

## Community Routes

### Holy Week in the Arctic

The small town of Pangnirtung on Baffin Island in the Diocese of the Arctic was where David Jardine and some of his healing team from Belfast conducted a Holy Week series this year. It may seem an unlikely venue. The reason they were there is that one of their team, Rev. Darren McCartney, has been rector of St. Luke's Church in that town for the last three years.

The team started to prepare and to pray, a full year in advance. That was absolutely essential. Facing temperatures of 30° below zero it was important to have the right equipment, or they would have perished. These harsh conditions highlighted for the team the enormous sacrifices made by early missionaries one hundred years ago in bringing the Gospel message to that part of the world. They obviously did a good job because there was real freedom in the worship in St. Luke's Church, and the team from Ireland were given a great welcome. Archibald Fleming, first Bishop of the Arctic, said, 'The Arctic is a cold and cruel country, but there is nothing as warm as the clasp of an Eskimo's hand'.

Each morning was spent with students in the theological college, sharing on the subject of divine healing. In the evening there were Holy Week services, followed by prayer for healing. These services always lasted three or four hours.

For David Jardine one of the most moving moments came right at the beginning of the week. He was brought up in the town of Banbridge in Northern Ireland, the same town as Joseph Scriven, author of the hymn 'What a friend we have in Jesus'. That was the hymn which the theological students chose to sing in the Inuktitut language at the beginning of the first teaching session. For David it was a proud and moving moment, and helped set the scene for a wonderful week.

### African Adventures: *Joyce writes:*

For part of March, April and May this year, Joyce had the opportunity to visit Swaziland, Johannesburg (South Africa) and Ghana. This was made possible because of an invitation from the sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete (OHP) to be part of their Visitation team and the lot fell to her to visit their African houses. Though this was her primary task, while there she was delighted that it was possible to fit in meetings with some SSF Tertiaries in Johannesburg, Kumasi and Accra and she was grateful for the warm welcome she received and the generous hospitality given to her.

One of the highlights for her was to see the Jacaranda Project in Bulembu set up by the OHP sisters in Swaziland, which is the African country with the highest percentage of its population affected by HIV/AIDS. Some of the young girls of the Project have been orphaned by the pandemic, others have been traumatised by abuse but they are the lucky ones who now have love and care and are safe.

She was acutely aware of the poverty in all three countries, of the huge gap between the rich and the poor; but also of the immense generosity of the poor

whose spirit was not crushed, whose Christian faith was vibrant and exuberant. While in Johannesburg, a visit to Finetown township on Sunday, was an unforgettable experience of such enthusiasm with so little in the way of structure; the church was a small tin-roofed shed, packed wall to wall with worshippers singing their hearts out to God in a variety of African languages as well as English, and the distribution of communion having to take place outside as there was no room inside!

In Ghana she was particularly amused by the names of some of the market stalls: God is Able Special Rice Stew, Great Provider Fashion Centre, The Lord is My Shepherd Shoemaking and My Lord is Able Cement. Apart from visiting the OHP sisters in Jachie, near Kumasi, there was the chance to visit Marjorie OHP in Bolgatanga, in the north-east near the border with Burkina Faso. The drive from Kumasi to Bolga took six and a half hours, in an air conditioned minibus, driven by a Ghanaian Jehu! However, here Joyce had the opportunity to see some of the work of the Anglican Mission, pioneered by OHP in earlier years, and now being done by local people and others. Especially of interest to her was the outreach to women in the villages, teaching them energy efficient ways of cooking, as well as how to trade and thus empowering them economically, which she saw firsthand in an outing to some of these villages.

For this amazing educational experience, Joyce is indebted to the OHP sisters.

### ***Samuel writes:***

The Tanzara Railway must be counted as one of the great train journeys of the world: built by the Chinese in the early 1970s to connect Central Africa with the sea it takes nearly two days to rumble and shake its way the eleven hundred miles from Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia to Dar es Salaam on the East African Coast. This was but one leg of a five week trip to Africa during Lent. No matter that the carriages haven't seen much of a refit in thirty five years or that the loos weren't quite up to scratch; no matter that beside the track were littered the remains of those trains which haven't quite made it, or that we eventually arrived in Dar twelve hours behind schedule, it provided a companionship of passengers, a keenness of service (the beef curry was excellent) and a variety of scenery that could not be matched even by Virgin Express. At either end, with a few more bus and landrover adventures, there were friendly tertiarys in South Africa and Lesotho, the brothers of the Community of Divine Compassion faithfully living their Franciscan vocation amongst the huge current problems of Zimbabwe, and James Anthony overseeing the life of St Cyprian's College, Rondo, in the far south of Tanzania. If you are thinking of going to any these places I would recommend the train!

### ***On Fire***

*Helen Julian writes:*

Eucharists with incense, candles, singing in tongues and waiting on the Spirit. Benediction followed by prayer ministry. Just part of the glorious riches of the annual On Fire conference at High Leigh in Hertfordshire. On Fire used to be

called Anglo-Catholic Renewal; its purpose is to bring the Charismatic renewal alive in the church, especially the Catholic wing of the Church of England.

The conference is the main work of the committee, of which I've been a member for the last three years. It brings together people from many parts of the church, and from other churches too, to listen to guest speakers, and take part in workshops, to worship together, to receive and offer ministry, and to enjoy times of fellowship over meals, in the bar, and in the beautiful grounds of High Leigh. A smaller conference twice a year in Glastonbury has the same pattern and draws participants from all over the southwest.

The combination of word and sacrament in the power of the Spirit is a powerful one, and I've been greatly enriched by my times at High Leigh over the years. Next year's conference runs from 23 to 26 April; if you want to find out more, contact me at Compton Durville, or go to the website, [www.acr-onfire.com](http://www.acr-onfire.com).

### **Chairs? Cheers!**

The chapel chairs at Compton Durville have been the focus of much deliberation of recent years, and an informal appeal was launched at the Open Day in 2005 to raise funds to replace the old wooden ones which had done sterling service. Thanks to the generosity of many, about a year later Delivery Day occurred on 6 June.

### **Hilfield Peace and Environment Project**

The first phase of the refurbishment of Hilfield Friary has now been completed, and the buildings were dedicated on 8 June by the Bishop of Sherborne. The refurbishment has involved moving all the permanent residents into the buildings surrounding the main courtyard and also providing space in those buildings for up to ten short-term guests, thus freeing up the remaining buildings for which ambitious and exciting plans are being developed. The Friary will seek to share the vision of fraternity by creating on the site the "Hilfield Peace and Environment Project". Some of the hopes for the Project are that it may become a place where:

"people and communities of all descriptions can come together to overcome conflicts and to work for deeper understanding;

"facilities are provided for people to explore and learn about a peaceful relationship with the environment and the planet on which we live;

"Christians may work at issues that divide them;

"individuals can have an opportunity for prayer, study and reflection."

The Project will be developed on an incremental basis, over a three year period, so that there will eventually be self-catering accommodation for up to 30 people, as well as meeting rooms. The facilities of the Friary, such as the chapel, will be available to guests.

Approaches are being made to potential visitors such as inter-faith groups, nature conservation bodies, young peoples' organisations and others. The first small group arrived in early May, and more are expected later in the year.

## Round up

Jennifer Chan began a two-year secondment in her home diocese of Sarawak in July. Polly McCartney was received as a novice on 29 July. Maggie and Lynne, from the Province of the Americas will be spending time in the UK - Maggie arrived in July and after a brief visit to First Order sisters, will spend five months with the sisters at Freeland; Lynne will arrive in September for a year's study at Cuddesdon Theological College.

Alan Michael and Nicholas Alan were both ordained Deacon on Sunday 2nd July in the cathedral churches of the dioceses in which they are to serve, Alan Michael in Birmingham and Nicholas Alan in Worcester. Kevin has completed his studies for ordination and is expected to be ordained Deacon at the ordination for Salisbury Diocese this autumn. *f*