



All Saints Newsletter 2019

Greetings to you all from All Hallows in Bungay, Norwich and Mull and thank you so much for your prayers that have upheld and supported us in our various locations through the year. “Living it Differently”, to borrow and slightly change a phrase current in Norwich Cathedral during August, has been an interesting venture for all of us. Living it differently from the way we did prior to our moves in 2018, and living it differently from each other, yet still with the same authentic CAH mark has been a challenge, but one embraced as wholeheartedly as possible by each of us wherever we are and recognised by those who have visited us. There is news from Sr Pamela, Sr Rachel, Sr Margaret and Sr Edith Margaret later in this Newsletter so the following is mainly about how we have lived it differently as a CAH presence in the heart of Bungay.

We have been delighted to welcome many visitors during the past year, some just morning or afternoon visits to see us and our new home or for Spiritual Direction, but quite a number to stay in one of our two Guest Rooms and share in our life for several days. Hospitality is still a very important aspect of our charism, though obviously it is a different experience here from what it was in Lavinia House or Holy Cross House. In the past our Guests stayed in separate houses, some distance away from the Sisters, but here they live in our home and share our meals, our worship, the house and our life, as much or as little as they want, but all under the same roof. The ‘homely’ feel of the house has been a distinct and added advantage to the facilities we are able to offer here. We have hosted the usual Advent and Lent Quiet Days and also days for our Oblates, Associates, Members of Contact and a few groups who have come to us from further away. Two priests have had a regular bi-monthly ‘Away Day’ together here, a continuation of their former practice in Lavinia House. We have introduced Pax Days for anyone who wants to come away from the normal routines and pressures of life for the inside of a day to share in the peace which is a marked



feature of the house, especially our chapel, just as it was at Ditchingham. A Pax Day is tailor-made for each individual. A Guest Room is made available to relax in

and to spend the day doing whatever is most helpful - to rest, read, pray, sleep, listen to music or simply to be, and they are free to use the chapel, sitting room and in the warmer months the garden as well. If they wish they can join us for the Offices and meals and we also aim to provide a 'listening ear' if needed.

There have been certain changes to our pattern of worship that have taken place in relation to our "Living it Differently." We rejoice in having a lovely smaller chapel, with good acoustics, much more suitable for saying and singing the 4-fold Office that punctuates and undergirds our day. Sadly, we are no longer able to have a daily Eucharist but it makes the ones we do have all the more precious. On the first and third Sundays of the month we join the congregation at Holy Trinity Church, just a minute or so along the road from us, for a 10 o'clock Sung Eucharist and on the 2nd and 4th we go to the 8 o'clock said BCP one. On Wednesdays we join an encouraging number at the 10 o'clock Eucharist there which is from Common Worship as are the



Sunday ones at 10 o'clock. Sr Sheila also goes to the weekly Eucharist

at the Nursing Home when she is free. Unless we are away we have a service regularly in our chapel at 9.30 on Saturdays. Fr Brian usually presides at a Eucharist for us on alternate Saturdays and also on days of special celebration - Christmas Day, Candlemas and M. Lavinia's Day being particularly memorable occasions. On the other Saturdays we have a Service of the Word and Communion from the Tabernacle, followed, as are the Eucharists, by coffee and fellowship in the Sitting Room. We have also been blessed by other priests celebrating a Eucharist for us a number of times when they have visited, and are especially grateful to Fr Andrew SSL & Sr Julie SSL and Lynn Chapman for their ministry to us.

A positive change as we "Live it Differently" is the number of services we have been able to join in elsewhere. St Mary's Church here in Bungay was full for last year's Armistice Day service, as was Norwich Cathedral for Bishop Graham's final Eucharist, it was good to be part of such large worshipping congregations. Sr Sheila was able to join in the World Day of Prayer at the local Emmanuel URC church and it was a real blessing for both of us to be able to attend The Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday in Norwich Cathedral. A very different form of blessing was our being taken to Southwold for Good Friday as there were no services in Holy Trinity that day. There we joined Wendy Howell, a probationary Oblate, for a service at 10 o/c in St Edmund's Church after which we walked with the congregation in a procession of witness along Southwold High Street to the South Green where the cross was set up and we held an open-air service. After a light lunch with Wendy and her husband they took us to St Margaret's Church Reydon for the 2 o/c service which was very similar to the one we used to have at Ditchingham, including the veneration of the Cross. Back at '23' we enjoyed Hot Cross Buns with our tea and about 1 ½



hour's silence in our chapel before Evening Prayer. It had been a different kind of Good Friday for us, but very special and full of its own meaning. We devised our own form of liturgy for Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday evenings based on but slightly different from the ones we used to have at Ditchingham.

Shortly before Easter our Oblate Maureen Jordan died and on May 1st we went with Sr Rachel and Ray Smith, another Oblate, to her funeral in the URC Church in Norwich. The number of people there, including a sizeable contingent from All Hallows, was evidence of the lives she had touched. Later that month a happier occasion saw us going with Sr Rachel to Gimingham to the 90th birthday party of our Oblate Jean Rowe. At the end of June we spent a Saturday afternoon with Sr Rachel celebrating her Profession Anniversary and the following day she took us to St Peter's Sheringham where we joined in the Eucharist and lunch for Fr Andrew Lane who was celebrating 45 years in the Priesthood and 25 years in Religious Profession. We were grateful to our Associate Paulette Yallop for our overnight stay and her joining with us in saying the Offices while we were with her.

Norwich Cathedral, despite not being the 'Mother Church' for the 5 of us who now live in Bungay, is a lot easier for us to get to than Bury St Edmunds so we have been there to the 11 o/c Eucharist on several occasions, one of them being Ascension Day. After that service we went to the Revelation Café for a coffee and then had packed lunches out in the sun before going to an organ recital by our former Convent organist Tim Patient. It was good to meet him again and a real musical treat to hear him play again. Sr Rachel goes to the Cathedral daily for Morning Prayer and the Eucharist and welcomes people to the Cathedral as a volunteer on Monday mornings and both she and Sr Sheila enjoyed their involvement as volunteers in the Seeing It Differently project in August...of which more later! We still feel very involved with and pray

daily for the life of the diocese of Norwich of which we were a part for so many years, before we crossed the Waveney into the county of Suffolk and the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

“Living it Differently” as a Dispersed Community has brought its own challenges but we have developed a number of ways to honour the Community aspect. We have recently returned from 10 days away near Whitby. Sr Rachel drove the two of us up to the OHP Pastoral Centre at Sleights and Sr Pamela and the ever faithful Mattie joined us there from Mull. The first morning we had our Annual General Chapter for which we had prepared by having a Pre-Chapter Chapter involving Srs Margaret and Edith Margaret at the Nursing Home before we came away. Following the Chapter we had the next 4 days in retreat and on the Sunday we went over to the new Priory and Chapel of the OHP Sisters at Whitby and shared in their Eucharist and lunch. We spent the rest of that day and the next 2 days on holiday together before setting off for our different homes, having already booked for next years’ time away at the new Priory before we left! This is the main time when 4 of us can get together, but Sr Pamela came down and stayed at ‘23’ with us in Easter week and Sr Rachel came over for lunch on the Wednesday. The 4 of us spent a happy afternoon together at the Earsham Wetland Centre. Sr Pamela also visited the 3 Sisters in Care during her time here. Sr Rachel comes over from Norwich to see them and have lunch with



us as often as she can and Sr Elizabeth takes Communion to them each Week. Sr Sheila also goes to the weekly Eucharist at the Nursing Home and sees Sr Edith Margaret and Sr Violet then. Sr Violet spends much of her time sleeping, but when awake appreciates the Sacrament and a chat. We have a ‘Community Day’ together on the first

Intercessions

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY, WITH THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT HITHERTO.....

SUNDAY – All our fellow-Religious; those living in new monastic and in other intentional Christian communities, especially those with some tie to CAH

MONDAY – Isle of Mull; Sr. Pamela at Roan Cottage Bunessan, with a varied ministry including hospitality; and the churches she is linked with on Iona and Mull.

TUESDAY – Bungay, Suffolk; Sr. Margaret at Holmwood Residential Home; Sisters Violet and Edith Margaret at All Hallows Nursing Home; Sisters Elizabeth and Sheila living at 23 Trinity Street with room for two guests and those visiting during the day. All the local church and parish communities with which we have links.
Norwich; Sr Rachel living in Norwich and exercising a ministry of prayer and presence in the City.

WEDNESDAY – CAH Trustees and other professional support teams. None of this stage of CAH's journey would have been possible without the help of our Trustees and the Finance and Property Committee, or of our financial and legal advisors. Give thanks for ongoing support from them and from our staff, and pray for them.

THURSDAY – Pray for the other organisations on the Ditchingham site: the Conference Centre, Day Nursery and Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney; the "With" Community now building a presence and ministry in the space vacated by C.A.H. For good relationships over the whole site.

FRIDAY – For those providing care which was previously the responsibility of All Hallows Healthcare Trust, at the Nursing Home, Hospital and Day Care sites. Give thanks for the work of the AHHT trustees and pray for all whose lives have been affected by these changes. All Hallows House, Norwich; for continuing discernment over its future use and direction. Pray for prisons and chaplaincies local to CAH's various hubs

SATURDAY – Pray for our Alongsiders, Associates, Oblates and Contact members, and for all connected to us through prayer and friendship. CAH staff who have lost or changed jobs; all still missing what they have received from CAH in the past; for all the new contacts being forged now.

Wednesday of each month. Sometimes we go to Norwich and have lunch and do something with Sr Rachel there, at other times she comes to Bungay and after lunch together we find something to do locally, involving the other Sisters when we can. In Advent and Lent Sr Rachel comes over to '23' and we have a 2day Retreat together. In addition to actually being together we try to keep in contact by email, text, WhatsApp, now and again by phone and by sending each other regular reports of what we've been doing.

Against this backdrop of "Living it Differently" there have been the 3 other areas where difference has been highlighted. It was a great shock when the news came that All Hallows Hospital and Nursing Home were no longer viable and would have to be closed, along with Day Care, Home Care and Meals on Wheels. Our hearts went out to the patients, residents and staff whose lives were so dramatically impacted by this turn of events. We were tremendously grateful for all the prayers and support we received and the hard work behind the scenes by the CEO and Trustees of the Healthcare Trust in conjunction with our CAH Trustee Board and other Professionals that has led to the Nursing Home not having to close but now being in the capable hands of NorseCare. Similarly, Day Care at the Hospital is now being provided by Empanda Care, Home Care has been taken over by Nightingale Care and the future of the rest of the Hospital now also looks promising. We have every hope that the high quality of care expected and given formerly by All Hallows Healthcare will be continued under these new Providers.

Thank you for your prayers and patience in relation to the new Charity who will be taking up residence in the houses on the Ditchingham site. It is a group is called "With" which will have a religious community on site, with a life of prayer, service and community with and for the young people of the UK. This



community will hold the spirituality of the site, inviting young people and those who work with them into retreats centring round spiritual practices and daily offices. Alongside this, the community will welcome non-residential members who will be able to connect with the daily rhythms on line. This same platform will allow young people to continue their journey after leaving the site. The “With” Team believe this will be not only life giving for the young people, but life changing, offering a way of living that will sustain them for life. “With” is comprised of a group of youth workers from across the south of England, representing a range of denominations and organisations and plans to work with many others. The Church Army will initially help to oversee and support the new project. We Sisters are thrilled about the way the “With” community see their life and ministry developing, living it differently from but building on the life and worship of CAH that touched so many hearts and lives on the site at Ditchingham.

In the melting pot at the moment but also with exciting possibilities ahead is the future of our house in Norwich and the adjacent Julian Shrine and Centre. A vision has been put forward combining the evolution of the Religious Life for the 21st century, the provision of service to those in need in the city and the revitalisation of the mission of the Church in Norwich with a distinct catholic spirituality – all inspired and shaped by the life and writings of Julian of Norwich. Such a vision picks up the threads of the way CAH has ministered over many years to those living in the parish and those drawn to visit from much further afield. Such a vision would indeed be Living it Differently but in a way that would surely be endorsed both by M. Lavinia and M. Julian. Watch this space.....!

In his address at the final Eucharist in the Convent Chapel Bishop Graham James took as his text “The Lord will guide you continually....”

Isaiah 58:11. As we look back over the past year we rejoice and give thanks for the many ways in which those words have proved true and continue to do so in our various situations. A significant part of that is due to the prayers and support of all our Alongsiders, Oblates, Associates, Contact Members and friends and perhaps especially to the members of our CAH Trustee Board for the part they play in helping us to discern and work out the practical implications of where that guidance is leading us. As our second All Saints-tide as a dispersed Community draws near we give thanks for the inspiration that moved M. Lavinia to choose as our patrons those who were not afraid of "Living it Differently" as they followed Christ and became Saints in the process! May God richly bless you all and each one of us as we celebrate God's work of grace in all the Saints.....

With love and prayers from all of us in CAH,

Sr Elizabeth and Sr Sheila



Dates for your diary

Lent Quiet Day Saturday 4th April 2020

Bungay

Advent Quiet Day Saturday 28th November 2020

Bungay

Our quiet days run from 10am until 4.30pm and cost **£12**. You will need to bring a **packed lunch** when attending, but cakes and refreshments will be provided by the Community.

Places are limited to 12, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Report by Sister Edith Margaret on her year at All Hallows Nursing Home

I came to the Nursing Home on January 10th 2018 which was the last day of Day Care that I used to come to here. I knew people here so I thought it would be nice to live here. The food is good and there is always help if you need it.

I have enjoyed quizzes, Philip reading to us or playing the organ. We have done some indoor gardening, planting seeds and things like that. I have played Scrabble sometimes and done some handiwork. We have entertainment and the one I like best is Felicity who sings and her father accompanies her.

I miss my sisters and the daily Eucharist, but we do have a weekly one here in Chapel and Sister Elizabeth brings me Communion each week. I was a bit upset when I heard that the Nursing Home would have to close and I'm glad it can stay open with NorseCare.

I like it when Sophie Adams brings her dog Minty in to see me!



News from Sister Pamela on Mull

Almost All Saints tide again! Last November I was able to attend Mass at the 'House of Prayer' on Iona and after an inspiring homily we sang all the verse of 'For all the Saints'. There was even a most magnificent rainbow. That Sunday the ferries were cancelled due to the bad weather so I attended the Baptist church and again we sang all verses to 'For all the Saints'. The Orthodox Community have unfortunately now dispersed and the Sisters gone to Ireland.

Christmas was celebrated on Iona with my staying on Joyce's bed settee. It was so good to be there for the carol service and then on Christmas day a lovely Eucharist in Bishop's House Chapel. I was also able to stay on Iona over the Columba weekend. Joyce was away but invited me to use her home. It was good to be able to be involved with things at the Abbey including my first ceilidh (held in the Abbey cloisters.)



Weather hasn't been kind and I understand there is an increase of strong winds and rain (climate change) - flowers when they grow don't just get blown down, the petals get shredded! Now I see the rabbits have eaten the wallflowers I had planted!

At both Advent and Lent I've had discussion groups here in the house and on a different day with a different angle on Iona (which I've attended, ferries permitting). The summer has been busy with a real diversity of visitors and retreatants all most appreciative of their stay here. It has been lovely to welcome 'old girls' one from Junior and one from our Senior school- also friends with connections to relatives of Sr.Jean.

Recently we had a lovely joint service of Songs of Praise in the church garden at St.Ernan's church, Creich (just up the road from here). This year I again had a scarecrow, an angel and called it the 'Angel of the Ross' with extended wings which really did get blown away! Bunesan

show was again a big event in the yearly calendar and fun to circulate with many locals who only normally come to funerals!!

I still don't have a mobile signal here and the computer keeps playing up and shutting down. Took an hour to get it going this morning... technology is fine when it works.

I want to end with a quote which I'm sure we can all ponder but I'm not sure where I found it. "Boundaries can shut out the Holy One and trap us inside an illusory experience of separation - let the margins melt. we are to disappear into the Greater Garden where we find our true being"

Pax Days : Breathing Space in Ministry

Thanks to The Reverend Lynn Chapman for this report

Towards the end of last year, I found myself challenged by the way that the active parts of my ministry, and the necessary preparation for them, seemed

to overtake the scholarly and devotional parts that lie at the core. I knew that I had found a solution when I heard about Pax Days with the Community of All Hallows in their new Bungay home. Now I look forward to my monthly visit.



As I live close by I am able to join the Sisters for Morning Prayer at 7.30am. I then gratefully drop into their measured rhythm of Offices and prayer times through the day – but I don't have to. I share breakfast and lunch with them and leave after Vespers.

During the day I have the use of a room set aside for me, but can also use other areas of the house and garden, if I want to be sociable. I

choose to use the time to read, usually. It's good to really get stuck into a book, knowing that the phone can't ring and that the doorbell is not for me. Sometimes I bring a particular piece of work that I want to concentrate on; taking it to Bungay means that I can't be distracted by other things that I've got on the go – or domestic tasks that I see at home. In the interests of balance, I often go for a walk in the afternoon, enjoying time by the river or a visit to the castle.

Pax Days have become for me a cherished time when I feel able to set aside responsibility, to relax in the wonderful hospitality of the Sisters and to return home refreshed and ready for whatever lies ahead.

Sister Rachel writes...

When I think over the last year, lots of memories come to mind, one of the more unusual being the sight of a bishop preaching from halfway down a helter-skelter! I was one of many volunteers for Norwich Cathedral's Seeing it Differently this summer, which was an amazing experience. I enjoyed being part of the different opportunities on offer for visitors to explore ... I did also get to slide down the helter-skelter! Then came the Community retreat to Sleights, near Whitby, where it was lovely to meet up with Sr Pamela again. We had beautiful weather, surrounded by the views of the hills around, with lots of exercise walking up and down them. We also enjoyed two days out together, when Mattie decided that I was very useful as a step to help him look out of the car window ... thankfully Sr Pamela was driving at the time. September brought the Anglican Religious Communities conference, where there were delegates from both traditional and newer Communities, in some cases not quite established. It was encouraging to see the mix between the two, as well as the ways Community life is being renewed.

The pattern of my day continues to be centred around the Divine Office, with much the same pattern as when we were at Ditchingham. I start with Morning Prayer and the Eucharist at the Cathedral, saying the rest of the Offices in tune with the Community. At Evening Prayer in particular, I find there is a real sense of the unity with the rest of the Community. My days take on a different flavour, depending on what is happening. I try to spend time in and around the city praying, and to get over to Bungay fairly regularly. The pattern of the year continues; I have enjoyed being able to join in with some of the larger services the Cathedral has to offer, such as the Christmas processions; I was also able to join a Lent group. The seasons take a different flavour here; I am much less aware of the farming year, but there are still trees and flowers in the city to mark the changing time. I loved seeing all the crocuses around the city in the spring, with the variety of colours.



Earlier this year, my mother developed back pain, which over the weeks became incapacitating; the doctors diagnosed a tumour, which has spread, and is terminal. She is on medication for the pain, and is able to manage at home at the moment. Your prayers for her and our wider family would be appreciated.

While life in Norwich is very different from that at Ditchingham, I am enjoying living here. It is a lovely city, with space and green areas, and much happening, in the churches as well as elsewhere. I often find an exhibition in the Forum, or pop into the castle on my day off (thanks to my mother's gift of a Museum's pass), and I have appreciated keeping

up old connections as well as making new ones. It was especially interesting to go to an exhibition in the forum of old Norwich photographs, and associated memories, to find a reminiscence about the 'nuns', which from the context must have been us. We apparently had a habit of burning our rubbish on Mondays, much to the distress of surrounding housewives, who'd just done their washing....

Sister Sheila's report on volunteering at Norwich Cathedral

"SEEING IT DIFFERENTLY" ... was - in case we have forgotten - the title of the project that ran from 8th – 18th August, in Norwich Cathedral. That was it as far as we were concerned, at 23 Trinity Street at any rate. If we were in Norwich we'd certainly look in and maybe even have a ride on the famous helter-skelter. That was before Sister Rachel volunteered to be a volunteer and then emailed us to say that they were really quite anxious to have more of the same in order to do the project safely and how did we feel...? For some reason I said yes, while respecting and agreeing with Sister Elizabeth's view that, given her "migraine history", it probably was not something she should be engaging in. That was fine as far as it went; there was then a tranche of information and form-filling in to be seen to, and I waded through the Safeguarding paperwork and booked a training slot, only to be told apologetically that as my clearance was still in date with the diocese, I needn't have bothered! Then – not being involved in the closer organisation which must sometimes have been a nightmare - it was a question of waiting for one's first turn of duty.

We had signed up on a big rota which covered the whole time and which looked like a school timetable but was probably far, far worse to organise. I had opted for three full days, to avoid trips in and out of Norwich, and one half. I set off on my first day (the day after the first full day of opening) quite apprehensively. I'll amend that. *Very*

apprehensively. The donations desk at the Cathedral was one of the nerve centres of the operation and was buzzing; we signed in, and went off to our first postings. Mine was on the “Look up and Lie down” station.... the one with the yoga mats just in front of the nave altar sanctuary, with a lovely view of the bosses, particularly of the Nativity portrayal which was directly above. The first two, very early, customers were a mum and daughter. Then it went quiet but thereafter we were pretty busy. My co-volunteer was ace at interacting meaningfully and managing to have really good “spiritual” conversations; my input was more practical, rendered with a smile and a (silent) prayer! Old friends rolled up out of no-where. The candle stands – all of them - were doing a roaring trade. It was a bit unfortunate that the beautiful candle “Globe” was next to the helter-skelter queue, once children had realised that you could ... have fun with the candles. But, thanks to vigilant vergers and the efforts of volunteers to say nothing of parents and minders, there were no fires.

This shift was “phew!” with conversation, instruction/guidance on the use of the mats and cards, and the everlasting straightening up of mats and tidying up of prayer cards. The helter skelter volunteers were finding their stints even more full-on, from what we could see where we were. “Lie down” people seemed to mingle with those making for the helter skelter queue, and with photographers wanting good pictures of the goings-on at the West end. I was rather glad when the relief shift, including Rachel, arrived! and I went off to the Bible Box, not before knocking off for half an hour to sit in the cloister, say Midday Prayer and nibble a flapjack and an apple. The Bible Box was very quiet.... a remarkable piece of work. How else could you sit in a space and be surrounded, behind, before and above, with Scripture?? On this occasion there was not a huge amount of interaction going on – but there was some, and it is all worthwhile, every crumb. (It brought to mind the adage “Don’t just do something...STAND THERE!”)

I departed to get the bus (just doable from the Cathedral) and was SO grateful to get home to a welcome from Elizabeth and a delicious jacket potato and trimmings. I have to place on record my huge gratitude to her for putting up with so much absence from me and for producing the suppers on my “absent” days - not to mention the prayer and other support from her and so many others. I was back on the Monday. It was my turn for the labyrinth. I have to come clean and say that I’m not as into them as many, many others are. In fact, I can’t - or couldn’t - see the point of walking round and round in decreasing or increasing circles just to get to the middle and then come out via the same route. Although I’m *still* not as in to them as some are, I could feel myself being drawn into what it is that makes people do it, and – more importantly - thinking I’d quite like to do it myself to get into it a bit more. That has remained, although there wasn’t time to do so then. Many children really Got It (some didn’t) – and it was really lovely to watch them, totally unselfconscious and absorbed. We were offering fair-sized stones from a basket to folk, to walk round with and to drop them symbolically into the centre. One little scrap (too small to walk it) somehow crawled to the centre and started joyfully flinging some of the stones around. She’ll go far, she will! Many of the parents and (many) grandparents also went round, and one woman



said it was really a special experience to go round shoe-less and experience a connectedness with the building, with the people inhabiting it and – ultimately – God.

The afternoon brought Operation Helter Skelter. This was extremely full-on, but huge fun once I’d assembled my brain cells in one place. Possibly I am not cut out to be a full-time fairground attendant; and all I was doing was giving out mats

and making sure that children had enough cover for their arms (to prevent burns and splinters) But it was wonderful to interact with SO many lovely “Un-church” people, and I experienced a sense of its being part and parcel of what the church in general, and the cathedral in this instance, are about.

The Wednesday morning brought a stint on the Quiet Space. This provided a chance to pray for all who had “written in” with comments, and for everyone involved in the current project – and to meet a number of people, very young and not so young, including very lively toddlers; people who needed to find a cup of tea, a loo, an aged parent (“Have you seen my dad? He’s got my mum’s handbag. If he comes back, tell him to sit and wait!”) etc., etc. At one point I was asked if I knew the meaning of the Latin on the altarpiece in the Jesus Chapel (yes!) and there were a number of requests for guidance as to get to Nurse Cavell’s grave, and one person who wanted literature on Julian of Norwich. A really lovely, unlooked for, feature of this stint was listening in on the daily Eucharist, which was being celebrated next door in the Presbytery, and managing to pray along with a bit of it. That kind of thing keeps you anchored.

The afternoon was spent on the mats again. Very, very busy. People seemed to come in waves. My colleague on this stint was brilliant at pointing out the bosses, etc., on the ceiling, and telling folk exactly where to look, and it is certainly an interesting way to interest people in really having a good look at what you miss out on usually. We met up with another CAH friend or two or three – lovely encounters, all of them. And a lot of time was spent today handing out binoculars and talking about “SID”. I was struck by how many people there were speaking of how thrilled and moved they had been to see the Cathedral so full, so happy and so godly (for want of a better word). and saying, in effect, “never mind the naysayers – this is a superb idea!”

Two days later I went over in the afternoon – this time to oversee the “Trust Trail” – suitably attired for what was a slightly chilly cloister. Large coffee cups (disposable; compostable) were filled with sand and placed in a sort of grid, and participants (mostly children but some adults) invited to work in twos, with one blindfolded and being guided by the other. It was extremely interesting to see the variety of approaches taken by the guides - some very well thought-out and carefully expressed, some completely “instinctive” for want of a better word. And isn’t it easy to get your right muddled with your left!! This stint ended early, so I got the 5.20 bus home with great ease.

Was I relieved that this was the last day? Yes and no. I think the pros outweigh the cons and I am truly grateful to Sister Rachel for suggesting that we might think about participation. It was really lovely, as a temporary volunteer and bird of passage, to be made so very welcome and at home by the Cathedral “regulars” - both paid and voluntary. “Seeing it Differently” has done a lot for me and I feel it will have made a huge, if unquantifiable, difference to the lives of all who participated and hence to the life of the Church.

LIVING ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNITY OF ALL HALLOWS

Thank you, Carly Thompson and Jess Leeming, for contributing this insight and for posing for a photograph!



“Hi, my name is Jess. In May of 2015, at the age of twenty, whilst searching for an Anglican community of nuns online, I came across the webpage for All Hallows. After reading through the history and other information, I contacted the sisters via e-mail. I’m happy to say that I received a reply the very same day – which can’t always be said for other communities! Sister Rachel informed me that Sister Sheila would be in touch soon, and thanked me for getting in touch. True to her word, Sister Sheila was in touch the next day. It was not too long after this that I was invited down to Ditchingham, during Ascension Week 2015, for the “Come and Be” week, which I found very helpful. I do believe, though, that Carly will tell you more about that!”

“Hi, Carly here – actually at 23 Trinity Street” (this piece was being written at no. 23) “I first made contact with the sisters in 2012, at the age of twenty-five. I was going through a particularly difficult time personally as I struggled with issues around identity and belonging. Having left my childhood church I was looking for a safe, accepting and loving place to worship and serve. It was a late night Google search for All Hallows Church in Stockport that mistakenly highlighted All Hallows Convent in Ditchingham. Having commented that day to a friend that “I may as well go and be a nun” I was intrigued to learn more about them, so I clicked on the community webpage, and my first surprise was that they were Anglican – I always believed nuns were Catholic – and secondly, they were not enclosed. Taking note of the contact info., I sent an email enquiry, to which I received a positive and speedy response. I was invited to visit and from that day I haven’t looked back.

“In 2015 the Community held a “Come and Be” event, which opened up the life to all. We joined the sisters in chapel and at meal times and we discussed with Sister Sheila the history of the community and its current purpose. We learned about the ministries they had offered and

continue to offer. And we reflected on and discussed our own faith journeys and how we'd got to this point. and it offered the opportunity to explore a variety of CAH vocations – Contact, Associates, Oblates, Alongsiding and profession as a member of the core community. That “Come and Be” event is when I first met Jess.

“Whilst we thought that we already had an understanding of what religious life is, and how the community worked, God decided to turn the tables and proved that we actually didn't. The sisters revealed to us that they felt they were being led in a new direction, which in the end led to them becoming a dispersed community – something that to us was somewhat unheard of.

“Everybody has found that, even though the community setup has changed, the traditional way of living religious life has remained the same. Prayer and Christian love is still very much the cornerstone. While many people reminisce about the “family” feel they found at Ditchingham, we feel that it is safe to say, whether you visit Bungay, Mull or Norwich, you will still feel very much at home.

“We have found that the approach to Alongsiding here at Bungay is not that dissimilar to how it was at the Convent. However, the general feel of it now is less formal and more accessible. Being in the same living space at no. 23 allows not only us, but other guests to build and maintain more personal relationships with the sisters and each other, in a way which just wasn't quite as feasible when staying at St. Michael's or Lavinia House, due to it being such a large space.”

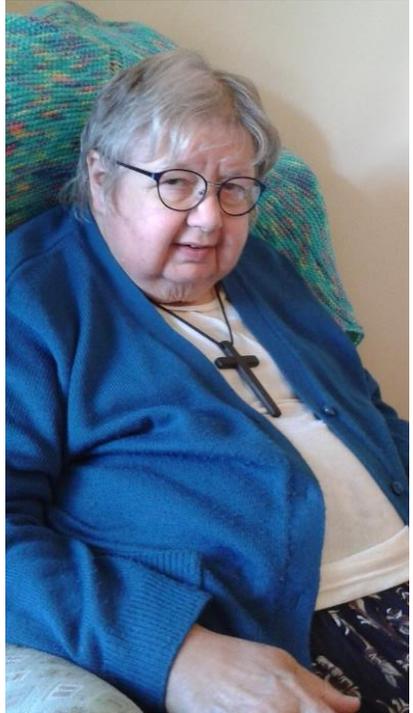
It was a joy having both Carly and Jess at no. 23. Pray for them and for CAH as they continue their pilgrimage with the community!

HOLMWOOD RESIDENTIAL HOME

from one of the residents – Sister Margaret!

I'm still at Holmwood and it is very much my home, I'm very happy here.

We have only been out on one outing as they can't get a driver for the bus. However, they try to do "themed" days. We had an "Abba" Day when four of the staff dressed up as Abba singers and they danced and sang the Abba songs. We had an "India" Day and two of the staff put on their saris and we had flowers in our hair and a dot on our forehead and Indian music at lunch. We had a Seaside Day with two gazebos and a paddling pool and sandpit, and had lunch of fish and chips in newspaper and Parravani's Ice-cream van came and we all had an ice-cream.



There are a few Christians here but not many, and only two staff are Christian. So I look forward to Elizabeth bringing me Communion every week.

I had a number of illnesses after Christmas and my balance is no longer very good. In the home I use a four-wheeler to get about but I have to have a wheelchair when I go out. But I'm still very happy here.



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