



11 August 2011

Dear Companion,

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

'By their fruits ye shall know them' Mat 7:20

There is much to report, so I apologise at the outset for the length of what follows, but may I commend it as essential reading (**especially, please, the Appeals for Help and list of Crucial Dates at the end**).

Holiday for Disabled Youngsters (Companions in the West)

Firstly, I am delighted to convey a 'big thank you to the Companions of Malta' from the whole group of disabled youngsters and their carers from St. Rose RC School who you funded to attend their 'outward bound' activity holiday at the Calvert Trust on Exmoor.

We have received a wonderful thank you card that says it all in pictures, and which you will find attached to the same email as this report. Thanks also from (and to) our two young volunteers, Lucy Irvén and Anna Gargan, ex-Ampleforth, who had a fantastic few days with the group, supported again by CoM.

I was delighted to be able to attend on the Tuesday morning with Michael Festing, the impetus behind this project, for mass celebrated for us all by The Rt Rev Dom Aidan Bellenger OSB from Downside (sadly the photo of the Abbot abseiling has not come out). This is a fantastic venture for us to support, and I hope it will become part of our annual calendar.

The Horn of Africa, Malteser International Relief Effort

Please see the accompanying Press Release from Malteser International. Consistent with our wider charitable objectives it has been agreed by the council of the CoM to donate the sum of £3,000 from subscriptions to support this effort.

Turning to our regions and the activities in each:-

London: Peter Allingham, [peter@ancient.co.uk – 07973 550 319]

The excitement mounts as we approach the Autumn launch of our Tuesday evening 'Open House' at the new St. Patrick's parish centre on Soho Square. As you will know already, this is a key initiative for us, feeding and praying with London's homeless and needy.

Please give Peter all the support he needs. We will need help buying, delivering, cooking, serving on the evenings, singing, chatting, praying and clearing up, and inevitably raising funds. **The first date for your diary though is the cooking training, led by Gregory Schaad-Jackson, this is taking place next week on 16 August 2011.**

Birmingham & West Midlands: Adrian de Redman [blue.candle2@hotmail.com – 07799 188 628]

Again thank you to Adrian de Redman for his continuing efforts in Birmingham. Particular thanks also to Ann Tomlinson, who is saying a weekly Rosary for the work of the CoM.

Please be in touch with Adrian to obtain details of the next monthly meeting and other Birmingham activities.

As in all areas of the country I am particularly keen that we should engage with and support local OSJ Care Homes and work through our parishes, visiting the elderly, housebound and infirm. To this end I am writing to the Deanery in each diocese introducing the CoM, and ensuring the Hierarchy are fully informed and supportive of our charitable objectives.

Oxford University CoM: John Eidinow OM [john.eidinow@stb.ox.ac.uk]

John Eidinow, the Dean of Merton College, is working on the launch of the Companions in Oxford University. He has the full support of the Catholic Chaplaincy and has been in discussion with a number of current students who are keen to take up the challenge.

John is keen also to receive information from Companions about any sons, daughters, God-children, etc., and (ex-)OMV who are students at the University or who are coming up that he can enlist.

Scotland: Liam Devlin [liamdevlin@musician.org – 07968 119 895]

On 19 June 2011 Liam Devlin held a very well attended and successful day in for the Companions (his full report is attached). This was a terrific initiative. It was particularly pleasing to see a good number of members of the Order attend as well.

Liam has also recently led a group of his Companions on a trip to see Alice in Nairobi, and continues his fantastic support for the work she is promoting there. Liam reports that the Companions had a very good fortnight in Nairobi, including a visit to Lamu Hospital as well.

The next trip is planned for February 10th-20th and is offered by Liam to 'all of the Companions up here', more than a dozen have now signed up and others may be interested. The trip offers the opportunity to see the work of the Order and Malteser International first hand, the cost will be about £1300.

The Northern Marches: Fred Wyrley-Birch [f.wyrley-birch@andersonandgarland.com – 07790 132 834]

Fred is poised to support the St. Anne's Day Care Centre project as and when that comes together.

In the meantime he is working on pulling together the Companions and the Members of the Order in his area and pursuing other initiatives.

Gloucestershire & Wiltshire: Sarah Cornell [sarahcornell@sky.com - 07817 499 829]

Undeterred by her recent accident, Sarah continues her great support for the Care Homes, as well as recruiting new Companions.

On **01 September 2011** the Companions will be hosting a **Gala Coffee Morning** at Athelston House, our OSJCT Home in Malmesbury in order to raise money for their amenity fund. If there are any Companions in the area that day they would be most welcome and it would be a great opportunity to see round one of the many excellent modern care homes as well as enjoying the company of some splendid residents and clients of the Athelston House Day Centre. Children and grandchildren most welcome. Further enquiries to Sarah Cornell.

Thanks to Sarah also for hosting the Director of Medicine from the Lamu Hospital, Kenya and for fostering the Companions' links with the work done there.

South East: Jamie O'Meara [jamie.omeara@btinternet.com - 07771 566 100]

Jamie O'Meara (it was great to see so many Companions attending the St.John's Day Service and in on the lunch etc.) is showing great enthusiasm in taking things forward in the South East.

Based in and about Lewes I am confident that under his regional direction we will see things start to happen in the South East as well.

APPEALS FOR HELP

Walsingham: Joe Daly writes: *I spoke to Dr Anton recently (Wals. Doctor), who reckons the Knights section of Walsingham are short a couple of nurses - are there any companions who spring to mind that I might be able to beg or entice? Offers of help please to me [pletman@3harecourt.com – 020 7415 7800] or Lalla [companionssec@martellhq.com – 01207 582 285] or Joe [joedaley@btinternet.com - 07947 370 453].*

Chancellery: Caroline de la Force at the Chancellery of the Order writes: *'I have a couple of things in respect of which I would very much like to ask for the assistance of the Companions.*

Strongroom at 58 Grove End Road

We have a locked 'strongroom' at the Chancellery which is used for storing the insignia and banners etc., as well as items of furniture and silver from the church and as a store room for large deliveries of items to be mailed out such as Malteser Annual Reports etc. As a result it has become very disorganised and messy and really needs sorting out. The trouble is that it is very difficult for me to do this by myself as some of the items are extremely heavy. I wondered therefore if there were a couple of able-bodied Companions who could help me as a one off for approximately 2 hours any day to suit.

Catering for reception after Masses

We have a number of Feast days when we have Masses at the Conventual Church followed by a reception at the Chancellery. These receptions usually last for approximately 1 hour

from 7.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. It has been suggested that members of the Companions might be prepared to take over the task of catering on these evenings.

What it involves is: Buying snacks i.e. cocktail sausages, etc. (for which they would be reimbursed) and then serving wine and snacks and clearing up afterwards.

The dates of these events for the rest of this year are:

Victoria mass – 8th September

Feast of Blessed Gerard – 13th October

Annual requiem – 24th November

Approximately 30 people attend each Mass and I always keep a list of who and how many will be attending.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know if you think there are any Companions who can help with either of these.'

Again offers of help please: to me [pletman@3harecourt.com – 020 7415 7800] or Lalla[companionssec@martellhq.com – 01207 582 285].

CRUCIAL DATES

Athelston House, Gala Coffee Morning, 01 September 2011, contact Sarah Cornell (see above).

Walsingham 16-18 September: for more details please contact Joe Daley on **joedaley@btinternet.com - 07947 370 453.**

The Companions of Malta Christmas **Carol Concert** and Canapes will be held at St.Patrick's Church, Soho Square on the evening of **Monday 12 December 2011.**

It is probably not too early either to put **Companions Day, 11 February 2012** in your diaries. Also I would welcome proposals as to the format. Presently, we are looking at our national service and reception taking place in Birmingham.

Yours as ever,

Paul Letman
CHAIR CoM

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