SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

Summer newsletter 2022



Let earth and heaven agree,
Angels and men be joined,
To celebrate with me
The Saviour of mankind;
To adore the all-atoning Lamb,
And bless the sound of Jesus's name.

O for a trumpet voice
On all the world to call,
To bid their hearts rejoice
In him who died for all!
For all my Lord was crucified,
For all, for all my Saviour died
Charles Wesley

The theme of this newsletter has to be **celebration.** We have joined with the nation in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we have rejoiced that God has spared her to reign over us for 70 years. You may have been able to join in some of the celebrations, perhaps in London, perhaps in a street party or a church celebration tea. In whatever way, this June is a turning point from the rather gloomy atmosphere of the Pandemic to thanksgiving and joy.

Celebration is at the heart of the Christian faith and the Church's cycle of festivals – from Advent through the passion and death of Jesus, Resurrection and Ascension, to Pentecost and Trinity there is celebration. We missed much of this during the pandemic because celebration is basically a community experience and even as we are now celebrating the birth of the church and the hope of holidays and times of refreshment, there are those who are isolated and alone and where celebration is looked for wistfully. From the persecuted church to the war in Ukraine to lonely people in our own streets, there is a longing for celebration.

We are reminded of the festivals in the Scriptures when God's people went up to Jerusalem for celebration. The Songs of Ascent have come down to us to remind us to focus on God's goodness and not on ourselves.

" Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
his love endures for ever". Ps. 118: 1 (NIV)

"I lift up my eyes to you,
To you whose throne is in heaven" . Ps.123:1 (NIV)

The call is to welcome people to celebrate with us and that is what we seek to do as a Community. Especially we want to reach out to those who are exhausted from caring for others during the past three years – clergy, pastors, nurses, doctors, we are here for you.

We have celebration days and weekends now until the New Year. We hope you can join us in one of these. Our New Year Celebration is always popular so for that you need to book early. We don't ask for a booking fee for any of our retreats but do ask please that if you book in for a retreat, you don't pull

out at the last minute unless there is a very good reason, because someone else might like that place. We can take a maximum of 9 people.

We are here too for you to come as individuals for a time away with Jesus, a time for refocusing on what the really important issues in life are and a time to enjoy our garden and coastal area. We are looking forward to welcoming you.

Two of our Sisters have been in Germany for the 75th Anniversary of the Evangelical Sisters of Mary. For us this is the beginning of a new era of our Community life as that is where we received our name "Sisters of Jesus Way" in 1976. That was the year of the drought when all the countryside here and in Germany was burnt and barren, but on Kanaan, their beautiful grounds were continually refreshed by a fountain from a well that their Sisters had dug deep to find all those years ago. So for us it has been and is a time for making decisions for our own future and we appreciate all your prayers for this.

Our much loved cat, Christie, had a stroke in June from which she didn't recover. This has brought sadness especially as two of our Sisters were away at the time, but Jake (our dog) and our fish are doing well.

The Sisters and Brother Elliot remain busy in house and garden and now that we are open for guests, the house takes on priority, but as the garden Sisters keep telling us, weeds don't stop growing! We are so grateful to our Followers of the Lamb who help us both in the house, keeping rooms welcoming and assisting in the kitchen, and in the garden.

To all of you who support us in so many ways, not least in prayer, we say a big thank you.







One of our last pictures of Christie

With our love in Jesus,

Sisters of Jesus Way

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