



Heritage species fruit trees

The Advent Quiet Day on 27th November featured reflections on the climate and natural environment led by Jonathan Herbert. In the afternoon participants planted fruit trees, re-establishing an ancient orchard next to the friary. The trees were heritage varieties, some one-of-a-kind.



Craft Week

We had a most productive Craft week in December with over 12 crafts worked on by different people.



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Hilfield FRIARY



Update

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Br. Clark Berge writes: I write this in late February, as the news that the legal COVID restrictions are being lifted. It has been a long pandemic! And while it isn't over yet, we look forward to welcoming more and more guests. We will proceed slowly, and we encourage any who are vulnerable or at risk to take tests to know their status. We will continue to wear masks at Sunday Mass and offer hand sanitizer in the chapel. We have kept our friends in our prayers throughout the pandemic, knowing that many have lost loved ones, and suffered from the impact of the virus - infection, bereavement, isolation, financial distress among many ways Covid 19 made an impact on us. We are extremely pleased guests are coming back, and hope you will find ways to enjoy the Christian hospitality of peace, creativity and community life that we offer.

Hilfield Centenary Celebration

December 18, 2021, we celebrated 100 years since the first Franciscan brothers came to what was then called Flowers Farm. We marked the occasion with a Sung Eucharist, Br. Samuel preaching, celebrated in the marquee erected in the field near Hermit's Wood. Then all were invited to plant one of a hundred oak seedlings purchased for the occasion. A remarkable array of friends came to join us that day: neighbours, former volunteers, former brothers and friends from Families Camp, Youth Camp, the wider Church and our colleagues in conservation. The trees are part of our commitment to caring for the land in a Franciscan manner, promoting native species, creating different habitats and grazing patterns. After planting a tree, our guests were treated to lunch—a baked potato (a Hilfield Saturday-lunch staple) topped with chili. Later the festivities continued in the courtyard with coffee and tea and stories of life at the friary over the past 100 years, though memories didn't stretch further back than 50 or 60 years at most!



Centennial Stone

Lindy Cameron, volunteer and Deacon training for pioneer ministry with the Diocese of Salisbury is a very accomplished stone carver. During the celebration December 18, we also blessed the stone she is carving to celebrate Hilfield Friary. It features many symbols of our environment and will be placed near Hermit's Wood.



Christmas at the Friary

This year we were able to welcome 16 guests for Christmas at the Friary. We had a beautiful Christmas Eve Mass followed by mulled cider and mince pies around the fire in the courtyard. Christmas Day, we gathered for a wonderful Christmas Lunch then adjourned to the Recreation Room for the Queens Christmas message. In the evening we had Secret Santa and Christmas Cake. The rest of the weekend was spent enjoying the friary, delicious meals and a warm fire. On Monday 27th, we had a traditional English cooked breakfast, and then guests departed.



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.

Stations of the Resurrection

The plans for restoring the Secret Garden are proceeding well. Part of the work is to create a devotional walk through the garden, following Resurrection themes. A lot of creativity is at work!



Nicholas Mayer

We have been blessed to have as a volunteer for four months Nicholas Mayer from Glasgow. Nick came to us from the Iona Community where he was deputy housekeeper. He hopes to become an electrician apprentice.

Making Connections 'Nature, Hilfield and each other'

A new venture for the Friary led by Lynn Fry, Lindy Cameron and Fran Key giving young people from the local high school the opportunity to find a safe and peaceful space. While connecting with nature and each other they will be given a series of experiences to enhance their wellbeing through wonder and curiosity in the natural world. Our hope is that each young person can share their individual voice, and be able to add it to the group through activities and music.

