and an MA in 1970. During her Cambridge days Rosemary began attending the very high Little St Mary’s and so moved ‘right up the candle’ from her Baptist roots. We assume she was confirmed at that time.

Rosemary went on to teach Classics for a few years before arriving at the Convent of the Holy Name (then in Malvern Link) to test her vocation. She was professed as a sister 1979 and spent time in branch houses in Newcastle and Basingstoke.

After CHN moved to Derby in 1990 Rosemary was invited by various dioceses and colleges to help with tutoring – Bishop’s certificate, New Testament Greek, Reader training, study days – this is where she really did flourish and was always an excellent teacher. She led retreats and gave spiritual direction. She loved study and theological debate and was way ahead of her time – embracing feminist theology and championing the LGBT cause (she welcomed Changing Attitude groups to the convent) long before they became mainstream in the church.

Rosemary trained for ordination at Westcott House. She was ordained in 1998 and was curate at St Osmond’s Derby with Donald McDonald as her training incumbent. They talked long into the night in deep theological discussion. Rosemary then moved to Nottingham, and helped at St Peter’s in Radford. On returning to the convent in Derby she was licensed to the rural parishes of Morley and Smalley. She was an enthusiastic member of the Bach Choir in Derby.

Rosemary was once a contestant on the BBC quiz ‘Brain of Britain’ - but she didn’t win. She had contemplated applying to go on Mastermind but decided the cost of the books she would have needed to buy to research her specialist subjects did not sit happily with her vow of poverty!

Unlike most of us, Rosemary just loved meetings. She represented religious communities on the General Synod for several years – her photograph frequently appeared in the Church Times after a synod meeting – though she would never have claimed to be photogenic.

Rosemary was a prolific writer - poetry, hymns, Church Times Diary, songs to celebrate significant birthdays and anniversaries. Her last piece of ‘creative writing’ was for last summer’s CHN magazine when she wrote about a visit from ‘Furry Friends’ to Emmanuel House - she appeared very briefly on ‘Look North’ in her wheelchair leading a Shetland pony down the corridor. She had an apt word for every occasion.



Rosemary struggled with our move from Derby to Hessle in June 2021 and after a few months she moved into Emmanuel House Care Home to join Sisters Lillas and Vivienne Joy who were already residents there. She had been unwell for several days before she had to be admitted to hospital as an emergency.

We were called to meet the consultant who told us she was gravely ill and did not have long to live. Monica and I sat by her bedside, talked to her and prayed with her and watched as the pain-killing injection began its calming process. Rosemary slowly seemed to relax – her groaning ceased, her breathing eased and she lay still for a few moments – or minutes. Then she let out a huge sigh – was it relief? – or joy? – or recognition? And her breathing stopped. She was at peace. It was such a privilege to be there – God had called her back to himself and we could only rejoice with her, commend her to his safe-keeping and give thanks for her life that had enriched so many others.

A friend from Derby summed it all up - *There she was, off to General Synod with a case crammed full of papers, thorough, a bit pedantic, courageous, courteous... on the side of the angels... how we need her today. As she prayed in life so she will pray for us now.*

Sister Diana CHN

## Anglican Religious Communities (ARC) Zoom Conference



On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Sisters Diana and Julie attended the ARC Zoom Conference entitled, 'Making All Things New'.

The speaker was the Revd. Richard Carter, priest of St Martin in the Fields, London and leader of its Nazareth Community. We listened to John 1: 35 – end, which describes Jesus calling his first disciples and Richard began his first talk by posing the following questions:

What do you seek? and 'What are you looking for?' He suggested that the answer to the first question may be, 'the path with the heart of Jesus' and the second, 'to offer centredness to the world.'

He followed these up with, 'what are you looking for? what do you long for? how can we return to Christ, come and see, and stay with Jesus and encourage others to do the same? How can we offer a sense of home, pitch our tent on the site of the transfiguration, belong to God and have intimate contact with him?

The community rhythm of life has become our rhythm – community holds us, forms us, and gives us the discipline we need.

We are called to the silence of the whole community praying together, the stillness and attendance, mysterious loving.

Community is with us and beyond us. The presence and wonder the religious life should never lose – love God, love the wonder of the world in which we live.

Richard then spoke about the Nazareth Community, which now has 260 members inspired by the Religious Life's emphasis on prayer and centredness. It has 7 simple promises all beginning with the letter S:

**Silence** in which to clear away distractions and return to Christ and his message.

**Service** in giving and receiving, and in encounter with those in need.

**Scripture** – a dramatic script for action, we humbly allow scripture to speak to us through others and through the experiences of our own lives.

**Sacrament** – the whole world is a sacramental encounter; everything is a gift from God. The importance of sharing food and socialising – we too are sacramental.

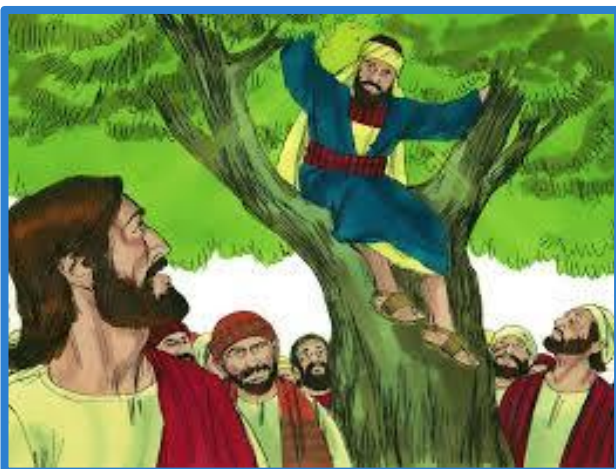
**Sharing** - to be generous: not to become defensive and in control, but to let people in.

**Sabbath** - time to praise, bless, and glorify God: to find a place of rest, love and thanksgiving, being fulfilled in God.

**Staying with** each other in steadfast love: to establish stability and peace.

Bishop Philip North from the Advisory Council for Religious Communities gave thanks for the Religious Life in the Church and reminded us that it was not up to us to do the renewing of it, but to trust God to do it, in his own time and in his own way. He perceived that decline in numbers was not the problem, but rather that anxiety: our worries about numbers of members and care of buildings, undermines our joy in the saving work of Jesus. He affirmed that our consecration matters, that when we shake off our anxiety, renewal happens.

Time was given after each talk for break out groups to meet and share their thoughts and speak about the experience of their own communities.



The afternoon talk began with the Gospel passage telling the story of Zacchaeus.

Richard then spoke about community being a guest house and each person is a visitor bringing their hope, love, joy, laughter and fears. In danger of being overwhelmed, we learn how to stay true and manage our resentments, loneliness etc. In the silence are whispered our deepest fears: that we are not worthy of the life to which we are called.

Zacchaeus despises himself – his inner shame is reflected in his body. He is not able to see Jesus, but wants to be exposed to him, to be whole. Hope is longing for his healing, hope beyond all that has imprisoned him. The tree is his way of seeing and his way of hiding. Jesus sees all of him. 'I must stay at your house today.' Imagine these words expressed to us, our house, our community. Jesus visits the ordinary places of our lives: our failures, our overwhelmings, our places of shame, with gentleness, with love and honour. He sees our



eternal woundedness and in it our resurrection. He knows our struggle, our resentment etc. 'You are my Beloved. Receive light and energy, the Spirit of Christ, Love. We do not need to protect and defend our space, but to share the boundless gift of God's love.'

He left us with a list of practices, all beginning with the letter B.

**Breathe** in, hold it, breathe out

**Bodily** – respect the rhythm of our bodies, maintain an open posture, we are beautiful, not shameful.

**Behold** – reciprocal honouring of others through the gift of presence.

**Balancing** – making Christ the centre again in a world pulling in so many different directions.

**Boundless** – create space in one another to find God.

**Becoming** – learn from each other: everyone has wisdom.

**Befriending** – non-possessive: love, be loved and let go through prayer.

**Behovely** – finding God present in others: sin teaches us of our need for God.

**Blessed** – in others entrusted into our care, seek blessing and consolation; not problems.

**Belonging** – letting go of our possessions for deeper belonging to God: have courage and belong to the life given.

**Beloved** – pass the love on.

The day was interesting and thought-provoking. Thank you to the organisers and speakers and all those who took part.

*Sister Julie Elizabeth CHN*

## **Sister Barbara CHN**

**Born - 9<sup>th</sup> September 1927**

**Professed - 24<sup>th</sup> February 1955**

**Died - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Barbara was amazing - a wonderful mission sister, a great pray-er, an avid writer of letters and sender of cards, gardener, a keen bell-ringer and cyclist in her younger days, lover of wild and tamed creatures, encourager, challenger and advocate of the underprivileged.



Barbara was well-travelled from her early days. Her father worked for the Admiralty and moved around a lot and she spent her first few years in Gibraltar and then Singapore, where the family lived in some style, with an amah looking after Barbara and her younger brother Hugh for most of the day. The family returned to England in the early 1930's and lived in Weston-Super-Mare. After her father's death when she was 14, she moved with her mother and two younger brothers into an extended family with their grandmother and cousins - in a large house with no electricity. It was wartime rationing (the beginnings of Barbara's frugality?) - they kept a few cows and goats, hens and ducks, and a pig.

Barbara went to Bristol University in 1945 to study medicine. She passed her first 2 MB exams but then left - to test her vocation with the Order of St Benedict sisters at West Malling, a strict enclosed order where she was given the name Scholastica. To her family's relief she left West Malling and joined CHN in Malvern Link. When she was clothed as a novice this time she was given the name Mary Ambrose - but later reverted to Barbara.

Barbara was a wonderful 'parish sister' and was much loved wherever she went - in our branch houses in Coventry, Birmingham, Torquay, St Teilo's Retreat House in Cardiff, Basingstoke (where she worked as a hospital chaplain), Malvern Link, Oakham, Keswick, Oakwood and later St Peter's in Derby. Her favoured means of transport was bicycle - or moped (a cause of concern to many!) She attempted to learn to drive a car - but never quite succeeded in that. She was also involved in 18 parish missions (1955-1993). At the convent she has been librarian and sacristan.

Barbara was very well read and knowledgeable on many subjects and was always keen to learn. She passed O Level Sociology while at Basingstoke and did the TEFL training in London. She spent 4 years in Zululand (which she absolutely loved) and was Novice Guardian during her last year there. She also visited Romania a couple of times and made links with orthodox communities there.

In June 2021 we all moved to Hessle where Barbara continued to enjoy the garden and watch passers-by from her window but her mobility and her health began to deteriorate and she was diagnosed with heart failure.

In July 2023 she moved (rather reluctantly) into Emmanuel House Care Home where 2 other sisters were already resident. She settled in well and was very appreciative of all that the staff did for her. We were able to visit regularly and had a Communion service on Sunday afternoons which Barbara very much appreciated. During her final 3 or 4 weeks she became very frail and was sleeping a lot. We were very aware that she was 'nearing the end' and nieces and nephews were able to visit but, typically, she waited until no-one was with her to breathe her last!

Her funeral was held in All Saints' Church, Hessle and her family turned out in force! It was lovely to meet them all. Unfortunately only four sisters were able to be present as Covid had struck Quarry



Bank. Her great niece said of her “*She was a wonderful woman – she always sent such lovely updates and cards. I’ll miss hearing from her. So thoughtful and so loved*”.

We give thanks for her 68 years as a professed sister and her service to her Lord and to the many people she met and prayed for. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory. Amen.

*Sister Diana CHN*

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## *The Importance of Handwriting*

At the back of my Bible I have an accumulation of papers. On them are quotations from various books and leaflets which have been collected over many years. Some of them have the name of the author or writer but most are just printed bits of paper with no indication of their source.

Some have lost their relevance over the course of time but recently I reread a poem which proved just as meaningful today as it was many years ago. Sadly this poem had no name to indicate who had composed it.

BUT it was handwritten. AND I recognised the handwriting. Sr. Pauline Margaret confirmed that it was her writing and her poem. Thank God she wrote it by hand otherwise we would not have been able to share it with you in print!

*Sister Monica Jane CHN*

God comes  
from another angle,  
lateral,  
unexpected.  
To hope for God  
is subversive to my planning,  
perhaps also  
to my vision.

Yet shall I not visualize?  
enflesh my hope?  
perhaps, as long as I leave  
windows  
open, gaps  
under the eaves, ventilation  
for the unknown

You will come,  
hope will be vindicated  
and myself  
surprised;  
and it will be  
enough  
that you are.

*Sister Pauline Margaret CHN*

# CHN's External Trustees

## **Bill Waddington**

became our first external Trustee in September 2021. He is one of our nearest neighbours in Hessle.

Bill writes :

I am 69 years of age and married to Nikki. We have no children but a dog called Archie and a cat called Martin.

My working life has been spent in the law, working as a solicitor. I qualified in 1980 and spent my first few years in general practice dealing with most areas of law. I subsequently specialised in defence work, representing individuals and businesses facing prosecution.

In January 2021 I retired from my position as Managing Director at local firm Williamsons and became a consultant solicitor (working on average 3 days a week.)

I was born in Hessle and apart from time spent away for education I have lived in and around Hessle all my life.

I have been involved for many years with 2 other local charities - Osprey (which funds research into osteoporosis or brittle bone disease) and the Sailors' Children's Society (a very old and well established charity which works at both local and national level).

I am involved locally with the Southfield Area Conservation Group - we live in a conservation area and SCAG tries to ensure that developers, builders, house owners and the local authority keep to the terms of the Conservation Plan to protect the special features of the area.

(In 2015 Bill was awarded the Legal Aid Lawyer of the year. In the same year he was shortlisted for the Law Society Excellence awards for Legal Personality of the Year).



## **David Millican**

was appointed as our second external trustee in May this year.

David writes :

I am a 69 year old Scot, born in the west of Scotland but lived most of my life in Fife. I have a wife (Marilyn) and two daughters (Ruth and Kirsty) , one in Hull with two children and one in Canada with one child.

The latter part of my career has been as a Facilities Manager, spending time with Ernst & Young the accountants , then with Shaw Trust as National Property Manager. My last two jobs prior to retiring were as Head of Operations in Holme Hall (Sue Ryder), a 1720s building with 40 Neurologically damaged residents, then as a Regional Property Manager for the same charity. I retired five years ago but was asked to come back to cover a post for six months (eighteen months ago!). I retired again in April this year.

I was brought up in the Church of Scotland in which we remained until moving to Yorkshire in 2001. We settled in Market Weighton and joined All Saints Church. Both of us are active in that Church and I am on the PCC. I am Lay Dean of South Wold and on Diocese of York Finance and Property Committees as well as on Archbishop's Council.

I accepted a call to train as a Reader (now Licenced Lay Minister) and in that role carry out an active funeral ministry as well as leading worship both in my own Deanery but also churches in Brough, Elloughton and South Cave.

In my spare time I read crime fiction as well as many commentaries while preparing sermons.



# Fellowship of the Holy Name

The Fellowship of the Holy Name is a group of ecumenical people who feel called to share with the sisters of the Holy Name in a life of love, service and prayer which honours the Holy Name of Jesus.

Members seek to live a balanced life where family and friends can share in God's loving openness, and to become aware of God's growing presence in their lives. The discipline of daily prayer draws members together with the sisters into a deepening relationship with God and with each other where each individual is nurtured and supported.



*Each member of the Fellowship receives a badge that can be worn either as a pendant or badge*

**HOLY NAME PRAYER**

*Almighty God*

*whose blessed Son Jesus Christ was given the Name above every name:*

*give us grace faithfully to bear His Name,*

*to worship Him in the freedom of the Spirit,*

*and to proclaim Him as the Saviour of the world,*

*who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.*

**Amen.**

Each member of the Fellowship has a personal Rule of Life created in consultation with a sister. Their individual Rule, set in the context of their own life, commits them to daily prayer, service of others, regular worship and study of God's word.

Fellowship members will also receive a prayer leaflet and regular communications from the Fellowship sister giving news of the community and fellow members and all the members are encouraged to meet in area groups to share in fellowship with each other if practicable.

Members often stay with the community for times of retreat, rest and fellowship. Some offer a helping hand around the house or garden, or support the sisters during holiday times.

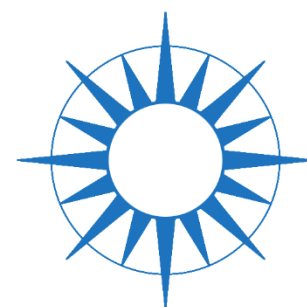
If you are interested in becoming a member of the Fellowship, please contact the Fellowship Sister.

By email: **[sister.fellowshipchn@yahoo.com](mailto:sister.fellowshipchn@yahoo.com)**

# The Anglican Religious Life Handbook, the Anglican Religious Life Project, and the Institute for the Study of the Religious Life.

Within the Religious Life there is a lot going on online. The Religious Communities are always looking for new ways and new projects both to protect the past and look into the future. Connecting electronically with generations who have grown up in the digital age has become a necessity as the whole world has gone digital. The majority of people, if looking for something will these days will pick up their phone and turn to the internet.

**The Anglican Religious Life Yearbook** for many years was available bi-annually in a printed book form and every community and vocations team had a copy. But with falling sales and more and more communities going online, it became economically impractical to continue to print it. But the resource was still a needed and valuable one and so the decision was made to transfer to a purely electronic format. The great thing about having all the information held in electronic form is that it is always up to date. Communities don't need to wait for the next edition to be printed, updates to community information can happen overnight.



The online yearbook lists details about all the Anglican Religious Communities around the world, along with information about the official bodies of the Religious Life in different countries, and some general information about vocations. It also has available a remembering with thanksgiving page which lists brothers and sisters who have died, a glossary of terms used in the religious life and an intercessions list of communities that allows all the religious communities to be prayed for over the period of a month.

Web address : [www.arlyb.org.uk](http://www.arlyb.org.uk)

**The Anglican Religious Life Project** came into being after a conversation at the Greenbelt Festival. A group of brothers and sisters realised that the profile of the Religious Life needed to be raised online and so launched a twitter feed where different sisters and brothers would tweet for a week about they did.



This online presence slowly developed and the Anglican Religious Life Project website was launched on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The website gives lots of information about the Religious Life. Some information is available on from the Yearbook site but you can never the too much information! It includes vocation stories from a mixed bag of religious, a potted history of the Religious Life in the Anglican Church, what the religious life is, what the process for becoming a religious is and so much more.

The X feed is also still going strong; it now puts out information, articles, advertises community events and retweets articles and tweets from the different communities. On July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 an Instagram feed was also introduced.

Web address: [www.anglicanreligiouslifeproject.org.uk](http://www.anglicanreligiouslifeproject.org.uk)



: Anglican Religious Life Project



: Anglican Religious Life Project.

**Institute for the Study of the Religious Life** is a new project that seeks to protect and preserve the histories of the religious communities and to be a valuable resource to enable the future of the religious life within the Church.

With the decline in numbers and some communities coming to an end it is vital that this historical resource does not disappear but is preserved for future generations. The institute, based at the home of the Society of the Sacred Mission in Durham, is encouraging and supporting communities in cataloguing their archives. Many of the communities, particularly the early Anglican communities were deeply involved in social work and a vast amount of historical social information is stored in the archives.

It began with a questionnaire being sent to communities about their archives; where and how were they stored, were they catalogued in any way, were they accessible? After the data was collected and collated, funding was acquired and the institute is now in the process of creating a dedicated space for the institute. The aim is to develop a research hub for religious archives, and help support communities in the management of their own archives.

[www.religiouslife.ssm.org.uk](http://www.religiouslife.ssm.org.uk)

## The Crown of Thorns

The story of the Crown of thorns began way back in the Seventies or Eighties when the Community decided to go with the Church in changing Lenten arrays from purple, which was often thought sumptuous, to sackcloth as being more appropriate. This could have proved quite an expense given the size of the Malvern chapel's altar as those who visited would recall.

The 'job' of making a suitable altar frontal was given to the very talented and artistic Sister Elaine CHN, who already crippled in hand and feet with arthritis felt able to meet the challenge. She was left alone to design and execute whatever she decided was appropriate. Those of us who worked in the embroidery room saw her with her thimbles on each finger standing over her design.

Needless to say when the frontal was revealed it has a huge impact. The design was very stark and realistic and had an enormous effect on each person. What Sister Elaine managed to convey was the starkness, reality and pain of the Crown of Thorns and it still speaks to this day.

When the community left Malvern we were able to bring the Crown of Thorns with us and use it in the Derby Chapel. When we moved to Hessle we decided to have it framed and hung in our chapel so we can continue to marvel and enjoy the beautiful and inspiring work of Sister Elaine.

*Sister Edith Margaret CHN*



**Left: The newly created crown of thorns in the Malvern Chapel**

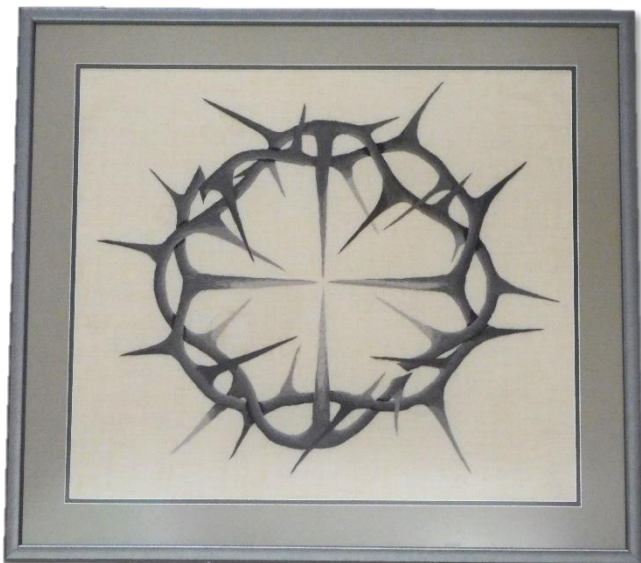
**Right: The crown of thorns decorated to celebrate Easter in the Derby Chapel**



**Close up detail of the exquisite embroidery**



**Sister Elaine CHN hard at work in the Embroidery Room**



**The Framed Crown of Thorns which now hangs in our chapel at Hessle**