

Lockdown and beyond ...

From Brother Clark, Hilfield Guardian:

Greetings from the Hilfield Community. We are all well. We thank you for your prayers over the past months, as we have prayed for you. We are hoping to open all our accommodation soon, and are looking forward to welcoming you back. Bernard House and Juniper are already available for self-catering groups that are all part of one "bubble." We will begin taking bookings for the rest of the guest accommodation from October 1, provided it is within Government advice at that time. To ensure everyone's safety, we will be complying with the Government and C of E Guidelines for public worship and gatherings. There will be a few changes, e.g. initially we will have fewer guests; we will explain the changes when you arrive.



We are really looking forward to welcoming you back and catching up with our friends. October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis and we wish you peace and all good.



As lockdown eases, up to 8 'bubbles' of friends from the wider community are now able to join us for the 'distanced' Sunday Eucharists, having first made a reservation by phone. The Eucharists have often been outside in the courtyard. Occasions of beauty, creation and glory.

The Hilfield Community

Continuing the Franciscan witness, long-established at the Friary, the Community consists of both vowed Franciscan Brothers of the Anglican Society of St Francis and also lay community members who seek to nurture and share the Franciscan values of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Inspired by St Francis of Assisi, the Community offers hospitality to people of different faiths and no acknowledged faith and works for a more gentle and respectful care for the earth.

Glimpses of Hilfield in lockdown



Here's the Hilfield Friary Community as it was at Pentecost, May 31st 2020: Back row: Lynn, Chris Martin, Malcolm, Jonathan, Ethan, Keith, Clark Berge, Sam, Melora, Hugh. Middle row: Kerri, Tony, Uriel. Front row: Eva, Felice, Evodie, Marie, Maelyne, Chantal, Richard.

Brother Clark writes: While we've been unable to welcome guests, the Hilfield Community has continued to thrive. Brothers and volunteers, operating as a "bubble", kept our usual schedule of prayer and community meals. This important structure kept our life in focus. There has been tremendous work in the garden, on the land, and repairs to our buildings—including painting the chapel!

In the kitchen garden: *From Tony*

The beauty of the seasons and the rhythm of the garden isn't changed by "lockdown". If anything, for me, the sanity imposed by nature has been crucial!



It has been a good growing season; the processing of 330kgs of soft fruit has been a mammoth task, and we have had a few too many cucumbers! The "no-dig" is starting to pay dividends with a noticeable increase in worms and soil fertility. Hot composting has meant that we are now regularly getting temperatures of 65 degrees plus which deters even bindweed! We installed 4 small ponds in the vegetable garden made from rusty old wheelbarrows (in true Franciscan repurposing style) and have seen some frogs already. Slugs be aware!



Robyn Golden-Hann with her assistant Maya Martin kindly carved headstones for our graveyard.

Sam, Eva, Melora, and Br Hugh on a day off at a Nature Reserve at Portland.



Rosalia of Hilfield *From Richard*

In the midst of the lockdown the Friary welcomed a beautiful new Shetland heifer calf. Born on the feast day of St Rosalia of Palermo, a C12th St credited with saving the city from plague in the 1600s, who has subsequently been invoked in times of plague and pandemic.

Of course, we had to name the little calf Rosalia especially as she is red, a real sign of hope and joy amongst the turmoil of the world.



In the Library: *From Brother Chris Martin*

During the lockdown a lot has been happening in the library. We received over 1000 donated books which have now been catalogued and added to the shelves. We will put together reading lists to cover topics popular with our guests, including new additions, and those which cover Black and Minority Ethnic experiences and theology. You can help support the library through our Amazon Wishlist, which can be found at: <https://hilfieldfriary.org.uk/wishlist>



Our lockdown book fort

Action for Peace and Justice:

Jonathan writes: 'We took part in a campaign by Christian Climate Action to encourage the government to **'Build Back Better'**. <https://greenchristian.org.uk/lets-build-back-better/> Marie designed a banner, see photo on our website gallery. 'Dig for food not fuel' is very much part of Hilfield's ethos'. And *Brother Hugh writes:* 'The Dorchester Churches Environment Group gathered at the Council office in Dorchester as they voted on divesting our pension funds from fossil fuels.'




The 3 Vigillers ... At the end of August, Jonathan and Hilary were part of a multi faith prayer vigil in London as part of Christian Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion. Please do read Hilary's moving account of their experience: <https://hilfieldfriary.org.uk/peace-justice-interfaith/>

Keith, Hilfield's longest resident, had his 80th birthday party on 25th June 2020.

Br Hugh has written a wonderfully appropriate Hilfield variation on Laudate Dominum, with apologies to the Taize community. Please see our website: <https://hilfieldfriary.org.uk/spirituality/>

Comings and goings

We said good-bye to **Eva** this summer who completed her year here as a volunteer under the auspices of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, and to **Melora** who left in August after nine months to live in the Jubilee Community in Georgia, USA.

Hilary has been a short-term volunteer this summer; **Jo** has come to live at Giles House; **Sam** is in his second year as a volunteer. We welcome **Jonathan** from London,  and three volunteers from the Rhineland Evangelical church:



My name is Britta I am from Bonn, Germany, have just finished my A-levels and looking forward to a great year in Hilfield before starting University.

Hey there! My name is Nils and I'm one of the new volunteers from Germany. I'll be working in the gardens and with the animals.



Hi, my name is Pia and I'm one of the new volunteers from Germany. I'm 18 years old and finished school this spring. I'm very much looking forward to this gap year, before Uni.

Brother Vincent

All who receive this Update will be sad to hear of the death, after a short illness, of our dear Brother Vincent. He died peacefully in Dorchester Hospital on May 17th. His funeral and burial were held here on 26th May during lockdown. It is our intention to hold a Memorial Service, when we can.

Vincent will always be associated with the friary and will be remembered fondly for so many things. He began his life within SSF here in 1954, and Hilfield always had a special place in his heart. His long and faithful ministry took him to many places: Cable Street in London, Alnmouth, Glasshampton, Llandudno, Belfast, New Zealand. Vincent had a real gift for friendship, a concern for the poor and marginalized, and a deep commitment to prayer and preaching.

When he returned here in the late 90's he continued the work which became known as The Secret Garden. Wherever he lived he always created a garden and he had a deep knowledge of plants, especially rhododendrons, magnolias, and camellias.

We give thanks for our dear brother and friend, for his gentleness and kindness, for his humility and faithful commitment to God over so many years.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

From Brother Malcolm.

