

Update from Suzi

Our shop at Hilfield I had a wonderful 3 week trip to India this year visiting my family so am still missing the sun!! Since returning I have been really busy replenishing the shop stock with T shirts, hoodies and coasters (which I make). I can take commissions from TO members for TO hoodies and T shirts. The shop is open Wednesday to Saturday from 15.30 to 16.30. It is staffed by the Community. We also sell religious items, gifts (mostly fair trade), cards and some confectionary (including delicious locally-sourced ice cream). Various gift items are made here by Community members. Please contact Suzi on 01300 341345 for current stock. Best of all come and see us!

Crafting at Hilfield We are also having fun with our monthly craft days. If you would like to join, call Suzi. The dates are:

26th March

None in April as it's Easter

28th May

25th June

23rd July

27th August

17th September

29th October

None in November as it's the Craft Week

10th December



The Friary, Hilfield, Dorchester, DT2 7BE 01300 341345

Email: hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk

Visit our website: hilfieldfriary.org.uk

and our Facebook pages:

facebook.com/HilfieldFriary

facebook.com/groups/709029506134847 (our Conservation Group)

Pax et Bonum

Hilfield FRIARY



Update

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Br. John writes: *March has arrived! That always cheers me up, partly because of the Welsh blood in my veins from my mother's side, but also because of the longer daylight hours. Going to silent prayer in the chapel at 7am in daylight feels like emerging from winter. From Brother Fire dancing in wood burners to lift our spirits to more of Brother Sun to warm our bones just a little with his rays. We are surrounded by snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and primroses, reminding us of nature's ability to renew herself and re-launch into life.*

Our inner life also needs a reset, maybe by the disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting, study of the word, as we travel the road with Jesus to Calvary and the empty tomb. Join us if you can on the journey at the friary, and check out our programme on the website. There may be something there to revitalise you.



The Shepherd's Hut

Jonathan writes: The Shepherds hut has been completed and is ready for visitors wishing for a simpler and pared back visit.

It's been made from timber from the Friary Woods

We've fitted a log burner, 2 gas hobs and a charging system for laptops, phones etc.



Comings and Goings

Br Hugh writes: Claudia came as a volunteer from Accra, Ghana for a year in September. She loves cooking and gardening.

In late September Jem came for a year to experience community life, while enquiring about joining the Benedictines at Mucknell. They play the fiddle and often contribute in chapel.

In November Oscar returned to Brazil. We are grateful for all the hard work he did over a year esp. in the garden. He hopes to volunteer with L'Arche in Ireland.

Just before Christmas, Oleg and Olga moved into the flat over the shop. We use a phone translator to chat to them in Russian and Ukrainian over meals. Olga loves washing up.

Br Felix moved on to our Birmingham House in January as part of his continuing novice experience.

In Mid-January Kerri started a 3-month sabbatical, staying in Devon studying pottery and Hebrew.

Ursi from Germany and Finland has been studying storks in Devon and came in January while applying for funding for her PHD on red kites.

Former volunteers often return for a week or month. Adair and Sarah are here now, and Luke visits regularly, staying in his van. Stuart volunteers in the garden once a week while Sally, Tony and Jo volunteer with the Franciscan Magazine admin.



Br Hugh and Br Felix at Greenbelt

Would you like to be a Volunteer?

We are looking for 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 found on our website.

Michael's Garden Update: Spring - Gearing up for the new year

As I'm writing this we have experienced some of the first warmer sunny days of the year and with them the grass looks greener, the hazel catkins adorn branches looking like hanging lanterns and a lot of early spring flowers have come into bloom. It's a wonderful reminder that the main growing season for the kitchen garden is not far away and it feels like a constant reminder to get prepared. For me it's a time that's filled with excitement for the coming season and a little bit of apprehension (what if the seeds don't germinate or the soil stays too wet!). Luckily despite a slower start due holiday and other friary jobs we have managed to get our first batches of seed sown, largely thanks to the amazing help of a couple of Friary members making a seed sowing production line! Now we have the fun job of waiting for the first harvests of our newly sown plants to end up on the kitchen table; then we know the new growing year is really on us with all the potential bounty it brings. Here's hoping some of you can have a seed sowing party with some friends to kick off the growing year.

