



Community of Saint Clare

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Advent 2010

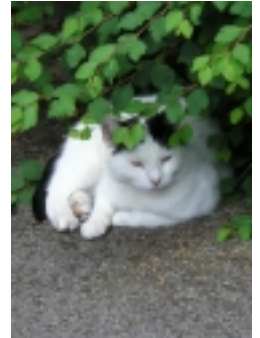
Greetings! Last minute letter writing for Christmas as usual.

Towards the end of last year's letter we said that bishop Michael Perham would be back in January. He came for an election chapter on January 5, when Paula was re-elected as Abbess for a further three years.

We also gave notice of our participation in the 'Get thee to a Monastery' initiative of the 'Anglican Religious Communities' in April.

Well, we talked about what to do for the time, and who we could have - and nobody came! However, during the year we had around half a dozen enquirers (after seemingly being in the desert with none for about 3 years) Two of them spent time living within the community during the summer, and in November we welcomed Tess as a new member of the community.

We haven't acquired any more animals this year, except that there do seem to be more deer than ever in the garden, and we haven't counted the rabbits in the bottom orchard! The chickens are still enjoying free range life, and the cats still rule supreme (or think they do).



The Guest House, The Old Parsonage, continues to be well used by a great variety of people. Immediately after Easter we had a Baptism and Renewal of marriage vows in our chapel of a couple who actually met at the Old Parsonage four years ago. They had an international party staying as one family is part German, part Hungarian and the other part English and part Canadian. Fortunately the weather was kind and the garden was well used.



The local Third Order continue to organize retreats and quiet days as well as use it for quite a few of their local meetings, and other Third Order groups come from further away, and this year we had some that would previously have gone to Compton Durville

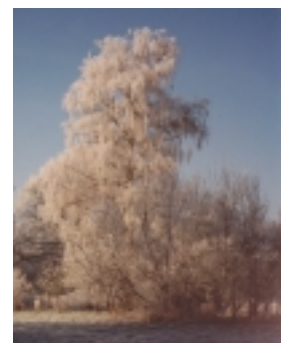
We had hoped to have the Old Parsonage painted this year, but one thing after another prevented the decorators coming. Hopefully, we're high on their list for next year! We did find plenty of other things to do in the maintenance line. With three old buildings there's never much of a let-up, and at present the utility room at the convent has just had its floor ripped up and we're waiting for the concrete to dry before the vinyl can go down and we can re-furnish it.

Michaela's immediate family came to visit her during the summer. Her three sons and daughter came separately from Australia. She had, earlier in the year, had treatment for cancer. Recently she's been back in hospital a couple of times, but is currently back home, but very poorly.

Susan Elisabeth was also briefly in hospital, and spent time recuperating with the sisters at Arundel. Alison spent some time at Fairacres early in the year, after she stopped working at the Guest House. Damian went to the Anglican Novice Guardian's meeting at Begbroke, where they set up a new course for novices of any community.

Kathy went back to Seattle for 3 weeks when her mother died this autumn, to be with her family, and to help out her sisters.

The garden got rather neglected this year. Time just seemed to fly. Now, while it's cold, we start preparing for next season!



**Wishing you a very
Joyful Christmas**

*from
the Community at Freeland*

We look forward to seeing many of you next year, and if you can't get Freeland in person, come and visit us online!



Our website can be found at www.oscfreeland.wordpress.com

