



Colwich Chronicle: *Advent 2013*

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Mother Abbess: Journey to Italy



Monastic Formators Group
photo at Monte Cassino



On 10th March Mother Abbess went to Rome for the Monastic Formators' Program, a course for those who will be teaching the next generation of monks & nuns: studying the Rule of St. Benedict, Scripture, Desert Fathers & much more. The second part of the course took place in Assisi. There were also visits to various monasteries.

She just happened to be in Rome for the election of Pope Francis and took part in his Inaugural Mass!

On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart Mother Abbess came back from Rome with lots to tell us.

Vocations Promotion

On the Presentation of the Lord, 2nd February, we held a **Day for Discerners**, with a Holy Hour in the afternoon, followed by tea and talk with the community in the Guestroom.

Our **Come & See Weekend** began on the Assumption 15th August, with a full program of discussions and sharing in Mass and Office.

Two Days for our Oblates

The first was on 11th May, and most of the talks were by the oblates themselves.

Then on 7th September Mother Abbess talked to the Oblates with images of Rome & Assisi.

General Chapter of the English Benedictine Congregation

There was a preparatory meeting for Delegates to the General Chapter from 7th to 9th May at Douai Abbey. Sister Benedict represented Colwich.

Then the General Chapter was at Belmont Abbey from 9th to 16th July. Mother Abbess and Sister Benedict took part.

There are thirteen Abbeys in our Congregation, of which three are of nuns. Three of the monks' houses are in the U.S.A. The General Chapter meets every four years, to discuss all matters concerning the life of our communities.

It is also a happy time for us to get to know monks and nuns from the other houses.

May They Rest in Peace

Maria Bills, the sister of Mother Abbess, died on 21st May in Grimsby. Mother was in Assisi, but was back in England in time for her funeral.

Mother Gertrude's sister, **Kit Morrissey**, died on 18 July in Hull. We had her funeral here at the Abbey, and she is buried at Great Haywood with her husband, Finn. Kit was a great friend and helper when she lived in Abbey House.

The Queen

On 2nd June our Corpus Christi Mass was for HM the Queen's 60th anniversary of Coronation. We also had Exposition for the Year of Faith.

Belmont Abbey here & there

As well as nuns going to General Chapter, we had Fr Luke here in July to supply while Father Stephen was on holiday. And on 4th September Mother Abbess and four nuns went to Belmont for the day for the anniversary of the Dedication of their Church.

Elsewhere in the E.B.C.

Congratulations to Abbot Luke Jolly, newly elected Abbot of Worth. Mother Abbess was at his Abbatial Blessing in October. She also went to Buckfast Abbey that month for the meeting of Novice Masters and Mistresses.

Visitors Again from Chile?

Abbot Richard Yeo, Abbot President of the E.B.C., hopes to bring some more young women from Chile to visit it us soon. They are members of the Manquehue Apostolic Movement, who live in community and follow St. Benedict's Rule, but are not nuns.

From the Archdiocese of Birmingham

we welcomed our Archbishop **Bernard Longley** one day in August on a private visit to join us for Vespers.

and Schools

In May & June several classes of children from local Catholic primary schools visited us in preparation for their First Holy Communion or Confirmation.



Children question Sr. Benedict

Always a Talking Point

The weather! In January there was heavy snow and again in March: snow then was over 6 inches deep.

In July we had hot weather, with swarms of wasps and bees. There was a warm autumn, and the hurricane missed us. We have had lots of fruit & chestnuts.