



Isle of Mull Photo credit: Sr Pamela

All Saints Newsletter 2024

Dear all,

Greetings to you all as All Saints-tide approaches, from Srs Sheila, Elizabeth and Edith Margaret in Bungay, Sr Rachel in Norwich, Sr Pamela on Mull and our Novices Jess and Jackie in Doncaster and Sheffield.

The past year seems to have flown by marked by the usual seasons and Festivals. Two events stand out as especially memorable. We



Sister Pamela 1974

changed the dates of our annual time together in Whitby to July this year instead of August in order to be at home for Sr Edith Margaret's 80th Birthday. By a happy coincidence this meant that on July 22nd we were able to share Sr Pamela's Golden Jubilee with her and the OHP Sisters at Whitby. It was a wonderful occasion as befits 50 years of faithful service as a CAH Sister. You can read Sr Pamela's description of her Anniversary later in this letter.

Significant, but in a different way, was the day last December when we helped Sr Edith Margaret move from All Hallows Care Home to

Chevington Lodge, another Care Home in Bungay close enough for us to visit her on foot. For the last few years All Hallows Care Home had been run by Norsecare, but when they found it was no longer a viable proposition they decided to withdraw their services and the

Home had to close. Sr Edith Margaret was the last of the residents to leave and the staff were all in the front hall to see her off. It was a sad occasion and the end of another era for CAH. Ray Smith, one of our Oblates, came to take her and most of her luggage in his car and we filled our shopping trolleys with the rest and walked round to Chevington Lodge.

In the midst of unpacking we were surprised by a visit from some staff and Father Christmas who had come from the Residents' Christmas party to welcome Sr Edith Margaret and give her a Christmas present! We thought that was a lovely caring touch that boded well for Sister's stay there. She's very pleased with her room but misses the weekly Eucharist that she was used to at All Hallows. We're hoping that something similar can be arranged at Chevington, and in the meantime the local URC Minister Bruno Boldrini gives her communion when he visits, as do Diana Smith and Sr Elizabeth. Diana is Ray's wife, and also an Associate and LLM. They join us regularly on Sundays for Evening Prayer along another Oblate, Lynda Crook, and any guests staying with us.

Unlike last year, we haven't had any deaths among the Sisters, but on March 14th Rhoda Limebear, one of our earliest Oblates, died. Sisters Sheila, Rachel and Elizabeth have very happy memories of visiting her in her little cottage at Homersfield on several of our Community Days during the last few years of her life. As she died not long before Holy Week, her funeral took place in the Convent Chapel on the Friday in Easter Week. Revd Leon Collyer, the priest from the nearby 'Saints' parishes, who knew Rhoda in her latter years, officiated. At 95 Rhoda would have been surprised and pleased at the number of people who came to the service and then to the committal in the cemetery opposite St Mary's church, just along the road from the Convent. She had bought a plot there some years ago and coincidentally it was quite close to where our earliest Sisters were buried which we thought was a nice link.

As well as visiting Rhoda on several of our Community Days, which we keep on or near the first Wednesday of each month, Srs Sheila, Rachel and Elizabeth have met together for a variety of activities, usually in Norwich or Bungay. Quite often we have combined these days with Birthday or Anniversary celebrations that fall near them on the calendar. As we were going to be in retreat the first Wednesday of December we combined that Community Day with Sr Sheila's Profession Anniversary which is on St Andrew's day, November 30th. In February we combined Sr Elizabeth's Anniversary, which is on Candlemas Feb. 2nd, with our Community Day and had a celebratory lunch in a local café using vouchers we had been given for Christmas. Sr Rachel's birthday this year was on Good Friday so we transferred our celebration of it till the following Wednesday. The three of us plus our Novice Jackie, who was staying with us, had a long chatty coffee together, said the next Office and then went over to BiGod's a very nice local café for lunch. A walk and then tea and cake followed before Sr Rachel caught the bus home to Norwich. As Sr Elizabeth was on holiday with some friends in Brighton the first week in May, and there was no celebration of Ascension Day in their parish church on May 9th, Srs Sheila and Elizabeth went to Norwich Cathedral for the 11.00 Eucharist there. Afterwards, Sr Rachel (who had gone to an earlier Eucharist) joined them for a light lunch before they had to go to Beccles where Sr Sheila had an eye appointment. We have been to Norwich Cathedral for an Ascension Day Eucharist for several years now and think that from next year we will probably do the same on Corpus Christi. The rest of the year's Community Days were single rather than combined events, as was Sr Rachel's Anniversary which we anticipated on the preceding Thursday. On the day itself she was due to be stewarding at the Ordinations in the Cathedral.

The joy of Pentecost was tinged with sadness this year when, at the end of the 9.30 Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church, Josh Bailey told the congregation he would be resigning his ministry as an Anglican Priest at the end of August and joining the Orthodox church. Before he left he arranged priests to cover the Sunday services up to Christmas, but

we miss the 10.00 Eucharist on Wednesdays at Trinity, and even more those he celebrated for us in our chapel each month. These were usually on Saints' days and he did his homework well, researching them so that we all learned a lot from his homilies. We have been really fortunate that Reg KirkPatrick has stepped in to cover the Eucharists Josh had arranged till the end of the year in our chapel and our regular congregation is most appreciative. We are also blessed in having directees who are willing to celebrate for us before they see Sr Sheila or Sr Elizabeth for spiritual direction, or

2025 Quiet Days at Trinity Street

Dates for your diary

Lent Quiet day Saturday 12th April 2025

Advent Quiet Day Saturday 29th November 2025

We continue to provide quiet space for people to prepare and reflect at these important times in the Church's year.

These quiet days run from 10am until 4.30pm and cost £12.

You will need to bring a packed lunch when attending, but cakes and refreshments will be provided by the Community.

Places are limited to 12, please phone the Bungay office: 01986 892749 to book.

accompaniment as we prefer to call it. The parish profile has been completed and an advert compiled so we hope the interregnum won't be too long and that we may even have a new priest before Easter.

On Saturday April 27th Sr Elizabeth was invited by Emmaus to share in a meal to celebrate the refurbishment and re-opening of the Convent Refectory. Sr Sheila was invited too but was away on

holiday at the time and missed a real treat. The Emmaus Staff and Companions excelled themselves in providing an excellent 4 course meal for 40 people. It was good to see the Refectory in use again. Sr Sheila was away at a Conference recently so also missed the 'Pilgrim Supper' on Thursday Oct. 10th, World Homelessness Day. This marked the end of the Walk of Kindness undertaken by the Cecile Roberts, the Director of Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney and some of the Emmaus Companions from St. David's in Wales to Lowestoft the most easterly point of England. The Refectory was full again and the delicious meal was a fitting 'Welcome Home' to the group of pilgrims who had completed the walk of 450 miles.

As we get older we notice that health issues are becoming more prominent and have meant a far greater amount of time being spent in visits to our local Medical Centre and the James Paget Hospital. In relation to the latter, the journeys and time spent waiting can easily take up a whole morning or afternoon or even longer, so we have to allow for that when planning how our time is spent each week. We're glad that we can still manage to fit in a certain amount of time for hospitality, Spiritual Direction and things connected with our local church. The journey from Bungay to the James Paget is becoming very familiar and we enjoy it from the top of a bus! As we travel to or



wait for our various appointments we are thankful for our wider CAH Family upholding us.

So we end this Newsletter by expressing our gratitude to our Oblates, Associates, Contact Members and friends for their prayers and support and to the members of our Board of Trustees for their expertise and guidance through the past year.

News from Sister Pamela on Mull

(Collecting on a day of celebration!)

Mull has been quite a challenge and life continues to be very varied. This year has seen a variety of visitors including our oblate Mary, who has made it up here twice!

The highlight of the year was the celebration of my 50th anniversary of Profession. The day was part of our annual time away at Whitby for our retreat and AGM .

The Sisters of the Holy Paraclete always make us extremely welcome. It is hard to believe that 50 years ago I knelt in our Convent chapel making my profession. In those days it was early in the morning and I clearly remember the flowers by Our Lady being white lilies and wild pink roses.... at Whitby there were also pink lilies (actually from a Sister's funeral which was held the day before – a celebration of another kind) All very meaningful.



The day began with rain showers and Morning Prayer of the day, but during our silent breakfast I rescued a beautiful butterfly which I felt was a sign of joys to come.

At coffee time with Sisters, Rachel Sheila, Elizabeth and Jackie I opened the various cards I had been sent and those posted beforehand including ones brought from Bungay. I was given a mug with 50th on it and an unusual shape present which turned out to be a gun which fires off bubbles, totally unexpected and great fun!!!

Taking the cards Elizabeth and I then went to the refectory and placed cards beside an astonishing cake the kitchen had produced and three lovely golden roses. We then went to chapel for the Eucharist. Jocelyn had provided a beautiful service sheet and played for the hymns.

Before the beginning of Mass we listened to Miserere by Allegri then all sang 'All my hope on God is founded' The settings for the Mass are what the community use and were very beautiful. The epistle was from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians chapter four verses seven to the end. The gradual hymn was 'Jesu the very thought of Thee' Both the reading and hymn I had at my Profession. The gospel reading was for Saint Mary Magdalen; John 20 verses 11 to 18.

The offertory hymn was the 'Servant King'. Sheila read the lesson and Elizabeth the prayers while I had the privilege of administering the chalice. Our final hymn was 'I the Lord of sea and sky' and we went out to the strains of Pachelbel's canon

Lunch was provided by the Sisters and they had really gone to town making it so lovely. We had salmon and followed by individual raspberry pavlovas with a glass of fruit juice or wine and at the end the bubble blowing gun appeared with lots of laughs.



In the afternoon our sisters went on a short trip up the road to what sounded rather foreboding as it's called the aqueduct. This proved

delightful for not only did we have some good views (the rain having stopped) but after crossing the aqueduct there were woodland trees on either side and so we experienced 'forest bathing' while Sebbie had a good run

Returning to the convent and after tea and Vespers we had another amazing feast of a buffet and this was also when the cake was cut and shared. Great celebration all round. I was extremely touched and greatly appreciated all the hard work the kitchen and sisters had made to make this a very special day. It meant we were last minute going into chapel for Compline and the clearing up had to be done afterwards!

'Grant O Lord to all those you have called to the Religious Life, the full accomplishment of what is begun; that their offering may be wholehearted and brought to fulfilment in the kingdom of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen '



This year's **Advent Quiet Day** will be held
at Bungay **Saturday 30th November 2024**
10am - 4pm
£12

Intercessions

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY, WITH THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT HITHERTO.....

SUNDAY – All our Fellow-Religious; those living in new monastic and in other intentional Christian communities, especially those with some tie to CAH

MONDAY – Isle of Mull; Sr. Pamela at Roan Cottage Bunessan, with a varied ministry including hospitality; and the churches she is linked with on Iona and Mull.

Norwich; Sr Rachel living in Norwich and exercising a ministry of prayer and presence in the City.

TUESDAY – Bungay, Suffolk; Sister Edith Margaret at Chevington Lodge; Sisters Elizabeth and Sheila living at 23 Trinity Street with room for two guests and those visiting during the day.

All the local church and parish communities with which we have links.

Doncaster: Sister Jess (n).

Sheffield: Sister Jackie (n).

WEDNESDAY – CAH Trustees and our other financial & legal advisors.

None of this stage of CAH's journey would be possible without their help.

Give thanks for ongoing support from them and from our staff, and pray for them.

Julian Partnership Trustees; responsible for the care of the Julian Shrine & Centre, and All Hallows House; providing accommodation for the pilgrims to the site.

THURSDAY – Pray for Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney on the Ditchingham site.

FRIDAY – For those providing care from the buildings leased from All Hallows; for Empanda at the Day Care, for Oakleaf at the Hospital, for Kumba Support at St Annes. Pray for prisons and chaplaincies local to CAH's various hubs.

SATURDAY – Pray for our Associates, Oblates and Contact members, and for all connected to us through prayer and friendship. For all the new contacts being forged now.

The birthday of the year?
Happy 80th Sr. Edith Margaret!

Some of us do not find it ever so easy to “do” birthdays, for whatever reason - possibly through a distaste for the limelight or because a birthday marks yet another year gone by, or whatever. Sister Edith Margaret has been one of this number in the past, and nobody is blaming her for that. However, this time she had not only grown used to the idea, not just of another year but of another decade as well. She was positively looking forward to celebrating this occasion. So were we, as were the staff at Chevington Lodge. It looked as though a huge number of her friends and family were doing so as well - there were a huge number of cards from folk from every part of her life - her native Herefordshire, East Anglia and a fair few other places.

It hardly seemed possible that she was indeed 80; she has a head of hair that is the envy of all of us in the “Grey/Pepper and Salt” league, but, to her credit, she never boasts about it. It was lovely that, when Sister Rachel and I (Sister Sheila) visited her for this birthday, she was ready to enter into the spirit of what was, after all, Her Day. Sad to say, a back injury had meant that Sister Elizabeth was unavoidably prevented from being there. However, she had made up for this by donating a contribution to the general merriment in the form of a novelty that she had picked up in the charity shop where she volunteers. It was an animated cactus - yes, you did read that right - which, when switched on, sang “Happy Birthday” again and again and again and which continues to do so, sometimes, when bidden.

Midway through the proceedings, there was a tap on the door. In walked a group of staff including the chef, bearing not only a cake but also a tray of sherry glasses

(filled), and who proceeded to sing “Happy Birthday”. They didn’t stay – the room would have been a bit full - but it was a lovely gesture and one which we all appreciated. (The singing wasn’t bad, either!) The cake was a thoughtful choice; “Sister E.M.” cannot eat chocolate, and is not that keen on fruit cake. The large, square, iced sandwich sponge was just right, easy to cut and serve, and we shared it with relish.

So - another year celebrated. In the past, at any rate, it has not always been considered appropriate for birthdays to be made as much of as profession anniversaries, and there is a point to this. On the other hand, God cared



enough about each of us to call us into being in the first place, before He called us into whatever way of life we were called into. And that deserves huge thanksgiving “Thou hast fashioned me behind and before...Thou hast laid Thine hand upon me; such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me” (drawn from Psalm 139)

And 80 years old is quite something.

Congratulations, Edith Margaret; and thank you for “being you”!

An historical look at The Third Order

Over the past few years, I have been engaged in research about the lives of our Sisters. While we know their names, and some brief information about them, we know very little, or nothing, about the work they did, or their characters, or their past. I have found some interesting stories, and some unexpected ones; I have written about several of these in my blog. What I want to talk about here, though, is our Third Order. Founded in the nineteenth century, it was initially known as the Order of Repentance, or possibly the Third Order of Repentance. William Scudamore, our first warden, wished to see some way that those who had been at our House of Mercy, and who wished to stay at Ditchingham, could commit their lives to God, alongside the Community. The House of Mercy took in 'fallen women' and trained them as domestic servants. Many of these women were only girls, often being in their teens or their early twenties. They stayed for two years, at the end of which they were given a uniform and found a place in domestic service. The Third Order was in existence by about 1870, with the Sisters living and working with the CAH Sisters, one of whom was responsible for them. In the mid-1880s, Holy Cross House was built for this Order, in memory of Scudamore. Those of you who know the building may remember the words 'Scudamore Memorial Wing' engraved along the side. Census records show that some of the Order were resident in Holy Cross House, although others were registered (and presumably lived) at their place of work.

Each of these Sisters took 'Faith' as their second name: Sr Phyllis Faith, Sr Sarah Faith, Sr Irene Faith, Sr Alice Faith, Sr Ann Faith, Sr Stella Faith, Sr Ellen Faith, Sr Jemima Faith, Sr Rachel Faith, Sr Esther Faith. I know there were at least two more, Sr Maud Faith and Sr Florence Faith, who left, and no doubt others who tried their vocation but did not stay. One of the issues with researching the Third Order is that we do not know their surnames, as we do for CAH Sisters. All I know, or all I have found so far in Community records, are their names (as above), their date of death and, in some cases, how long they were in religion for (dating from their clothing). We do have some photographs, and I do know

they wore brown habits, which would have distinguished them from CAH Sisters, who would have worn black.

We also have census records. From these, I believe I have managed to identify each of the Third Order Sisters, and find something of their background. In earlier censuses, there is little to distinguish Third Order Sisters from general servants, but in all of the twentieth century ones, they are recorded differently from both servants and, usually, CAH Sisters, making it possible to identify them. With this data, I have also managed to find some of the records in the House of Mercy entry registers, although, interestingly, not all of them. I have long wondered whether the Third Order was limited to women who had been at our House of Mercy, or whether women who had been at similar institutions elsewhere were also eligible; does this provide an answer? Well, not definitely.



Third Order Sisters

But let me introduce Sr Sarah Faith. If I have identified her correctly, Sarah Teaham was born and brought up in London. In 1901, she is registered at Stamford House Guardianship Society, Stoke Newington, as an inmate; this was similar to our House of Mercy. If she is Sr Sarah faith, she seems to have been admitted to the Third Order not long afterwards and by 1911 was at the Community House as a 'member of Community, worker (domestic)'. In 1921, she was working in the kitchens at the hospital, and, in 1939, she was back at the Community House. In 1950, she was taken to Thorpe (near Norwich) where she received mental treatment. She remained there, where she received great kindness, until her death in 1955, when she was buried in the Community cemetery. According to the Community Diary she was a

‘most faithful and devout member of the order’. She had been in religion for 54 years.

One of the most striking facts about the Third Order is how long some of them remained in the Community. Sr Rachel Faith spent 66 years in religion, the majority of those working in the kitchens at the hospital. She had been at the House of Mercy, probably entering in 1869, but also found there in the 1871 census. As was Sr Alice Faith, who was the most difficult Sister to pin down. She died early, in 1898 aged only 49, and so was more difficult to identify from census data, but once I found her burial records I could identify her. Born in Colchester, she was one of several girls sent to the House of Mercy from Colchester Hospital. She seems to have entered the order in around 1873, and spent her time working at the Orphanage before her death.

There is not time here to tell you of all the Third Order Sisters. That they worked largely in servant occupations, within the various works of the Community seems clear. They presumably also attended Chapel regularly. They had their own Rule of Life, although I have not read it recently to be able to tell you what it consisted of. Their registration in the census is probably proof of how they were regarded by the Community. Take Sr Rachel Faith, for example: in 1881 and 1891, she is registered as a servant; in 1901 as a Serving Sister; in 1911 as ‘member of Community’, although her occupation is worker whereas we were Sisters of Mercy. In 1921 she is a Sister of a Religious Order. Interestingly, in 1921, some of the Third Order registered in other houses are registered as ‘member of Community – Sister of Mercy’. While the Third Order were always distinct from CAH Sisters, they became very much part of the Community, and were missed after the last Sister died.

Let me leave you with a glimpse of that Sister: Sr Irene Faith, born in Suffolk, who entered the House of Mercy in 1894, and was probably received in the Third Order in around 1897. She worked in various different places, including school, but by 1939 was at St Michael’s (as the House of Mercy was known by then). This is the report of her death

in their annual report: “The greatest blow was the sudden death of Sr Irene Faith, a most forceful and straightforward character and yet always a true mother to the girls. Only those of us who know behind the scenes can say what we owe to her. She can never be replaced – R.I.P.’



The Community of All Hallows

23 Trinity Street,
Bungay,
Suffolk,
NR35 1EH

01986 895749

allhallowsconvent@btinternet.com

Roan Cottage,
Bunessan,
Isle of Mull,
PA67 6DU

01681 700535

srpmth@gmail.com

www.all-hallows.org