

**Novicings and Professions:**

*The Sisters of Bethany* received postulant Liz as Novice Sister Mary Paul on May 20th, the Feast of Alcuin of York

*Community of the Holy Name:* Novice Sr Clara CHN was clothed on 11th June

*The Society of St Francis:* Christopher Martin SSF made his Life Profession at All Saints' Church Cambridge on Saturday 22nd April

James Douglas SSF made his First Profession at Hilfield Friary on Saturday July 8th

Joseph Emmanuel SSF will make his Life Profession at Alnmouth Friary on Friday July 28th

*The Benedictine Community at Mucknell Abbey:* Aidan Clark will make profession in simple vows and Alison Fry will make profession in solemn vows on 8th August.

**Secretary's Scribbles:**

**Elections:** Two vacancies for professed members on the ARC Committee will be filled by election this summer. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary by **18th August** with a short biography to [sec@arcie.co.uk](mailto:sec@arcie.co.uk). or **7 Halsbury Court, Halsbury Close, Stanmore HA7 3DX.**

**House available** for 2, 3 or a small group next to the Shrine of Julian of Norwich. A place of prayer and pilgrimage with the opportunity to develop various ministries. Please contact Sr Pamela CAH for further details.

**For Peace and for Good** (*Helen Stanton*) is a history of the Community of St Francis. Price £19.99. and available now from Canterbury Press. ([orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk](mailto:orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk)).

**Anglican Religious Life 2018-2019** (ARC) will be published on 30th September by Canterbury Press. Price £9.99.

If you have information or articles to share please send to the Secretary at the above address.

**Welcome to our Newsletter****New Website:****Conference at Lee Abbey:****Novicings and Professions:****Secretary's Scribbles****New Website!**

One of the comments to emerge from the National Vocations Conference in January this year was how poor and unhelpful our website [www.arlife.org.uk](http://www.arlife.org.uk) was. One person commented that she found more information in the hand-book than on our website and in this age of smartphones and i-pads that's not an encouraging statement. So the committee decided that the website needed a complete overhaul – there are few things more frustrating that being unable to find the information you need and it's not exactly encouraging for anyone exploring if they can't find what they need to know easily and quickly.

Therefore a new website with a new address (for technical reasons!) [www.arlifeorg.com](http://www.arlifeorg.com) has been launched, with lots of information, advice and help to anyone exploring a vocation to the Religious Life. The new website as it stands now is the basic article; I hope over the coming months to add more pages and information. A big thank you to everyone who sent pictures for the front page – I had a wealth to choose from! The aim of the new site is to raise awareness of the vocation to the Religious Life so your help and support would be greatly appreciated. Please include details of the new site in your community publications and if possible on your website!

We are hoping to constantly add to and update the website so if you are having an event do please send an account of it and any photos. If you have professions or clothings, anniversaries or celebrations it would be great to include them. And if anyone is feeling brave or inspired it would be brilliant to include some articles about different aspects of the Religious Life.

Please submit anything to [sister.catherinechn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sister.catherinechn@yahoo.co.uk) Can I ask that any photos be in JPEG format and documents in Word if possible to make my life that bit easier!

**Sr Catherine CHN**

### God, Each Other and the World

Following the first ever joint conference held for participants of the recognised, acknowledged and emerging religious communities associated with the Church of England in Whitby two years ago, this second gathering built on the relationships established in the first conference. In many ways the week felt like a natural coming together of what Bp David Walker called 'a Community of Communities'. It has been an exciting time for mutual exploration and understanding, breaking down misconceptions, misunderstandings and cynicism between new and traditional religious communities. It has been a great success and synthesis of challenge and encouragement for all those who attended.

At times people expressed their pains, joys and fears, with a strong sense of a shared vocation to see the renewal of the traditional communities with new vocations and refreshed vision, alongside the emerging communities that tend to be more missional in nature, seeking to open up the Christian contemplative life and radical community to those who have written off Christianity as having no relevance or anything to say to the struggles of the 21st century. What seemed common to all was the importance of Benedictine, Franciscan and Ignatian spirituality, and the profound importance of silence.



Sr Mary John spoke with great wisdom unpacking the three different levels of love. Her wisdom spoke of great experience, and this framework became crucial for much of the content of the week. Lee Abbey and its emerging religious community which itself is going through the Acknowledgement process, proved a great venue and wonderful hosts. There were so many special moments, that it is hard to convey. For me these included a Eucharist above the beach with an altar made of local wood and stones from the beach, a final compline around the fire outside, pilgrimage walks that included swimming - that's a number of nuns and participants of the newer communities swimming - the monks weren't so brave!!

I came away deeply encouraged, and it was wonderful to see the barriers between new and existing religious communities breaking down, which I believe to be the work of the Holy Spirit. The words of Mark Berry of the CMS Community remain ringing in my ears that I hope were deeply heard when he said 'discipleship - becoming a follower of Jesus means two things; to walk in the way, the footsteps of Jesus - to orientate our lives to the direction of his living - we adopt his purpose, his desire, his vision. Secondly to assume the posture of Christ in our living, in the small things we say and do, in



the daily focus of our loving, in the choices we make. In this way Jesus gives us three loci of our discipleship - to love God, love one another and love our neighbour. Or in other words we are called to 'contemplative prayer, participative community and loving action' - this is a command from Jesus to all Christians'. Amen to that. I look forward to the next conference, where I hope we can go even deeper and hear more from the stories of renewal and homemaking from the traditional religious communities.

***Ian Mobsby, Prior Holywell Community***

Set amidst green hills, sea within walking distance, with brilliant sunshine and blue skies; joining together with communities in habits and out, living dispersed or together, established, newly or older, some emerging or yet to emerge. A welcome, warm and friendly, from an international community of volunteers, each giving time to Lee Abbey and its guests in various ways. The theme 'God, each other and the world' explored in each session in a different way, with both traditional and newer communities leading; yet, in retrospect, the theme was also present outside those sessions. In the worship, the chatting with each other and the Lee Abbey Community, in walks and time alone, we were still participating with God, each other and the world. There was a courage to be honest about some of our anguish, as well as an affirmation that the Holy Spirit is living and moving. Ultimately, for me, it was about love: God's love for us, and our receptivity to it; God's love for each one of us, for those we share our lives with; God's love for our world, and how we express that. It was a busy, tiring few days, and the journeys were long, but each part contributed to a whole which was an inspiring and humbling experience. I am grateful to all who worked to make it possible.

***Sr Rachel CHN***