



Colwich Chronicle: *Advent 2015*

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July 2015 English Benedictine Congregation Forum...

On July 20th **Mother Abbess** left Colwich for 10 days, to be one of the Forum participants.

This was held at one of our Monasteries, Buckfast Abbey in Devon, where about 33 EBC monks & nuns under the age of 55 met together from our 10 houses across the UK and 3 houses from America, to discuss the Renewal of our Monasteries – this was a first for the Congregation to have this Forum.

Renewal is an important aspect of our individual Christian life, let alone in our monasteries and of course within the Church as a whole. We have continually to undergo a renewal to keep focused and discern what the Holy Spirit is saying.

This happened with an attentive listening ear and heart in which the Holy Spirit guided the Forum members totally in fortitude, understanding and courage. In the process certain topics were proposed and looked at in depth to establish this Renewal. These areas were: community, work, liturgy, formation, governance, re-foundation and lastly vocations. These are all at the heart of our monastic life, so to pay special attention to them individually was a time of great grace. It was also a time of invitation to "choose life".



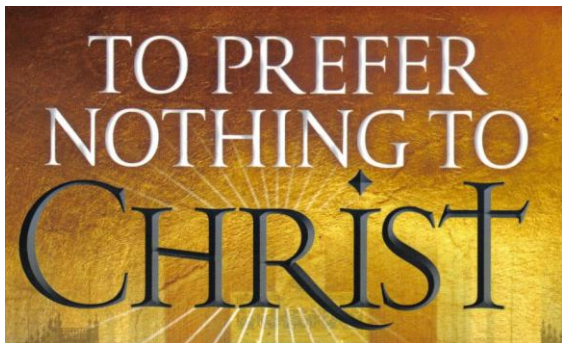
...and Extraordinary General Chapter

After three days of intense discussion the Forum met with the members of the General Chapter (**Sister Benedict** was Delegate of Colwich). They presented their ideas and thoughts to General Chapter, so that we could learn from each other and discern how this Renewal process can take place. It was indeed a special time of Grace.

After all, Saint Benedict sought the wisdom of even the younger members in community that they too have a voice and need to be heard.



General Chapter at Buckfast Abbey



This is a new book by the English Benedictine Congregation, published by C.T.S. at £6.95, one fruit of the Chapter.

Father Stephen's Jubilee

On 1st July our Chaplain, **Father Stephen Holdsworth**, celebrated his Diamond Jubilee of priestly ordination. **Abbot Paul** and other monks from Belmont Abbey came for the festive Mass, together with members of Father's family. On a sunny and hot day we had a buffet lunch in the Court.

We are fortunate in having also **Father Jeremy Sierla** of Ampleforth Abbey as our Assistant Chaplain.

Welcome to **Dave and Ken**, our new gardeners & handymen.

Congratulations to **Frances Stonier** our housekeeper, who married **Steven Plant** in July.

Thanks also to our cleaner **Lynda** who looks after Abbey House.

We now have **Carers** coming three times a day to help us look after **Mother Gertrude** who remains an active participant at Mass, Midday Office & Vespers still in her cheerful & prayerful way.

May They Rest in Peace

Our long time friend **Sylvia Marletta** died on 4th March.

Peter Hutton, the brother of **Sister Theresa Mary** died on 22nd August. Our former Chaplain, **Father Columba Thorne** of Downside Abbey died on 24th August, in his 101st year.