

Sisters of Jesus Way



Advent 2015

Our dear Friends,

We send you our greetings as Advent approaches. May this season bring you many blessings as you anticipate the coming of the Christ-child on December 25th.

We begin, as always, with many thanks to all of you who have helped us these last months, by assisting us in many practical ways, praying for us and by your giving. In connection with the latter, may we remind you again, as the Gift Aid goes in before the next newsletter, that you need to inform us if you no longer pay tax.



A friend has done, and is doing, a magnificent job in our library. We have been able to attach new shelves to make for more ease in finding books. There are now thousands of books covering many aspects of Christianity, including devotional, biblical background, church history, ethics, theology and much else. Our excellent biography section has spilled over into our large lounge. Those of you who are local are very welcome to borrow books. We want the library to be used. It is not only for our visitors.

We know that the website is being well used by the number of hits that are recorded. You will find us at www.redacre.org.uk Our book, "To Love You Only", is now in a number of bookshops. Our local Christian Bookshop has returned several times for more copies, as has Chester Cathedral. Recently Liverpool Cathedral bookshop has taken copies. CLC, a large Christian bookshop in Newcastle, has recently asked us for more copies. Unfortunately, we have not had the time to contact other bookshops. We are grateful to the friends who have acted on our behalf in Newcastle and in Chester.

We are delighted that our new CD is now available. It is called, 'Faithful Father' and features our own music. It is distinctive and we would say, 'very much us'. We know that many people were blessed by our first CD, 'Come, Lord Jesus', which is also still available, as we had to have a re-run of another thousand copies. We hope the new CD will bring equal blessing to all those who listen to it. You will find details on the accompanying leaflet.

With both the CD, 'Come, Lord Jesus', and the book, 'To Love You Only', which were new ventures for us, we have been heartened by comments that we have received in writing or verbally. We are quite amazed how far they have travelled and to whom. We are so grateful to the Lord that they have brought encouragement, hope, love, joy and peace to so many people.

When our biography section from the library moved upstairs to the lounge, it definitely did something to the room, making it look less like a meeting room and more like a cosy living-room. Alongside this we have been conscious that in the winter, when the sun lounge is cold, there needed to be somewhere else for our visitors to relax. Of course we will still need the lounge to be used by groups, which usually means, at most, two mornings and afternoons a week. The remainder of the time it is empty. That is about to change. A wood burning stove has been purchased and has been installed. We had a great time choosing granite for the hearth. We had no idea there would be so many different shades, despite being limited by having to decide from the offcuts. A few easily movable, comfortable chairs have been moved into the lounge and along with baskets of logs, there is quite a transformation. We think it will be very popular on a cold winter's day! Sister Lynda's mum emailed us, "You won't be able to get your guests to leave it and go up to bed!" We will see!

Since our last newsletter, two people very close to us have died. The first was Ruth Hunt, one of our Followers of the Lamb. She had fought cancer for four years with outstanding courage. Two of us were privileged to see her less than a week before the Lord called her home. She took us around her lovely garden and prior to that she had helped her husband prepare lunch for us. As we left, she came to the door to wave us 'good-bye'. This was very much 'Ruth', courageous, still looking forward and refusing to give in. She was an excellent secretary to our little group of Followers. Until a few years ago she helped us in the kitchen and with anything else that needed doing, including digging a pond in the garden! She always brought us flowers for the chapel, home baked scones, and for special occasions she made and decorated delicious fruit cakes. It is a huge compliment to the community that she was buried in our blue dress and our emblem, the Lamb and Cross, was on her coffin. We have also heard that the family wish to place it on her tombstone. We will miss her cheery

smile and positive approach to life, as well as her sincere following of the Lord Jesus. We have lost a cherished friend, and Jim, her husband, a dearly loved wife. Our loss is heaven's gain.

The other death is that of our dear Nain. She was Sister Lynda's grandmother and there was a strong and loving bond between them. They are together now in heaven. Sinah Wynne was 105, a great age. She has been very much part of our lives for eight years. It is going to feel very strange without her. Her face always lit up when we visited her. For many years this was in Hoylake. She was greatly loved at Westhaven, the home on the Wirral. Then about seven months ago she had to be moved to Wrexham. We are so grateful that Maureen, the Matron from Westhaven, is working there until their Hoylake home is re-built. She was with Nain, when gentle in death as she had been in life, her spirit was yielded to the God in whom she had absolute faith. Glenys, Lynda's Mum, as we always call her but also, of course, Nain's daughter, was with her frequently but, as often happens, Sinah slipped away before Glenys and Merfyn were able to make it to the home. What will we remember about Nain? There are three things – her beautiful smile, her contentment whatever her circumstances, and her great love of chocolate!

We were privileged to take part in both Ruth and Nain's funeral services. Both services were a testimony to lives well lived, through the grace of the Lord. The presence of the Lord was very real.

Many of us are familiar with the words of Mother Teresa, "Something beautiful for God". It became the title of a book and also a documentary on her work. The original context of these words was a letter written to Malcolm Muggeridge. In it she said, "Try to make the world conscious that it is never too late to do something beautiful for God." Many Christians are very generous especially at this time of year, and that is good. However, Mother Teresa was thinking about something much more personal than that. It is seeking out a person who is in need. It may even be someone you don't like!

It is then being Christ to that individual and she would also say, seeing Jesus in the needy one. There are so many lonely people and Christmas accentuates that loneliness. It is difficult for those of us who are inundated with cards and gifts to imagine what it must be like to have the postman not call even once. It happens. There are those who are sick and have no one, those who are grieving and those who have simply messed things up and need an outstretched hand. Although the staff of residential and nursing homes will go out of their way to celebrate Christmas with all who live there, it can still be very difficult to see families coming and going and know that you will have no one. Yet it happens. The list is endless. What about forgetting the television on Christmas Day and using the time to bring light into someone's life?

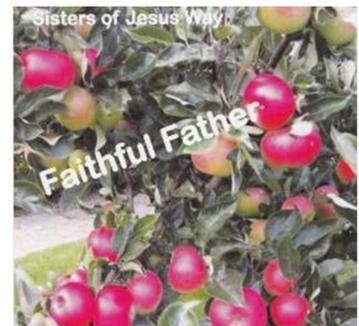
But let our giving be in the right spirit with no superiority and no self-righteousness where we secretly congratulate ourselves at our own generosity. One day we may be the one in need of a good Samaritan to care for us. The Holy Spirit will lead us if we are open to him. "It is never too late", Mother Teresa writes. So it doesn't matter how old we are! "To do something beautiful for God", is a precious love gift we can give the heavenly Father in return for his wonderful gift to us of his beloved Son, Jesus, our Lord.

So with this thought we will close and send you our love.
May the little Christ-child bring you blessing,

Sisters of Jesus' Way and Brother of the Way.



Lounge now with wood-burning stove



Our new CD

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