

Chapel of Our Lady of the Crag Newsletter March 2015

Dear All,

2014 seems to have flown by so quickly; we intended to send out this newsletter earlier, but each week has been busy. We apologise for the delay. **What will stay with us for a long time is the service in September when we placed the memorial rose plaques. We knew it would be special, but we were not quite ready for the effect the simple service had on us all.**

The memorial rose service will be on Saturday 4th July in 2015, and hopefully most of you will be able to attend. We intend to make these an annual event. As we have said before, if you would like to place your plaque privately then we are happy to open the Chapel for you and anyone who wishes to be with you. Note, however, that at this time of year the Chapel site is very slippery and great care and consideration is needed.

The Group lost one of its longest supporters recently with the death of John Pay, whom we think most people will have had contact with in some form over the years. He was a quiet and caring man and will be greatly missed. Viv spoke to John on the Sunday following the memorial service; he was upset to have missed it, but at that time he had hoped to be able to visit the Chapel and place his plaque before Christmas. We will contact his family and friends to discuss the placing of his plaque for his parents and the possibility of a Mass at the Chapel for him. Most of the aquilegias that you see in the Chapel gardens in Spring are from plants donated by John a number of years ago. He will be very much in our thoughts from the first to the last bloom.

The Chapel will open again to the general public on Sunday 29th March from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come down and speak to a group member about how they may help support the Chapel. We would appreciate more volunteers, including at group meetings, to enable the Chapel to continue to be accessible.

It is hoped that Leeds Trinity University chaplaincy and the Carmelite Order (from York and Leeds) will be able to make their annual pilgrimages this year as the weather meant that both were cancelled at the last minute in 2014. We have also recently heard of the interest of the Oratorians in York, who now look after the shrine of Our Lady of Mercy in St Wilfrid's. Each year we have pilgrims and visitors from around the world, as well as locals; some have detoured to be able to visit the Chapel and we are sure 2015 will be no different.

The recent quiz night in Knaresborough raised nearly £400 which will help us with the maintenance this year. If you like quizzes and are within reach of Knaresborough on a Saturday night, let us now and we will inform you before the next one. We hold them every nine months or so.

We hope you are well and look forward to seeing you in July.

Contact telephone numbers for any information are 01423 866080 or 01423 861584.

The Shrine Working Group