

JUNE 2005  
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

**A BREAK  
IN THE ESSEX  
COUNTRYSIDE**

**Do you know of any family or couple who cannot afford a holiday and who would like to spend a couple of weeks at Abbotswick During the month of August? They would need a car. If so, please contact us ASAP on our new Tel no 01277 373 848**

Timetable for COLW  
at Abbotswick

07.15 Adoration  
08.15 Morning Prayer  
09.15 Mass  
10.00 Work  
13.30 Lunch  
14.00 rest  
15.00 Study  
17.30 Evening Prayer  
17.50 One Hour's silent  
Prayer  
18.50 Work  
19.30 Supper followed by  
'chill out' time  
21.30 Night prayer followed  
by great silence

# Summer Newsletter

*Community of Our Lady of Walsingham*

## Dear friends

As you may have gathered by our delay in getting this issue out to you, Gabi and I have been busy keeping things going at the House of Prayer.

However, aware that founding years are always challenging times we have also witnessed the arrival of all the

graces needed for what is asked of us. HE won't be outdone in generosity.

Sona says hello and asks your prayers as she prepares to marry James in October. She's often in touch and is happy in her vocational choice.

## Life at Abbotswick

We are only now moving into the cottage destined since our arrival as the 'convent' area for the community. Damp proofing and a new kitchen were needed, as well as the redecorating of several rooms which will soon become our refectory/office and sitting/community room. Hence a lot of books are still in boxes waiting to be unpacked and a lot of furniture will need shifting again in the next few weeks.

A fence has been put up to section off a part of the large garden for community use only. Hence we already have the private space we need as more people start using the House of Prayer. Paul and Ian, the volunteer gardeners, have done a wonderful job in the greenhouse, vegetable garden and orchard. Soon we'll be serving our guests home-

grown fruit and veg!

Because of the increasing amount of work at the House of Prayer we are building up a good team of people to help us in the various practicalities. Fr Chris Brooks has been irreplaceable in helping with the accounts (both of the House of Prayer and of COLW). Lorraine, Ncolette and Roisin have been helping on a weekly basis in the office and Elizabeth together with Josephine have given a lot of help in the House.

Fr John Armitage comes on most Tuesday mornings to join us for prayers and then to celebrate Mass.

Despite the fact that we aren't yet in place as such we have been able to set up a rhythm of prayer to protect the contemplative nature of the community (see column on left).

## Studies

Gabi, has started her canonical year of novitiate and apart from her formation in community has been on two external courses. Camilla was also able to go on a week's course for leaders and has discovered some more useful tools for formation. Fr Matt Blake OCD, our chaplain, Sr Beth Obbard, Fr Ignatius Kelly have also visited to give us input.

Fr Herbie returned for Easter Week to do a course on Personal Vocation which was also attended by 15 members of the Vocations Group. Both of us will concentrate on the vows over the coming months so please keep us in your prayers as we clarify our way of living them in today's world.

*“you are my friends if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.” John 16,14-15*

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NUMBER

E-Mail:  
comolw@hotmail.com

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### **We’re on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.vocationsgroup.org.uk/colw](http://www.vocationsgroup.org.uk/colw)

## *“Come and See Weekend”*

Thank you all so much for praying for us when we held our first ever COLW “Come and See”. Six young women, including one who had already asked to join the community shared the experience with us. Another three women wanted to take part but were unable to do so because of prior commitments.

Johanna will be joining the candidacy programme in September as she continues her vocational discernment with us. She comes from Stratford in London and is our first vocation from the Brentwood Diocese.

Felicia, an old friend of mine from my days spent in Italy has been living alongside us since the beginning of April having expressed an interest in

joining COLW. She will shortly be leaving for some sabbatical studies that will help in her own discernment process.

All the women who attended the weekend were grateful for the hospitality shown and for having learnt so much more about religious life as a state of life in itself. Gabi and I were filled with joy for the first time being able to share our experience of COLW, quote from the statutes, as well as mention our hopes and dreams for the future.

The weekend was so successful that we are hoping to have two each year (details of the next one in Oct are on our webpage)

## *Year of the Eucharist*

One of the joys of taking on the House of Prayer in this Year of the Eucharist has been the possibility of organizing monthly days of reflection on the Eucharist as well as a weekend of 40hrs Adoration. The Youth 2000 Mission Team and the Walsingham House Youth Team helped animate

the latter event brilliantly. Although attendance was low we hope to make it an annual event. Our Lord’s presence in the Word and in the Eucharist must become evermore the centre of our community and of the evangelization work we undertake from Abbotswick.

## *And finally....*

Enclosed with this letter is the new prayer card of the community which we had hoped to get to you by the month of May. Some of you who’ve visited may have it already. As Queen of this new community, may our heavenly Mother bless and protect you all abundantly and draw you ever closer to her son Jesus.

The House will be closed in August as we have our annual 8 day retreat, and visit family in Germany before going on to World Youth Day in Cologne. We wish you all the best for a restful summer yourselves. We hope that some of you will be tempted to come and join us for the apple and blackberry picking in September/October. Jam making will be on our list of priorities for the autumn so any hints from the experienced among you will be gratefully appreciated.

Until then, keeping you in our prayers and thanking you again for all your support.

*Camilla and Gabi, COLW*