

CHN NEWSLETTER

Lent 2020

The View from Hessele



Sister Julie was joined by Sister Monica at the beginning of February at our new home. Sister Monica calls it '5 star squatting' (the rating is reduced when the boilers play up!) and both are looking forward to all the Sisters being together in Hessele – hopefully by late autumn.

In the past the small town of Hessele was a notable trawler-fishing area. Today it is probably more famous for being the site of the Humber Bridge, which is an amazing feat of engineering and we are fortunate to catch a glimpse of it from our second floor bedroom window! The foreshore is easily reached from the house and the estuary is so wide that you can imagine that you are at the seaside.

Its residents are very friendly and its churches welcoming.

Quarry Bank is approximately 15 – 20 minutes' walk from the town centre and a 20 minute bus ride from there into Hull. Surprisingly Hessele has its own railway station.

There will certainly be areas of outreach for us and, in time, we will be able to pursue the other

important strand of our ministry – that of offering hospitality.

We have been fortunate to secure a good local project management team and we hope that planning permission will be granted in time for the builders to begin work in May. Quarry Bank was formerly a Care Home and its double garage had been converted into a Day Care Centre. We now need to convert it into two extra bedrooms.

It has been a pleasure to give a 'before' tour of the house to a number of visitors and to welcome people just dropping in for a cup of tea. We look forward to giving an 'after tour' once the building works have been completed.

The Guest Cottage



Many who are reading this Newsletter will have stayed at our Guest Cottage about a hundred yards from the main Convent building in Oakwood.

It has been a small residential facility which has combined homeliness, quiet and access to the life and worship of this Anglican Community. It has been used by Christians of various denominations and we have welcomed seekers on the edge of faith, as also people who may find faith or organised religion difficult.

As the Community is now in the process of moving to smaller premises, the Cottage closed at the end of February 2020.

Despite their sadness and regret at our closing, guests have overwhelmingly expressed their appreciation for the facility offered here over the

last 30 years. We have been touched by the many expressions of thanks and appreciation from those visiting here for the last time, and we are in turn grateful for their loyalty and friendship and frequent generosity to us since we began here.

It has been fun to hear some amusing stories about past Guest Sisters. It has also been moving to hear how guests have been welcomed, encouraged and supported at the Cottage, often through times of sadness or struggle in their lives.

Happily guests have been able frequently to listen to, befriend and encourage each other as they have shared in the homely atmosphere of the cottage together. Friendships have often been forged and guests have received on-going support from one another as well as from the Community. Many hope to continue these friendships despite the closure. Several participants who shared in our open retreat weekends also hope to keep in touch with us and with one another.

As I begin trying to sort and clear the Cottage I realize that it is quite a big job and am relieved that it does not need to be done in a hurry. We are also glad to have a ground floor space in which to store the furniture and other items which we intend to take with us. As we have no longer a lift that works, storage on the ground level is very helpful!

We are sorry that for the time being we are unable to continue residential hospitality but we look forward to new ways of sharing with and being enriched by friendships with others as it becomes appropriate when we settle in our new location.

Sister Pauline CHN (Residential Guest Sister)

(Although our residential guest facilities are closed we are still taking bookings for our day guest facilities.)

Please contact the assistant superior
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Zululand's New Provincial



Mother Phindile

At their Chapter in January our Sisters in Zululand elected a new superior, Sister Phindile. On 22nd February 2020 she was installed as Mother.

It was a joyous day with lots of visitors attending the celebration.

In Zulu society it is common for animals to be offered as gifts on such occasions and Mother Phindile's family donated a sheep to the festivities. Two cows were also donated, one by the family of the Assistant Superior, Sister Benzile, and the other by Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Please Pray for

We continue to ask your prayers for the following:

Sister Brenda
Sister Vivienne Joy
Sister Olpha

Sister Lynfa after the death of her mother Sylvia

Also for the family and friends of **John Ratcliffe**, member of the Fellowship of the Holy Name after his unexpected, sudden death.