

Garden Volunteers

Are you interested in helping out in the Friary gardens? On the first and third Wednesday of each month, rain or shine, volunteers come to help weed, plant, prune, make compost. It is fun, and lunch is included! For more information see our web page <https://www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk/> or call the office 01300 341345. Right now, signs of spring are emerging: our famous snow drops are in full bloom, with crocuses providing splashes of purple and gold. Here and there you can spot Hellebore, Daphne and other welcome harbingers of Spring. It won't be too long before we need a lot of help!



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Email: hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk

Visit our website: <https://www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk>

and our Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/HilfieldFriary>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/709029506134847> (our Conservation Group)

Pax et Bonum

Hilfield
FRIARY



Update

Number 36 February 2023

Br. Clark Berge writes: Spring is about to burst upon us. Mercifully, the days are getting longer, the lingering coughs of winter seem to be healing, and late Br. Vincent's snowdrops are in full bloom. As we begin another year, welcoming new community members, witnessing the year renew itself again, I am filled with gratitude. While we cannot stop wars or heal from the shock of earthquakes or make life more affordable for people here in Britain, we can give visitors an encouraging experience to take home. We pray it helps people to engage with the world passionately and with joy in the simple things that make all the difference: common prayer, shared meals, meaningful labour. One of the things that is very special about Hilfield is the community's readiness to welcome so many people, and to find ways to share life with them. It's a way of helping to heal the world. Thanks for being a part of our life and mission.

Volunteers

Over the course of the past several months we have welcomed three new volunteers. Ellie Stephenson arrived in September, Ken Fosu at the end of October, and Hubert Adu on Boxing Day. They have adjusted well to life at Hilfield and contribute a lot!



From left to right: Hubert, Ellie and Ken

Ellie comes to us after many years as a participant in Families Camp and a job as an axe throwing instructor. With a degree in Fine Arts Ellie has been making holding crosses as well as helping with many other tasks around the friary.

Ken Fosu is from Techiman, Ghana, where he was an assistant farm manager. He is eager to share his Christian faith and to take what he learns back to his community in Ghana.

Hubert Adu is from Dormaa Ahenkro, Ghana, where he worked as an HIV case manager at the Bono Regional Hospital. He finds Hilfield to be a good place to extend his support to people who need a helping hand and contribute to his growth in God.

Volunteers

We are looking for young people aged 18–30 who might be interested in volunteering with us for a year. This a great opportunity to deepen your Christian commitment, enjoy life in community, and to learn many new life skills that working on the land and in conservation can foster. Community life will enrich any course of study or career path in the future. Living at the heart of a Franciscan community can inspire your spiritual life—and give a close up look at what religious life is like. More information can be obtained from our website.

Welcome Brother John

It's a great joy to welcome Br. John to Hilfield! He moved here February 25. For the past several years he has lived in the SSF Birmingham friary, St. Francis House. He served in a parish and shared in the friary's ministry to asylum seekers. When Br. Clark's term as Guardian finishes in September, John will be the new Guardian. Until then he and Clark will work together.



Br. John

Land improvement

Over these past months thanks to our close partnership with Natural England, we have been able to make numerous improvements to the friary land. This autumn fencing and wooden gates were installed around Long Meadow, and planted 25 more trees there. Friary members were also involved with helping our neighbours in the High Stoy Conservation Cluster in land management projects, clearing brush on Telegraph Hill.



Martin the Calf

Not only do we have new human members of the community, but we are also happy to announce the birth of Martin, our newest Shetland calf on 28th January.



Christmas 2022

We had 22 guests at Christmas, a full house. Everyone helped decorate the Friary, as well as prepping vegetables for the meals. Many hands made light work. The Christmas Midnight Mass was very well attended—resident guest, neighbours and the friary community. After the Mass we sang carols around a fire in the courtyard and drank hot spiced juice or wine. Ken taught us to sing *Afehyiapa*, a carol from Ghana. There was a gift for everyone under the tree, and a massive Christmas cake that we ate until Epiphany.

It was a particular joy to welcome our former volunteer Sarah Cotterill back for Christmas. She is finishing her training at Wescott House, and will be ordained in the summer. We also were happy to have Brother Emmanuel Oba'a, Superior of the Community of the Companions of St. Benedict in Cameroon. Br. Emmanuel was visiting several religious houses in Britain. Br. Clark and Br. John visited the community in Cameroon in 2015.

