

Comings and goings

New Volunteers:



Sarah Originally from Birmingham, I come to Hilfield from Westcott House, where I'm training for ordination. It's a joy to be part of the community!

My name is **Ben**. I am currently discerning my vocation. While here, I am also on the Church of England's ministry experience scheme with the Lyme Bay Deanery.



Hello, I'm Br. James Douglas. I returned to the friary last January, after spending the last four years in Canterbury and East London. It's

lovely to be back, surrounded by the beauty of God's creation.

New SSF novices here until January:

Hello! I'm Br Simeon from Northumberland. I moved here from Alnmouth Friary and look forward to the opportunities my time here will bring.



I am Br. Patrick.

I am a second year novice. I am from County Durham and moved to Hilfield on the 19th May.



Community members who have left:

We bade farewell to Br. Chris Boden who requested release from his vows in Feb. After 2 years as a volunteer, Sam Bishop is now working in IT in Cheltenham; Travis Porter left at the end of February, Simon Munro left in April. Marie O'Flaherty moved to Dorchester in June. We appreciated their contributions and wish them much peace and all good.



Brother Raymond Christian died in the North Tyneside Hospital on April 28th.

Raymond was born in 1936 and made his Life Profession in 1987. He lived at a number of our houses – at Hilfield, Hooke School, Glasshampton, Cambridge, Belfast, Edinburgh, and was at Alnmouth Friary since 2019. His funeral was held at Alnmouth parish church May 28, 2021

Many visitors remember his gift of care and welcome as guest brother at Glasshampton. And at Hilfield, his artistry and extraordinary sensitivity with flowers as he decorated the chapel windowsills and spaces for the appropriate liturgical season. The chapel was lit with beauty and glory.

"Rest eternal grant to him O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him."



Update

No 33 June 2021

Re-Opening Hilfield ...

From Brother Clark, Hilfield Guardian:

Welcome back! The past year has been quiet for us at Hilfield, as it has for millions of others. Fortunately we have been able to weather the pandemic, keeping our structure of prayer and community meals, and supported financially by the Society of St Francis. Now as we welcome guests again, we want to do all we can to provide a safe and happy space for you at the Friary. Please see overleaf for how to book, and for some of the things we have been doing since our last Update in Sept 2020.

It's now high summer, with everything wonderfully blooming and growing. We look forward to seeing you, and to new life in our community, church, and nation.



... and Centenary celebrations

2021 is a special year — the Centenary of the start of Franciscan life at Hilfield! Br Hugh writes: 'On 21st December 1921 Br Giles arrived here to found the Brotherhood of St Francis of Assisi, in the buildings which had previously been used by the Little Commonwealth school. Giles and two companions hoped to transform the place into a Home of St Francis to minister to homeless men broken by the first World War. Br Douglas, whom today we regard as our real Founder, soon came too. For a fuller history, see hilfieldfriary.org.uk/history-of-hilfield

Br Clark has spoken and written about this significant Centenary milestone on our website. 'We want this Centennial year to be a time when we can celebrate, and to build for a resilient, fruitful future'. More Centenary news and events in the September edition, but for now, see '100 Oaks for 100 Years' overleaf.

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.

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www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk www.facebook.com/HilfieldFriary

Society of St Francis: Reg Charity No. 236464

Winter / spring work at Hilfield

Secret Garden

Dear to Br. Vincent's heart, the Secret Garden has this winter been given a clean-up. We cleared brushwood, and are restoring the paths. Even at this half-way stage, the change is remarkable. Come and see it!



The kitchen garden

is thriving with Tony's no-dig methods, despite the too cold / too dry / too wet spring. Woodchip paths now separate the beds to try to foil the voracious slugs; we hope the new wildlife pond will attract frogs and also give space for quiet contemplation between work.

Conservation projects — Richard writes:

December was the start of a 10 year agri-environmental agreement with funding for lots of exciting conservation projects. Along with the areas of wood pasture (see opposite) we will create an orchard with local heritage varieties, whilst continuing managing the meadows. We have been busy (pretend) beavers blocking up drainage ditches to make the wet woodland even wetter, and have created a series of ponds to provide habitat for many different species. We also hope to reinvigorate the schools programme, to enable children to experience the wonder of Creation.

HILFIELD'S NEWEST SOLAR PANELS

We had always planned to generate more electricity, to reduce our carbon footprint further. This winter with the help of EEC funding we were able to install solar panels on St Francis House roof—see the full story on the website.



Notice how these panels replace an earlier piece of technology, the 2 brick

chimneys—all part of our care for creation, our 'Common Home', giving us hope in our climate crisis. We'd love to talk with guests more about this and about our biomass heating.

This spring, when weather allowed, we've held Sunday Eucharists outside.

Our 'Climate Sunday' was in April.

We celebrated the diverse and beautiful world that God gifted to us, and lamented what we are doing to our common home. We ended the service with a rainbow and a pledge — 'Enough Climate Change / Enough Consumerism / Enough Inequality'. All churches are being encouraged to hold a Climate Sunday service between now and the start of COP26 in November. See www.climatesunday.org



And this summer?

Come and stay!

We are now able to allow a limited number of 'Bubbles' to come and stay in our Guest House. Spaces are very limited so please contact Suzi on 01300 341741 or hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk to find out available dates. The Self Catering houses are also open. We are really happy to welcome you back!

Our programme for 2021 ...

... adventurously reflects the themes of Franciscanism over the last century at Hilfield. But sadly because of the recent delay in the roadmap for lifting lockdown, weekend courses for the next month are now cancelled. The full programme is on the website but please check all details with Suzi. The following should take place: **Friday 9th July Br Vincent's Memorial Service** 11 am – 2pm, possibly including a packed lunch, but please check details closer to the time, and booking is essential.

Sunday 11th July Hilfield Garden and Nature Question Time 2.30 – 5 pm

An outdoor event, numbers limited to 30; weather dependent; booking essential. **16th–18th July Lament for Creation with Jonathan Herbert**. Please check closer to the time to see if this is able to take place.

Please note that all these events can change suddenly if the rules change!

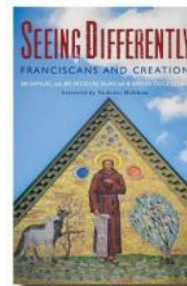
100 Oaks for 100 Years

What better way to mark Hilfield's Centenary than to plant '100 Oaks for 100 years'? They will have a positive impact on the environment for the next 100 years, and way beyond. They will be planted as part of our new wood pasture which is a valuable habitat, home to many special species. We are inviting those who connect with the last 100 years, and those who will come to know and love Hilfield in the next 100. The oaks will be our gift to 2121!



The 'Douglas Oak' planted to commemorate the founding of the Friary in 1921; and the Friary bell, put in place on the 75th anniversary in 1996.

Available in our bookshop:



'Seeing Differently' by Dr Simon Cocksedge, Br Nicholas Allen and Br Sam, draws on material about St Francis, reflections on Franciscan spirituality through the ages, and the challenge of living the Franciscan way today. Includes nuggets from Hilfield's story.

Sponsor a sewing machine!

The craft room houses 8 sewing machines, much used by the community and visitors. In keeping with our 're-use and mend' ethos, they need annual servicing at £38 each. If anyone could sponsor one machine for a year that would be wonderful! Please contact Suzi.