



This is the second edition of our Parish newsletter, designed to keep you in touch with activities in our parish. We welcome your input, so please let us have your comments and contributions. Contact details:

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Alternatively, leave a note on the letter board.

This newsletter is also available on the parish website [www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch](http://www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch)

## Parish walk

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November we held our first Parish Walk so members of the Parish who enjoy the countryside and fresh air could share a few hours in beautiful surroundings. In the end twelve parishioners took to the hills in the Nidd valley

around Darley to tackle the 5-mile walk. The day started with Saturday

Mass when Father George asked God to grant us a happy and safe walk. This he duly did although in the later stages of the walk it became apparent we had forgotten to ask Father to mention the weather! It became a little test of walkers' commitment, not to mention footwear and stout clothing, as the 'showers' became more prolonged and temperatures dropped.



Lunchtime sandwiches were consumed with slightly lower dry matter values than normal! In such conditions it is amazing how much you can enjoy a hot flask of coffee, which was a great relief. The walk was completed successfully and all reported how interesting they had

found the route, enjoyed the scenery in all its Autumn glory and the good

exercise it delivered. It culminated in a deserved afternoon tea at Darley Mill with promises of more walks to come, maybe as early as February. We will keep you posted!

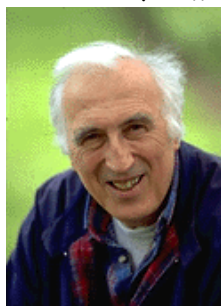
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## SPOTLIGHT on Faith and Light

The Knaresborough and Harrogate Faith & Light group is one of about 100 such groups in England. Small groups are found all over the world including one in Beirut and one in central Africa. There are 1700 Faith and Light communities in 70 different countries.

The movement originated as an idea from a pilgrimage to Lourdes and was an offshoot of L'Arche homes for people with a learning disability (not only children) which was started by Jean Vanier. He had a vision that we "normal" people work **with** those with a mental handicap rather than **for** them, because we can learn from them and



they have a lot to give.

At St Mary's about 20

of us meet at 7:30pm usually on the third Sunday of the month. We try to create a welcoming atmosphere. We celebrate Mass or eucharistic service in church with a joyful and relaxed liturgy. Often the handicapped members say the bidding

prayers which we may not always understand but the Lord does! Music plays a big part towards a joy filled liturgy.

After Mass there are refreshments and then perhaps the disco, a treasure hunt, or sing-a-long. We have also entertained other groups from Keighley, South Leeds and York.

So now comes our appeal! More members would be welcome, especially if you know any person with a learning disability who would like to come to a Christian based group. We would love some young helpers too either on a regular basis or as entertainers for a one-off meeting. Do come and join us one Sunday and meet our special friends, David, Richard, Paul, Rosie, Antonia, Maureen, Wendy, Patricia, and Barbara Joan.

" Can we reasonably have a dream of a world ... where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities or disabilities ... can find a place and reveal their gifts?"

Jean Vanier,  
Founder of L'Arche

## The Rule of St Benedict

You may recall a recent Mass when Father George mentioned the hemina, the recommended daily wine allowance for each monk. The joy is that no-one knows exactly how much that is!! Amusing to note Benedict's concession to



human nature in Chapter 40 of his rule (below), when he observes "wine is by no means a drink for monastics; but since the monastics of our day cannot be persuaded of this let us at least agree to drink sparingly" Perhaps this gives us a clue about the size of a hemina!

### Rule. Chapter 40

"Everyone has his own gift from God, one in this way and another in that" (1 Cor. 7:7). It is therefore with some misgiving that we regulate the measure of others' sustenance. Nevertheless, keeping in view the needs of the weak, we believe that a hemina of wine a day is sufficient for each. But those to whom God gives the strength to abstain should know that they will receive a special reward. If

the circumstances of the place, or the work or the heat of summer require a greater measure, the superior shall use his judgment in the matter, taking care always that there be no occasion for surfeit or drunkenness. We read it is true, that wine is by no means a drink for monastics; but since the monastics of our day cannot be persuaded of this let us at least agree to drink sparingly and not to satiety, because "wine makes even the wise fall away" (Eccles. 19:2). But where the circumstances of the place are such that not even the measure prescribed above can be supplied, but much less or none at all, let those who live there bless God and not murmur. Above all things do we give this admonition, that they abstain from murmuring.

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she came to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing the girl replied, "They will in a minute!"



Advent 2006 sees the start of the second year of our five-year programme 'Come & See' being run by the diocese of Leeds. For those who are wondering just what 'Come & See' is, it is a programme of diocesan renewal.

The second year programme is based on a concept of forgiveness and reconciliation when our theme will be Repentance & Reconciliation, to be carried by the simple invitation: Be at peace.

God as we know is always willing to forgive us as we must forgive others. This year the focus is on this area to help heal our communities, bring people back into the fold and develop our skills of forgiveness.

St. Mark's Gospel: there, in chapter one, the very first words of Jesus are addressed to us: 'The time has come; the kingdom of God is at hand. Change your ways and believe the Good News.' (Mk 1:15)

Whether in specific or broad terms, seeking the



Illustration by Elizabeth Wang, 'Leaning on the Cross' © Radiant Light, www.radiantlight.org.uk

peace of God in our hearts and in our world is essential to spiritual renewal. Change your ways, repent, be reconciled, be at peace - each of these phrases reveals different dimensions of what Christian conversion and discipleship mean, whatever stage we are at on our journey of faith.

- To change - to leave old ways behind, to become more like Christ, allowing him to work in us and through us to mould us into his image.
- To repent - to recognise our faults and our failings and to seek forgiveness for our sin from the Lord and from others.
- To be reconciled - to restore broken relationships and be at one with the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit; through this, to be restored to loving

relationships with others and to respect for the world God has created

- To be at peace - to be in harmony with oneself, with others and with God through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts; to know and live in the serenity of the Lord's presence and to make peace a reality in our world.

More information can be found on the website [www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/comeandsee/](http://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/comeandsee/)

### Update on St Mary's Justice & Peace Group Parish of Titao

On 3rd October 1981 Father Terry Madden was ordained in St Mary's Parish and sent to Titao in Burkino Faso to be the parish priest. Soon he appealed to St Mary's for funds to sink a well. Later a holiday school was built for teenage boys and girls to deepen their faith, extend their basic education, and teach them more efficient ways of cultivating illett and raising livestock. The parish of Titao has been regularly funded by the envelope scheme of our

parish in which members donate at least £1 a month.

Father Matthew, an African priest, took over from Father Terry in 1994. A Curate arrived within a few years and then two Catechists who set up home and farmed the land. The parish continued to expand and the present parish priest, Fr Nazaire has proved an energetic fundraiser. A house has been built for religious sisters and a primary school with three classrooms constructed with funds from a British Catholic secondary school.

Our 25 year link with Titao has therefore contributed greatly to the spread of the faith, the care of parishioners in times of hardship and the education of the young. Many thanks to all who have given so generously.

On the 1st October the 10 o'clock Sunday Mass was offered in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Father Terry's ordination in St Mary's Church. Justice and Peace is being reorganised and we would welcome new members. Please consider joining us. The contact number is 863951.

### Church bloopers !

Here are some items that actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced during church services:

The fasting and prayer conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on water'. The sermon tonight: 'searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Linda remains in hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of pastor Jack's sermons.

Irving and Jessie were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.