

Comings and goings

New volunteers join our community:

Hello, my name is **Luca**. I am 19 years old and one of the new German volunteers at Hilfield. It is great to be here and I am looking forward to the year ahead.



Hello! My name is **Greta**. I am from Stadallendorf in Germany and I am at Hilfield Friary for one year as a volunteer. I look forward to helping here and hope to have a great time!



Fran, Michael and Edith: We are very grateful for the opportunity to be part of life here at Hilfield. We arrived 6 weeks ago having packed up our home in Bristol, and are settling in nicely. We enjoy the different kinds of work here, and are steadily appreciating more and more the story of this place, its ethos, peculiarities and its beauty.



My name is Bronwen and I am from Liverpool. I graduated this summer from Cardiff University with a degree in Human Geography. I was previously a member of the Scargill Community in Yorkshire, and I am currently part of the Iona Community Young Adults Group, after volunteering at the Abbey on Iona this summer. This year I look forward to spending some time further south!



I'm José from Argentina. I'm 42 and I'm very grateful to have this opportunity to join the Hilfield voluntary team!
As a horticulturalist I really enjoy the chance to work in the garden and to grow healthy vegetables!
Also in this time of my life I really appreciate participating in a community of faith.
I'm very thankful to everyone who sustains this community with commitment and every day work.

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100 years of Franciscan Life at Hilfield

'The Hilfield Community has changed a lot over the years, its ministry adapting to the needs of the times. Concern for the poor is at the heart of our life and ministry. For many years we worked with wayfarers, now we are addressing the need for climate justice. The Earth is now, in Franciscan language, one of the poor.

'St Francis is celebrated for his love of nature. This Centennial year we deepen our embrace of the earth with joy but also lament. We face a climate crisis that demands urgent attention. We invite you to join us, to consider the lilies (and orchids) of the field and the birds of the air with wonder and awe; to express passion and commitment, live more sustainably yourself, show others how it can be done, and challenge our leaders to legislate for and build a sustainable, carbon neutral world'.
(Br Clark, see longer version on website). Two of our initiatives this winter:

From Lindy, Pioneer Curate:

'When I arrived at the Friary I didn't expect to be asked to carve a centenary piece, but within 2 weeks exactly that happened! After giving time to prayer and exploring Hilfield's rich history and its present call I began to sense a way forward. I can explain more, do come and see the progress. I am working two glorious Portland stone blocks which used to be a part of the Altar in Clare House'.



From Richard, Land Manager:

On 18th December we will plant **'100 Oaks for 100 years'** inviting those who connect with the last 100 years, and those who will come to know and love Hilfield in the next 100. The trees will be part of our new wood pasture, a valuable habitat, home to many special species, for the next 100 years and way beyond!
The oaks will be our gift to 2121!

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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Society of St Francis: Reg Charity No. 236464

Snippets from the last few months

In August Jonathan was arrested ... in St Paul's Cathedral as part of a Christian Climate Action event calling on the Church of England to divest from fossil fuels. For Jonathan, climate activism is a natural extension of his life at Hilfield. 'It's vital for individuals and communities to seek to live sustainably but to bring the rapid change we need to prevent total climate and ecological catastrophe the Government; big institutions like the Church of England have to make bold decisions'.



Surgery Community Garden: In the summer, Tony, Sarah, Br Patrick and Mike all helped with transforming a barren area behind Cerne Abbas Doctors Surgery into a space where staff can relax. It was a way of thanking the surgery for all the extra work they've done to support us and all their other patients during COVID. The project was devised and brilliantly supervised by Hilfield volunteer Stuart Benton.

In October we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with a weekend-long celebration with guests. First, Br Clark, Lynn and Jonathan offered thoughts about following Francis. Later in the day, as rain pounded down, we blessed the animals and gardens of the friary indoors, using images and artifacts instead of bringing in the livestock. Many community members took part, offering songs, poems, prayers and reflections, and Br. Hugh told the story of 100 years of Franciscans at Hilfield Friary. On the Sunday we celebrated with a Eucharist during which community members renewed their commitment to the community. Currently there are 26 members, ranging in age from 1 to 81. It is an exciting time as we seek to follow Francis, and to deepen our exploration of living differently on the earth. *Br Clark*

In the kitchen garden 'We have very few frogs, toads and no hedgehogs. So during lock down we made a wildlife pond at the Chapel end of the garden, with a subterranean 'hotel' for creatures, made from various pipes and boxes and spoil from the pond, with a protective bank around one side. Now in October it is difficult to believe that the pond is less than 9 months old. We have several types of water beetles, water boatmen, and pond skaters, and earlier we had beautiful broad-bodied chaser dragonflies and damsel flies. We now have many newts but sadly still no frogs or toads. Hopefully next year they will be queuing up to reserve their place in the pond. Come and see!' *Tony, Kitchen Garden* .



In September some of us met with neighbours from the **High Stoy Conservation Cluster** for a workshop on the ecology and management of ancient trees, led by neighbour and ecologist Sean Cooch. It was part of the on-going education and management programme to encourage sustainable practices in our local area.

...and the next few months?

Saturday 27th November: Fruit tree planting, and the Advent Quiet Day.

Jonathan will lead reflections on 'Separation and Connection' and there will be time for each participant to plant a tree as a sign of the Advent Hope.

Richard will enable participants to plant the friary's new orchard with 30 trees of local, heritage varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry. This is part of our wider conservation work and is being planted as much to provide flowers, fruit and habitat for wildlife as fruit for us to eat.

For more information and booking please contact Suzi at Hilfield on 01300 341741 or email hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk Suggested donation £20.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

1 – 12 November— the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow on Br. Clark and Jonathan will be attending the conference as observers. To realize the aims of the conference, (encouraging governments to adopt the guidelines of the Paris Agreement), people all over the world need to pray and act, bringing pressure on world leaders.

December 4th: We will play our part by hosting a Climate Justice Reflection Day.

First a "report back" from those attending the conference, a reflection, Eucharist, lunch, and a panel discussion at 3p.m. to include members of Franciscan International. There will be an opportunity for each participant to plant a tree as part of Hilfield's conservation work.

For more information / booking, and if you would like to stay for the weekend please contact Suzi at Hilfield as above. Suggested donation £25 to include lunch.

Meanwhile the shop is bursting with Christmas gifts of all descriptions! Come shop with us!

