

# ARC

## EASTER 2018

### **GENERAL SYNOD cont.**

An Oxford diocesan lay member told me that she hadn't known much about communities but had been impressed by what she heard in the debate.; one of my highlights. Another was a brief word with Bishop Alan Smith. I thanked him for his indefatigable work in the House of Lords (on Fixed Odds betting Terminals—and a great deal more). He said it was at quite a cost, involving late sittings and very late trains back to St Albans. He employs an intern, at the London Living Wage, to do research and speech-writing: a valuable work experience for a young person. Another highlight was John Spence's intercessions at the Eucharist on Friday. He always impresses by his ability to reel off detailed financial details without any notes (he is blind). These prayers, beautifully crafted to bring before God the subjects we would be discussing, were not so much from memory but from the heart. **Catherine SLG** (Limited space has reduced the content of this report, which is available in full from the Secretary, Contact [sec@arcie.org.uk](mailto:sec@arcie.org.uk))

### **Vocations Event: Life as a franciscan Sister – Could it be for me?**

CSF is offering an opportunity to explore Franciscan community life in the Church of England on Saturday 28th April 10am – 4pm at the CSF house in Southwark (SE1) For details see our Facebook page or contact [suecsf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:suecsf@franciscans.org.uk)

**Greenbelt 2018:** ARC is hoping to attend as part of the wider Listening Team. Community members who would be interested in attending, do please contact Sr Catherine CHN.

**Professions:** Society of St Margaret at Walsingham: the Life Profession of Sr Carol Elizabeth SSM takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Sr Hannah Grace OHP: 1<sup>st</sup> Profession will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Br Marc CR: 1<sup>st</sup> Profession will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Golden Jubilee:** Benedictine Community of the Holy Cross at Costock - Sr Mary Bernadette celebrated her Golden Jubilee on 10th February.

**Leadership:** The Community of St Francis - Sr Helen Julian, re-elected as Minister General CSF began her 2nd term in office on 7th February.

# ARC



## Anglican Religious Communities EASTER 2018

### **Welcome to this Newsletter!**

**NEW** things are happening!  
**Read On !!** We hope you find this edition informative.

**SEE INSET ON NEW REGULATIONS ON GDPR**

### **In this Issue:**

**Our new Co-Chair**

**Conference 2019**

**Year Book Online**

**February General Synod**

**Events and Professions**

### **Sister Catherine CHN (Co-Chair) writes:**

Hello, I'm Catherine CHN and I have been elected to serve as Chair of the ARC Committee. Actually I am co-chair; the committee decided to share the position between myself and Sister Sue CSF – a decision I am grateful for because Sue has a wealth of knowledge about the goings on among the communities and church family that I am sadly lacking! I am currently living in CHN's house in Peterborough where I live with Sister Monica. I am now in my second term on the Committee and hope with God's help and your prayers to fulfil the role of chair to the best of my abilities. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any information or questions. ([sistercatherinechn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sistercatherinechn@yahoo.co.uk)).

### **Conference 2019 \*\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\*\***

Plans are moving ahead for the **next ARC Conference**. It will be held from **9th to 12th September 2019** at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Entitled **"Differences in Common"**. A draft programme has been arranged and awaits confirmation. Bookings will hopefully begin from **January 2019**.

## *The Anglican Religious Yearbook – Digitally Remastered*

I hope you all have by now obtained the new edition of the Anglican Religious Yearbook 2018/19. I am sure you share with me an appreciation of its usefulness over the years as a reference tool. However times move on and in the course of vocation work it has become clear that the Yearbook in its printed format is becoming obsolete in the increasingly electronic world of the digital age.

Few, if any explorers of the religious life will turn to print nowadays; they will automatically reach for their tablets or phones and use a search engine to find out about religious communities. With this in mind and also with the knowledge that over the past few years the sales and print runs of each edition of the yearbook grow less, the ARC committee with the advice of Dr Peta Dunstan, who has so splendidly edited it over the years, has decided to explore the yearbook going online. This idea will allow ARC to completely revamp its digital presence and hopefully aid those seekers looking for information and allow us to reach places where knowledge of the Religious Life is unknown.

So we need your help! If any community has anyone who has expertise in this area and is willing to help out, or if there are any suggestions or advice we would love to hear from you! Please contact the ARC Chair Sister Catherine at: [sistercatherinechn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sistercatherinechn@yahoo.co.uk)

## *General Synod February Meeting:*

**Sr Catherine SLG writes:** Thank you for your prayers for General Synod. Attention from the media was focussed on Safeguarding and Valuing People with Down's Syndrome, with the religious press noting also a small but significant step towards reuniting with the Methodist Church, and a review of the process by which diocesan bishops are appointed. There was little interest in what interested us, the proposed introduction of Canons regulating the Religious Life in the Church of England.

This item followed the demanding Safeguarding presentation on Saturday morning, and I was surprised that so many members returned to the chamber after the break. Bishop David Walker used three of his introductory ten minutes to show a video which can be seen (as can the whole debate) on Youtube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs9A0UnAg-s&list=PLccHT5TeqjqKuBJn87rfKp\\_mxVOQSe7n&index=4&t=7272s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs9A0UnAg-s&list=PLccHT5TeqjqKuBJn87rfKp_mxVOQSe7n&index=4&t=7272s)

It comes about 1 hour 36 minutes in, and at the beginning of Bishop David's speech there is a glimpse of Fr Colin CSWG and Sr Joyce CSF seated behind him on the platform. Fr Thomas and Sr Anita both spoke in the debate, as did Archbishop Justin and Bishop Steven Cottrell. All the speeches expressed appreciation of the religious life, in all its expressions. Nobody asked why it was that the regulation and recognition which would be conferred by inclusion in the canons had not been proposed until now, when traditional communities are in what appears to be irreversible decline—of course, with God in the equation, appearances may be deceptive. We saw three hands raised against the motion: it would be interesting to know what was in the mind of those voters.

The motion 'That this Synod, mindful of the Archbishop of Canterbury's priority for the renewal of the religious life:

- a) note the historic importance of religious communities in the life of the faithful of the country;
- b) celebrate the many new expressions of the religious life through Recognised and Acknowledged Communities; and
- c) call on the Business Committee to introduce a new Canon to the Synod by July 2018 to provide a framework for religious life in the Church of England.' was carried.

The legal team at Church House will be working with the Advisory Council to draft the new Canon for Synod in July. One possible model would be the Canons of the Episcopal Church: these usefully distinguish between 'Orders' and 'Communities', corresponding to 'Recognised' and 'Acknowledged' and perhaps more easily remembered. It was a pity that for this occasion we were unable to organise a display to capitalise on the interest it created.