



Colwich Chronicle: *Advent 2016*

St Mary's Abbey Colwich Stafford ST18 0UF

web: colwichabbey.org.uk

blog: colwichnov.wordpress.com

email: novblog@googlemail.com

Mother Prioress Dame Anne Bromwich R.I.P.



On 29th June Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul **Mother Prioress Dame Anne Bromwich** died peacefully at St Mary's Abbey Colwich. She entered the community in 1955 and made her solemn profession in 1959. She was chosen as Prioress in 1982 by Abbess Edith Street, and continued under Abbess Gertrude Baker and Abbess Davina Sharp. She was also Choir Mistress and Novice Mistress, and had served the community in several other roles, as cook, infirmarian and gardener.

She loved her family very much and they were close. She will be dearly missed by her natural family and her monastic family in which spent over 60 years serving God alone in love.

For more on Dame Anne, see www.colwichabbey.org.uk

Mother Gertrude's 90th Birthday

Mother Gertrude was 90 on 14th October. Our friend **Peter Siney** came specially to arrange a festive Mass for her. He played the organ and sang, and the community and those who share our Mass joined in.

The next day members of Mother Gertrude's family came to give the community a very special lunch. The climax came with the birthday cake, and with a little help, Mother Gertrude blew out the candles.



Out and About

In October **Mother Abbess** and **Sister Theresa Mary** went away for a few days. See the special report by Mother Abbess ...

Our former Chaplain, Very Rev Dom **Luke Waring** of Belmont Abbey died on 9th June.

May he rest in peace

Working at St Mary's Abbey Colwich



Dave, Ken, Lynda, Jackie, Joanne
gardeners/ handymen, cleans, carer, housekeeper

Our thanks also to **Gillian** and **Lisa** who have been with us during the year.

Many thanks to our Staff!

We are fortunate also to have **Radfield Home Care** sent by Social Services four times a day to care for **Mother Gertrude**. We have wonderful help from our doctors, nurses, district nurses and occupational therapists.

Visitation

Every four years we have a Visitation by the Abbot President of our English Benedictine Congregation. This year **Abbot Richard Yeo** came in January with **Abbess Andrea Savage** of Stanbrook as his co-Visitor. They spoke with Mother Abbess and interviewed each member of the community. They presented us with a report making suggestions for improvements to our monastic life. The community held discussions on the report during the year. The Visitors returned in July to close the Visitation.

Abbess Andrea and **Sister Josephine** of Stanbrook came in November to give us feedback from international meetings of Benedictine nuns. We are grateful to them.

APPENDIX TO THE CHRONICLE !!!

OUT & ABOUT



In October Mother Abbess &

Sr. Theresa Mary went away for a few days with their Chaplain Fr. Stephen to his monastery in Hereford – namely Belmont Abbey. There was no direct reason why this took place except that it gave the two of us a small break after such a busy and tense time earlier in the year. By losing one of the community unexpectedly at the end of June and being reduced further in number to 6 in total, this brings a numerous amount of challenges. Therefore the Abbess took possession of her Dad's car for the week and took off to Belmont. The journey was pleasant on the day itself and the weather was on our side – on the whole!

Then on the Tues it was thought to go to Hereford Cathedral which we did although it was bitterly cold this day. Spent the morning there and even got 'free parking' with the kind permission of one of the householders down one of the streets! Mo. Abbess met him in Hedley Lodge..... probably has connections or works there. On the way back we stopped off at Tesco's to buy dog treats and let time go by..... arriving back of course in time for the midday office and lunch! Then in the afternoon there was also an unexpected event – someone I knew slightly was making her Profession to the

Eremitical life that afternoon in the Abbey Chapel of St. Benedict, and we were asked to be present – we were 6 in total, Abbot Paul presided over the profession.

On Wednesday we decided to go to Tintern Abbey for the day and leaving at 9.30am had a lovely scenic route which took us about 1hr (not bad considering I didn't know where I was going). We spent a good hour & half or more looking round the ruins and quite early on prayed our midday office in the Church. It could make you link up with the past, the Cistercian of the past and the Benedictine of the presentuniting some of our monastic tradition and heritage! After a stop of in one of the premises on site to have lunch and an Ice – cream, we headed back home and just in time as we were travelling in some small short showers!

On the Thurs morning Mother Abbess arranged with another friend one of Belmont's Oblate's, to go out for the morning and she took the 3 of us to Kilpeck Church just a few miles down the road. This was interesting – it was or should I say is a small church with a lot of history round it. The architecture is really amazing especially the 70 – 80 stones or figures around the outside of the church (can't remember what they are exactly called now)! That afternoon was quiet and we had to start getting ready to go back on the Friday morning. But I must say that this particular morning we indulged

ourselves in a full English Breakfast as it was our last chance
it too!



On the last morning – Friday, we

had the usual monastic
breakies..... but I had to depart earlier than planned, we
were going to leave after lunch but as something came up we
left at 9.30am or slightly later after saying our goodbyes and
headed back home. The journey was ok except there were
delays on the M6 and it was a stop and start performance!
Eventually getting back to Colwich at 12.45pm (ish). And a
happy and delighted dog in the form of Skippy welcoming us
back!

Did forget to mention above that I also somehow managed to
meet up with around 12 other DOGS while staying in
Hereford.....

of them toy
& Cassey.

how do I do it and 2
poodles called Harry

*Mother Abbess with
Cassey, in the shop at
Belmont.*

