Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it’s the only thing that ever does.
(Margaret Mead)

Encouraging words from Pope Francis in Rio: Today, we need a Church capable of walking at people’s side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey; a Church able to make sense of the “night” contained in the flight of so many of our brothers and sisters from Jerusalem; And we take his words seriously when he says: 'Who am I to judge?'

In early September a group of Community and Companions joined other Lay People and Sisters from all our Priories in Europe for some Weaving Days in Zaragoza as part of the follow-up to our last General Chapter.

The theme of the days was Inter-Religious dialogue with an itinerary which explored the beliefs and practices of other religions. These sessions allowed time for a reflection prepared by each faith group and focused on the similarities and unity between us all.

Everyone agreed that the days had been a wonderful experience, and thanked the Community of Zaragoza and their friends for their hard work and hospitality.

S. Christina and S. Teresa Ann joined others to pray for peace and sing hymns outside the Excel Building in East London during the recent Arms Trade Fair in September. On the Monday evening they joined 60 people at a silent candlelit prayer vigil outside the entrance to the Exhibition hall itself.

Messages of support were read from Bishops Thomas and Stephen. The sales teams had to pass through the people praying for peace to reach their hotels or the exit.
370TH CELEBRATION OF THE VISUAL ARTS

On 30th June the Community and School hosted an exhibition and a series of workshops and talks run by past students, artists, teachers and friends. The event celebrated the rich heritage of the Visual Arts over the Community and school’s recent past. It was a wonderful day! We were thrilled to welcome back so many Old Fishes and to join with other friends. A rich variety of workshops ran throughout the day - photography, sculpture, wood carving, crafts, printing and graphics. Huge thanks to all those involved.

The Community gathered with many Companions and friends on a sunny afternoon in July to enjoy a picnic by the waters before joining others to lead Evening Prayer. We prayed in Thanksgiving for the courage of insight of our forebears and for the many blessings of today. One three year old’s impromptu dancing added great joy to the celebration!

ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION IN CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

Our year of celebration comes to an end with a service of Thanksgiving in Chelmsford Cathedral on the 5th October at 2:00pm. Please join us.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
FUN WEEK 2013

As well as being part of the programme of events to celebrate our 370th Anniversary, this year’s Fun Week was also notable because it was the tenth year that this week of activities on the Melbourne Estates was run by the Community and their friends. Once again there were full houses in both the morning and the afternoon, and the twenty Yellowshirts were again outstanding.

THE FEAST OF ST AUGUSTINE

The Community marked the Feast of St Augustine in different ways including an open house afternoon at our house in East London. In early September we invited other Religious who like us follow the Rule of St Augustine to join us to reflect on his writings about Community life and prayer.

“Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.” St Augustine.

S. M.Thérèse has recently started to visit a surgical ward at Colchester General Hospital. She writes: I have to be ready for anything... young traffic accidents, active older post-operatives of varying sorts, amputees, breakages, men and women on this ward. I love the challenge and am grateful for the opportunity. As always I meet such interesting and brave people who like a listening ear.

SUPPORTING OUR SISTERS IN AFRICA

Sixty people gathered in Stock on a sunny Sunday lunchtime to enjoy a delicious lunch and to raise money for a Nutrition Centre in the Congo. Well over £1000 was raised.
During our Community Days at the start of September we watched the film Cry Freedom and reflected together on some of the inspirational words that have come from the iconic figures in South Africa’s recent history. Perhaps the quote that struck most of us strongly was from Nelson Mandela:

“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”

With people throughout the world we have been praying for the people of Syria over these last weeks of humanitarian disaster.

**God of Compassion,**
Hear the cries of the people of Syria,
Bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
Bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
Strengthen Syria’s neighbours in their care and welcome for refugees,
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
And protect those committed to peace.

**God of Hope,**
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies,
Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria,
And give us hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

5th October: Thanksgiving in Chelmsford Cathedral 2:00pm.
18th October: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3XD, 10:00am-3:00pm.
2nd November: Mass for the Dead at New Hall 2:00pm.

All welcome to any of the above - for details and booking please contact crssuk@canonesses.co.uk or phone 01206 867296.

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