

CHN NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021

The Move – Mission Accomplished!

Here we are at last! It's taken a herculean effort that left all of us emotionally, physically and mentally shattered, but we have finally arrived in our new home in Hesse. The Convent at Derby has been handed over to the new owners and apart from some last loose ends that need to be tied up, the move is complete!

We are enjoying exploring our new environment and meeting our lovely neighbours. News about our arrival had evidently got round because when out walking everyone greets you and asks if you are settling in. One thing we have noticed about the people around us is that everyone seems to have a dog. We've never seen so many dog walkers!

Our cat Bella is settling in well and has met the local cats. She has very much established her credentials with them, especially Scoot who looks very like her. He wants to be friends but Bella is being a bit standoffish!

Welcomes, Visitors and Elections



Archbishop Stephen and the Sisters

September was a memorable month for us. We had a visit from Archbishop Stephen Cottrell (we are now in the Diocese of York). He welcomed us to the Diocese and after celebrating the Eucharist he joined us for dinner and the post lunch crossword.



Sister Diana CHN

Also in September Sister Diana was elected the new Provincial Superior and was installed in her office on 8th September 2021 by our Visitor Bishop Humphrey Southern who was with us for a few days.

At the end of the installation Eucharist Bishop Humphrey also blessed our new home.

Sisters have been visiting various churches both locally and further afield, and we have made contact with a number of local clergy who are delighted to see us. We are starting to make contacts with other clergy who come to celebrate the Eucharist for us in our chapel here.

All in all, it's been a time of great change and challenge. We are having to adapt to our new home, with a lot less space and a closer proximity to each other which has made us more aware of each other and each sister's needs. Having a main road just outside the chapel is a challenge (noise) but also a blessing as passing walkers (and their dogs!) can see us in chapel praying and this witness is valuable.

There are still challenges ahead but with God's grace we will be able to go forward together in love and bring the love of God to this place.

Exploring our A&E Facilities!

Sister Lynfa and Sister Theresa Margaret both ended up in A&E on consecutive days after falling.

Sister Lynfa, on her day off, tripped on a temporary ramp near some roadworks and fell face first into the ground. Unfortunate as it was, it showed how people can be so lovely; concerned passers-by stopped to help and two ladies, Shell and Mary, came from a local shop with blankets to make sure Lynfa didn't get cold. The ambulance came with commendable speed and whisked her off to hospital. Lynfa came home with bruising and bumps and a pair of badly scratched glasses but nothing broken.

Unlike Sister Theresa Margaret! She fell over in her room, headbutted the radiator and bled over the carpet after cutting her head. Her head came up in a grand lump, it looked like she was growing a second head. She also landed heavily on her hands. The hospital thought she had broken one



The Walking Wounded! Sisters Lynfa and Theresa Margaret

wrist but when we returned three days later to the fracture clinic it turns out she had broken both wrists and now has both wrapped in resin casts for six weeks!

Orientating Among The Trees (Sister Pauline Margaret's view)

As the hills stand about Jerusalem, so does the Lord stand round about his people...

Hills don't stand about CHN Quarry Bank, in fact because the house is on the top of a rise, wherever you go it is uphill coming home!

Trees however do stand about Quarry Bank – very tall trees. I love trees but have to confess that in the first few leafy summer months here, I found them a bit overpowering. This is a 'Conservation Area', and trees are privileged creatures. In places the pavements are unwalkable, as bumpy tree-roots have humped up the surfaces and the girths of the tree trunks invade the whole width of the path.

Nevertheless, as trees stand about Quarry Bank, so does the Lord stand round about CHN, inviting us onto bumpy roads which may be uncomfortable and challenging, but He never said the Way would be easy.

We seem to have lurched from one challenge to another, with the faulty lift and staff shortages (shared with many struggling residential and care homes) but when there has been a chance (and some energy), the trees can lead straight into Hessele town centre with its funny combination of

small stores and familiar names like Boots and Co-op, and names, new to southerners, like Herons (where you can find low priced goodies), and little side streets where suddenly there is The Post Office and Spec Savers, amidst little cafes and pie shops.

Walk in the other direction down toward the Foreshore, and there you discover the Humber Bridge Country Park. Here trees reign supreme on the steep chalk banks and woody step-ways. They guard hidden ponds, and then suddenly emerge onto dramatic views of the Humber Estuary. You can struggle down the steps of 'Little Switzerland' and find yourself at the Chalk Mill. Here the domain of the trees is challenged by the wide, smooth vistas of the estuary with its famous Humber Bridge



spanning what seems an impossible width across to Lincolnshire. At present access to the foreshore is limited by the ongoing engineering project of the flood defences – itself a fascinating spectacle. I saw a little boy (maybe age 3) run delightedly to watch a crane lifting what looked like enormous slats of glass into their precise places in the wall.

One day I walked a little way across the bridge (which has cycle and pedestrian access). I was a bit scared, partly by the grandeur of the construction, and partly by loneliness as cars and Lorries sped past; so I turned back. But the views downwards, forwards, outwards were awesome.

For some of us, meeting new people and new challenges is a bit scary. Having got here there is no way to turn back, but as with the trees and the chalk cliffs and the estuary, the possibilities are awesome and perhaps infinite, outwards onwards and indeed inwards as we continue to respond to our call uphill or downhill among the trees, and mindful of One Tree which is our Way.