

# What Lourdes did for me!

Charles Fingleton

Just over three years ago I suffered a stroke which permanently damaged my sight and as by profession I was a dentist, caused my forced early retirement.

Some nine months later I saw in the parish newsletter an advert for the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. My wife and sister had been going together on the Knights of Malta pilgrimage annually for the last 8 years. I decided that I would go with the diocese so as not to disturb their trip. I thought that I could go as a helper and push a wheelchair, as long as I had a sighted pilgrim to look for potholes. This worked well till John

(name changed to protect the innocent) missed one and was very nearly discharged forward from the chair. I caught his shoulder and restored order. He then turned his head and very timidly said "I promise not to fall asleep again"!! Until that point my style of driving must have relaxed him, amazing.

But as the week progressed I found myself doing many different things as a helper. On the Wednesday morning after I had washed and dressed John and used the hoist to get him into his wheelchair, John said that his knee hurt. John, like me, had had a stroke which in his case meant he was unable to move the leg which was painful. I then inspected his wheelchair, mainly by touch, and discovered that the relevant footplate was set at an angle. I decided that I could adjust this, so having found amongst all the

CA kit, an adjustable spanner I did just that, again largely by feel. John had no more pain.

That evening crossing the river on my way back to the hotel after my shift, I had what I can only describe as a Damascene moment. As I looked at the water I realised that I had mentally put myself on the scrapheap of life. That day's events had shown that I still had something to offer.

I immediately phoned my wife and in a very emotional conversation shared with her the revelation I had had, and from that moment I felt more alive with a positive attitude to life.

That was my Lourdes miracle. It is now my firm intention to return annually to say thank you and hopefully to continue to help people both in Lourdes and at home.

## Elections 2010

As you will have seen in the newsletter and in Lourdes, Andy Joyce has served his full term, and his position is up for re-election. Three Hospitalité members have been nominated and are canvassing for your vote.



**Andy Joyce**  
Nominated by Antony Lester and Sue Woodford.

I have been an elected member of the Council for a number of years now and have enjoyed it immensely.

I wish to re-stand for election because I believe that I can build upon the work that we have already achieved and continue to promote the message of Lourdes and the Hospitalité.

My time on the Council has been enjoyable. I have helped a number of the Heads of Service over the years, and have been involved in a couple of the Preparation Days too. I find all of this rewarding and so by standing for re-election, I hope that you will allow me to continue the work that I have so much enjoyed and appreciated.



**Mary Lycett**  
Nominated by John Cribbin and Rachel Easton

Lourdes 2011 will be my 6th consecutive year with the CA traveling with Stonyhurst, volunteering as a handmaid, and since last year, as a nurse aid.

I am a music graduate, now undertaking a degree in Nursing at Cardiff University. It is from my experiences in Lourdes that changed my profession, and I owe it all to the fantastic people I have met in the CA and Hospitalité.

As an elected member, I hope to further the good work of the Hospitalité by being proactive rather than just reactive, assisting the Heads of Service, to take the time to listen to people and in doing so, give people the best service I can.



**Dail Maudsley**  
Nominated by Patrick Noble and Matthew Sharrock

This year's Pilgrimage was my 7th trip to Lourdes. For the past 4 years I have worked with the Glanfield Children's Group and I was previously a

member of the Stonyhurst group for 3 consecutive years.

I am a member of the CA web-team and help to organise various fundraising events for the CA and Glanfield Children's Group (a black tie ball and two cycle rides from London to Lourdes to name just two)

I would like to increase my involvement with the CA using my experiences in the Accueil as well as the Glanfield Children's Group, and as an Elected Member I can enhance working relationships and have a significant impact, bringing those within the CA closer together.

If you would like to come to the AGM and vote, please either use this form, or preferably email: [AGM@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:AGM@catholicassociation.co.uk). If you email your attendance and vote, payment for lunch needs to be provided at the AGM. **Please send your vote and notification of attendance by 31 January 2011.**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to vote for:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

*please cut out and complete section overleaf.*

# CA Hospitalité Newsletter

Volume 33

[WWW.CATHOLICASSOCIATION.CO.UK](http://WWW.CATHOLICASSOCIATION.CO.UK)

Winter 2010

## THE PAPAL VISIT AND LOURDES

Fr Nicholas King, SJ

Many CA pilgrims will have had mixed feelings in advance of the recent visit to Scotland and England by Benedict XVI; indeed, I know you have, since you shared them with me. That doubtful mood was reflected in the newspapers and on the television, and just before the visit it was clear that Catholics were not notably different from the rest of the British population in having their misgivings about whether he should be coming at all. There were a number of factors involved in this: the cost of the trip, the sense that 'God's Rottweiler' had not changed his spots, the sense that the organisation of the event was looking shambolic, the fear of another public relations gaffe (a fear that seemed all too plausible when on the very day that the visit was to start we learned that a senior prelate had been left behind for having likened Heathrow to a "third-world country"!).

And what happened? People were captivated by the gentleness and humility of the Pope (which contrasted strikingly with the aggressive mien and strident sounds of some of those who were filmed protesting



against his visit); the media suddenly, and perhaps despite themselves, were caught up by it, and started presenting the visit as a "feel-good" story. The BBC, as a colleague of mine tartly remarked, "switched to deferential mode", and remained that way throughout the visit. A hard-bitten journalist from Africa described it in these unexpected terms: "as close to a miracle as I have ever seen". And Catholics, for a while at any rate, felt proud, rather than ashamed or embarrassed, to proclaim themselves Catholic in the United Kingdom today. It was not that anything had changed; there were probably still

reservations about the present Pope's attitudes among many of our country-men (and -women), both Catholic and non-Catholic.

It was, rather, that the Pope had simply been himself and done his job, without any attempt at a public relations onslaught. And what is that job? It is simply, to point, by his humility and his simplicity, to the deepest reality of our life, which is that there is (after all) a God, that God is love, that God raised Jesus from the dead, and that the gospel is true. He urged peace and love and cooperation; he did not hesitate to give erudite lectures in which he pro-

**Continued on Page 2**

### Inside this issue..

The Papal Visit & Lourdes	1-2
2010 Reports	3 - 5
Treasurer's Report	7
Ask Les	7
Notice Board	8 - 9
Message from our new Chief Branch	10
Boy meets girl, the other 51 weeks	11
Election & AGM	11-12
What Lourdes did for me.	12

### Plus...

Theresa Mahon gives us a detailed insight (warts and all) in the life and role of the hotel nurse) **Pages 6-7**



Shelley Foreman empathises with all our confusion on **Page 10**

See our new and improved notice board on **Page 8**

For up to date news from our web team go to

<http://www.catholicassociation.co.uk> and click on **News**





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[a.joyce@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:a.joyce@catholicassociation.co.uk)

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## The Papal Visit & Lourdes Continued from overleaf



claimed the truth of the gospel message, and its relevance for Britain today; he was not afraid to apologise, in the strongest possible terms, for the behaviour of some priests and bishops. He showed extraordinary warmth in his dealings with the Archbishop of Canterbury. He prayed with the victims of abuse. And people were captivated by it; they turned out in numbers (and it is pointless and mean-minded to retort "Ah! But not as many as when John-Paul II came"); they cheerfully endured the long waiting; they prayed along with the services, which were done with restrained dignity, and were carefully directed towards the greater glory of God. And, above all, there were the young: they showed themselves energetic, idealistic and cheerful even under pressure, and they and the Pope were perceptibly on the same wavelength. It is, you may argue, possible that that not all of them share our views about weekly mass-attendance; some of their attitudes to sexual morality might be regarded by some of us older ones as just a bit casual; but the fact is that they were there, and visibly enjoying it, happy to join the Pope in pointing to the reality of God.

Does this all remind you of your experience of Lourdes? You probably had the most terrible misgivings beforehand, if you remember; you were not sure that the price was right, or whether the message was quite "of our time", and you feared that it might be "all rather embarrassing". And what happened? You came, you saw, and you were conquered. You found



that Catholicism means, as James Joyce remarked, "Here comes everybody", that the Church is young and vital and multi-cultural, not just an ageing and diminishing group of "wrinklies", and, best of all, you found in Lourdes a message that said something about how life can be lived. There in Lourdes you saw the young, energetically and cheerfully attentive to those whom society regards as "a waste of space", even if those robust youth have attitudes that are not identical to yours on every issue. You came back convinced that Catholicism has something important to say to our world.

And what then? Those who peddle the tedious jargon of marketing and PR speak of the "Benedict bounce" – but that is not quite right. You were still the same person after your last trip to Lourdes – but something had changed. You had glimpsed a way of living, you had grasped that it was all right to live a life of prayerful service, and that your Catholicism was, after all, something to be proud of. Now though, it was up to you to live it, back there "after the pilgrimage". The visit of Benedict to our shores will have been a success, not because more people come to mass, nor because there are increased applications to undergo RCIA courses with a view to entering the Church, or to go into the priesthood and religious life (though I understand that there have been signs of all of these). No – it will have been a success if in the course of it you glimpsed a sign-post, in the dark and the rain, that told you that you

were, after all, on the right road, and that it was good to keep plodding on in that direction. God, you discovered once more, is indeed at work in your life. If that was the effect that it had on you, then the Papal visit was a success – and so was your last pilgrimage to Lourdes.

## Boy meets Girl - The other 51 weeks

Sylvia Walker

Wow, what a week that was", said the blue C.A. polo shirt to the blue Handmaid's dress. Somehow they had got put in the same box to go home.

"My youth worked so hard all week, he was a team leader and organised his team so well. They were working on the wards in the Accueil, wheeling guests to different services in the Domaine, always looking smart and clean and tidy, chatting to guests and staying in the services to take their charges back afterwards, or even out shopping or just for a drink in one of the cafés".

"Well", said the dress, "my young lady was doing the same and was so sweet all week, I think her guest had a lovely time saying how helpful she was.

The dress said she had been washed, rinsed, rolled in a towel and stamped on to get the water out, then

hung on a hanger and dried by the next morning.

The polo shirt said his lad had just worn him till he walked off his back, smelling to High Heaven!

Now they were both in the same box and would soon be put on the big white van, driven by Adam and John.

They were put in the van together with all the music equipment, medical equipment, and goodness knows what, but the van is always full!

John and Adam drove off after being waved goodbye by the advance party who arrive a day before the pilgrimage and leave a day after from the Alba Hotel.

They left about 4p.m. and after a good journey taking turns every three hours to drive then sleep arrived at the ferry in the morning.

They dropped off some equipment in Kent, then in Hemel Hempstead before driving up to Tina's (who was home by now) in Newmarket to drop off the rest of the load, before then taking the hired van back and picking up their car at Tina's

Well actually there was a change this year, instead of Tina and her mum washing and ironing the shirts and dresses, she only had to wash and iron 100 polo shirts as the dresses were taken to Sawston to be laundered by some other volunteers. THANKYOU

The shirt and dress had got quite comfy by now and weren't looking forward to being parted- but that's what happened

They were washed and pressed-sorted into sizes and put into plastic bags- ready to be stored in Tina's spare bedroom until August next year when they will be put on the van again and driven to Lourdes for another wonderful week!

So, if you just wondered how the Brancs and handmaids get their dresses and polo shirts- this is a little inside peep- Mind you- some people buy their own and look after them - But that's another story.



## Catholic Association 2011 AGM

The Hospitalité President and Hospitalité Council would like to invite all members to our Annual General Meeting 2011. The AGM is an opportunity for you to put forward your ideas, receive updates from the Council, to meet with your friends, to bring a little bit of Lourdes back into your daily life and much more.

The AGM hosted by the diocese of Portsmouth will be taking place at Corpus Christi Church and Hall, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE on 12 February 2011. The nearest station is Wokingham and the Parish Church and Hall are only a 15 walk away through the town.

The AGM will start at 11 a.m. in the Keenan Rooms (Parish Hall) and attendees may arrive from 10.45 a.m. when tea and coffee will be served. Mass is at 12.30 p.m. After mass, lunch will be served in the Keenan Rooms and will cost only £15 (including wine) per person. Please fill in the form below to let us know if you will be attending, or preferably you can email us at [agm@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:agm@catholicassociation.co.uk) to let us know your attendance and vote.

NAME (S):

I/WE WILL/WILL NOT\* be attending the Hospitalité AGM on the 12 February 2011

I/WE WILL be staying for lunch and I enclose a cheque payable to CA Hospitalité.\*

I WOULD/WOULD NOT\* like to make a donation to the CA Hospitalité.\*

(\*please delete as appropriate)

If you would like to send this form by post, please send to:

AGM 2010,  
Hospitalité Secretary,  
7 Clare Court,  
Clare Avenue,  
Wokingham,  
Berkshire, RG40 1EX.



# Confused? You're not alone!

**Shelley Foreman**

The first time I went to Lourdes was in 2002, with a group who went out at the same time as the Catholic Association. Most people, on their first trip to Lourdes, go knowing what to expect and the religious history of the town. I was fortunate enough to have family that had been before, and still go, so I knew a little of what to expect. I was to learn that nothing could prepare you for the life changing experience.

Having not been brought up in a Catholic household, I knew very little about the faith, or really of religion as a whole. It was quite a scary prospect to be going to a place that was centred around religion. This would soon change.

My first sight of Lourdes, having seen the statue in the hill from the train, was of people filling the streets buying flashing mementos and gaudy looking souvenirs. My first thought was 'wow, they're all crazy'. Later, I learned that this scene would be the one that gave me the sense of coming home, even if it was still a bit crazy!

My first experience of a Catholic Mass was a very confusing one. I stood, sat and knelt with everyone else, almost like playing 'follow my leader'. Again, I learnt a lesson. Follow the right person once, and the rest will become clear. Afterwards, I felt very overwhelmed and in awe of all these people who shared the same the feelings and were united in their faith.

In 2006, I joined the Youth Group. I still found things slightly confusing, but ultimately compelling. Lourdes has now become a passion. In 2010, I completed my Ninth year and became a Full Member of the Hospitalité.

Every year, people ask me; Why do I come back, year after year? Why do I attend Mass if I do not share the beliefs of the others there?

## WHY DO I COME BACK?

The answer is simple. Just like everyone else, I find myself being called. The act of taking the time to care for someone and help give them an experience that they deserve, is as equally rewarding and enjoyable, as it is humbling. Being a part of the community and atmosphere and making lifelong friends is also a part of why I return, along with the feeling of inner peace and sense of self that can only come from helping those around you. We are all there with the intention of helping others and using the experiences we gain, to help ourselves.



You don't need to share the Catholic view of Lourdes to be called to, and go in, service and to share what you have with others. Just a want to help and be a part of the miracle that is Lourdes, is all you need.

## Family Pilgrimage

**Tim and John Bowman**

Tim accompanies his blind father John each year to Lourdes, and like many of us travel together on pilgrimage as a family—they write.

One of the reasons I so enjoy the Catholic Association pilgrimage is the opportunity it provides to spend quality and spiritual time with my father. Although we are close, we live apart geographically. Needless to say, we have a fantastic time, and indeed I think it's true to say this year's pil-

grimage was even better than the previous two years. And that's saying something. I'm very grateful, and if my father is alive next year, we will be joining you again (if God and the pilgrimage doctor so will!). My father asked if the following dictated note could be added to the next issue of the Hospitalité newsletter:

John Bowman would like to thank, and to be remembered to, the many helpers, priests and pilgrims for all the care he received, and for making such a prayerful and holy pilgrimage possible. John would also like to thank Nimal for inviting him to become a Prayer Member of the Hospitalité, and assures the Hospitalité of his prayer support. He looks forward to seeing all his friends for a reunion next year at Lourdes, or preferably, in Heaven! Yours affectionately, John.

## 2011 Pilgrimage sees Matt Betts step into Rupert's pink trousers

**From Matt:** "I have been part of the CA Pilgrimage to Lourdes for fourteen years and a member of both the CA Hospitalité and HNDL. Throughout that time I have assisted the Hospitalité in various ways, including acting as Hospitalité Secretary, all of which have been a pleasure. It is a great honour for me to be asked by the Trustees and Rupert to take on a leading role within our Pilgrimage as the next Chief Brancardier and I am looking forward to working with all the helpers and the other Heads of Service for the next five years.

I look forward to seeing you at the next AGM and working with you in Lourdes."

*Centre: Shelley Foreman and Minnie Mouse*

*Right: Rupert Bell the epitome of the Chief Branc*



# 2009 Reports

## Hospitalité

Nimal Hemelge on behalf of the Hospitalité Council.



*Chris Buller — Hospitalité President*

Chris Buller, as the incoming President, on behalf of the entire Hospitalité, would like to, "Formally and publicly thank Colette Sharrock for her service to the Hospitalité as President since 2006". Her help, advice and direction has been invaluable, and her dedication over the past few years as President has been exceptional. He would, "Also thank Rupert Bell for all his innovation and diligence as Chief Brancardier".

The Hospitalité would like to record and congratulate both Colette and Rupert for their excellent work over the last few years and we wish them well in their retirement from office.



*Matt Betts — Chief Brancardier*

To Matt Betts and Chris Buller, the Hospitalité send a warm welcome to old friends as each of them begin their office as Chief Brancardier and Hospitalité President respectively. We thank them for their commitment to this wonderful Hospitalité.

## Pilgrimage 2010

We were very pleased with how our week in Lourdes went in 2010. Having been based at the Accueil St Frai last year, our return to the Accueil Notre-Dame this year brought a freshness to the week as a whole and a renewed appreciation for the wonderful location of the Accueil Notre-Dame within the Domaine itself. The only point we would make is that we did perceive a slight drop in the numbers coming over to visit our APs when compared to last year and we would like to thank those who did venture over the bridge to see us.

The Opening ceremony, worked extremely well. The format was well received and we welcomed into our Hospitalité 22 ordinary members and 13 full members. We are truly flourishing, Our Lady is truly blessing us and this is wonderful to see.

The Hospitalité service this year was very successful compared to last year, but all felt the change of venue to the Bernadette Church separated the congregation from the liturgy and Bishop Crispian. But despite the technical problems, and without the need to shout all in attendance found it invaluable. A return to the St Joseph's Chapel is being sought if it is available (for an 8.30pm start).

I think we all agree that the 8.30pm start worked very well. All APs were able to attend. There were however some Hospitalité Members who were conspicuous by their absence, and whilst the service was wonderful as we welcomed into our Hospitalité 2 new prayer members (John Bowman and Rose Aquí), it was marred by the poor attendance. We are all members of this wonderful Hospitalité, and the Hospitalité Service is our opportunity during the week to take time out with friends and celebrate our friendship, with song, prayer and free wine at the after-service party.

**So please join us next year, our Hospitalité needs you.**

So for those of you who were unable to attend for various reasons, the message of this years Service in Lourdes was about taking time out, which we all enjoyed together in contemplative reflection; BUT is there is no reason why we can't do that in our daily lives instead of just once a year in Lourdes? In fact the Hospitalité encourages all Members to take time out wherever you are, whatever you are doing in order to put God first and listen to his call through the Blessed Virgin Mary, to come in service of others. We all do that once a year. For many of us it is for personal reasons, a "personal journey" each of us returning to Lourdes choose to make, at considerable expense, in time, money and emotional exhaustion I hasten to add. So why don't we do it at home?

## THE MESSAGE OF THIS YEARS' HOSPITALITE SERVICE WAS ABOUT TAKING TIME OUT.

Is it because we don't get a badge, or the Kudos? I think not. For me my dereliction of duty occurs the moment I arrive in the office the following Monday.

As we do daily at Prayer on the Prairie, or Ave in the Alba, now (TODAY) is the time to take time out for ourselves and focus on the spiritual side. Give it a try, it won't hurt, and you might enjoy it.

As every year, there are many people I should thank, the usual suspects on the council, heads of service and so on, but they know we are extremely grateful to them, for all they do, so instead, like last year, I'd like to thank you, all of you, for everything **you** do. Without you, we wouldn't have a pilgrimage, without you our APs wouldn't get that one week away they so yearn for. Without you, your hard work, dedication that puts us all to shame, we would be lost. So on behalf of the Hospitalité Council, all I have left to say, is thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!





Pilgrimage Cross 2010

**Chief Branc's / Handmaid's Report**  
Rupert Bell & Anna Jackson

Our teams worked excellently together and, for that, we must thank our team leaders and their deputies for setting a positive mood from the beginning. We noted particularly this year how the concept that helpers themselves are on pilgrimage, which we have made a huge effort to remind helpers about over the past few years, appears to have taken root firmly and we were delighted to note that team leaders were taking their responsibilities in organising spiritual team time seriously: we had some good feedback from first time helpers in particular as to how much these sessions contributed to their pilgrimage experience overall.

We made some minor experimental changes to the shift patterns for those working solely in the Accueil Notre-Dame, which we were able to do as we had a good number of volunteer helpers this year. We welcome feedback, as ever, on these changes as well as any bright ideas for next year.

Our excursion was to Gavarnie again this year and, once more, it was a lovely day. We were lucky to get above the rain clouds in the valley and enjoy some good sunshine and the enjoyable outdoor picnic gave everyone a chance to relax, to have a wander through the town, and to do something different for the afternoon.

We were delighted that HCP held their tea party again this year and we hope this means it will now be a firm fixture in the CA timetable. We love all those e-numbers!

Our travel arrangements were streamlined to using just Stansted and Manchester airports, as well as a coach and other independent travel arrangements.

Regarding the flights, we would like to stress the importance of all helpers on the flights arriving at the airports three hours before departure if possible to ensure that we have enough help. Otherwise, the outbound Manchester flight went well, bar some unrelated but tense delays on the motorways. At Stansted, there was a degree of last minute switching between outbound flights, which were unfortunately avoidable.

Rolling arrangements in Lourdes itself seemed to go well. Wheelchairs were all returned at the end of the week and Sadie did a great job controlling these throughout the week. As ever, many people underestimated the need for chairs with the result that we needed daily top ups, but the rolling teams handled this well.

Finally, we would not be able to organise this week without the huge amount of support and the prayers we receive from so many of you not just during the week itself but throughout the year: there are many unsung heroes in the CA and we owe you a huge debt of gratitude. In particular this year we would like to thank Sheila Salt for the Cash and Carry run for our food stores, to the Carmelites and Tina Walker for overseeing the unloading of the van in the Notre Dame on the first day of the pilgrimage, to Adam Barnes and John Webster for driving the van itself all the way from Newmarket to Lourdes and for all their errands during the week itself and, finally, to the East Anglian Widow Twankies – otherwise known as Nonie Hawke, Shel-

ley Foreman, Sylvia Greenway, Colette Sharrock, Meg Jackson, Julie Ball, Anna Ball, Dee Madden and Pat Richardson - who undertook the distinctly unglamorous task of washing and ironing all the handmaid uniforms once we are back from Lourdes.

**Chief Medical Officer's Report**  
Dr Adam Farmer

From a medical point of view this year's pilgrimage was generally a success.

Whilst applications for the Accueil were slow to come in initially, we ended up being over subscribed. I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of Sr Maureen, Celia Dupuis and Derek Bedford and all their work with Hotel assisted pilgrims.

There were 44 APs in the Accueil Notre Dame with 52 APs in the various hotels around Lourdes. 75% of the Accueil APs had come on the pilgrimage in 2009. I am glad that we could facilitate the travel of APs who were more medically dependant than APs we have taken in previous years.

We were blessed again with 6 doctors this year, so workload was spread. Having a "doctor of the day" seems to work well. I would like to thank Sue Woodford and her team for all their hard work.

For next year's pilgrimage I would like to bring more medically dependant APs and will begin discussions with other members of the Hospitalité on the practicalities of this. In addition, I would like to reduce the quantity of paperwork. Therefore, from next year I will only require medical forms from pilgrims who wish to be registered as assisted.

Once again if there are any queries regarding assisted pilgrims or you have any medical friends who would like to come on the Pilgrimage, please do not hesitate to make contact. I look forward to seeing you all in Lourdes in August.

Application Forms

We have now completed the helpers application form for brancs, handmaids, and nurses which are due in by 1 June 2011 at the very latest. Please complete them and send them in as soon as possible.

All of these forms and further information about our Pilgrimage can be seen on our website, here: <http://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/pilgrimage/pilg2011.shtml>.

PS, FYI: the Young Helpers Group application form will come out in the new year.

A Simple Profession:

On 11 September 2010, Andy Joyce made his simple (first) profession of vows as a Carmelite friar during a celebration of the Eucharist at Aylesford Priory at 11.30am. Andy was joined by many of his CA friends, seen in the picture below.

Please pray for Andy as he dedicates himself in the service of God and neighbour.

Andy has been coming with the CA on Pilgrimage for a number of years as a nurse. Andy is also an Elected Member of the CA Hospitalité council and attends May stage with the Catholic Association..



# CA History

If you can add to or want to make any changes to the list, please let us know via the Hospitalité Secretary or at:

[archive@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:archive@catholicassociation.co.uk).

**Hospitalité Chairman/President**

- Sue Balfour: 1978
- Fr Bob Hall: 1978 – 1980
- David Lewis: 1981 – 1990
- Ann Whitehead: 1991 - 1992
- David Lewis: 1993 – 1996
- Nell Atkin: 1997 – 2001
- Michael Cleary: 2001 – 2006
- Colette Sharrock: 2006 - 2010
- Chris Buller: 2011– present

**Chief Brancardier**

- Peter Crane (1950's - certainly 1958)
- Mowbray Bessell ?
- Patrick Tombe ? - 1976
- David Lewis: 1977 - 1990
- Anthony Martin: 1991 - 1994
- Chris Atkin: 1995 - 2000
- Michael Cleary: 2001– 2005
- Rupert Bell: 2006 – 2010
- Matt Betts: 2011 - present

**Chief Handmaid**

- Pat Collins: 1950 – 1970
- Sue Balfour: 1971 - 1979
- Ann Whitehead: 1980 – 1992
- Collette Sharrock: 1993 – 1999
- Sadie Vile: 2000 – 2008
- Anna Jackson: 2009 - present



**Chief Medical Officer**

- Otto Belam: 1966
- Tom Tangney: 1967 - 1975
- St John Dowling: 1975
- Tom Tangney: 1975 - 1977
- St John Dowling: 1977 - 1991
- Professor David Morell: 1992 – 1995
- Trevor Fernandes: 1996 - 2001
- Chris Parry: 2001 - 2004
- Trevor Fernandes: 2005 - 2008
- Adam Farmer: 2009 – present

**Chief Nurse**

- Mother Bernadette 1950 – 1979
- James Browne 1980 - 1995
- Chris Collins: 1996 – 1999
- Margaret Fielding: 2000 – 2003
- Frances Presgraves: 2004 – 2008
- Sue Woodford: 2009 - present

**Hospitalité Secretary**

- Mgr M Wilson: 1950 - 1966?
- Mowbray Bessell: 1966 - 1969
- Jack Collins: 1970 - 1972
- Fr Bob Hall 1973 – 1978
- Louis King: 1978 - 1981
- Richard Martin: 1981 – 1986
- Dominic Nixon: 1986 – 1989
- Gerard Eaton: 1990 – 1996
- Chris Thorpe: 1996 – 2001
- Mark Smith: 2002 – 2003
- Matt Betts: 2004 – 2009
- Nimal Hemelge: 2009 - present

**Hospitalité Treasurer**

- Fr Bob Hall: ? – 1978
- Louis King: 1978 -1980
- David Lewis: 1980 - 2001
- Chris Buller: 2001 -2006
- Richard Long-Fox: 2006 - present

**Hospitalité Chaplain**

- Fr Paul Townsend: ?? - 1997
- Fr John Warrington: 1997 - 2002
- Fr Michael Scanlon: 2002 - 2005
- Fr Simon Blakesley: 2006 - present

Full lists can be viewed at:

<http://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/pilgrimage/caarchive.shtml>



# Notice Board

**THIS IS YOUR NOTICE BOARD, so please send any announcements to the Hospitalité Secretary.**

We remember those who have passed away, may they rest in peace

**Angela Clarke:** Nicholas Tangney writes, "Angela Clarke sadly passed away on the 19 September at the age of 53 after a short illness with cancer. She had worked with Tangney Tours for the last 17 years and had looked after many of the CA pilgrimages and pilgrims during that time, before that she was with Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust. She always had time to listen and help each individual person with their requests and to make sure they had an enjoyable pilgrimage. She will be sadly missed by her friends at the office, by her friends going on pilgrimage and most of all, her family. She will be remembered through her husband, Mr Brendan Clarke"

**Ray Salt:** a longstanding member of the Catholic Association pilgrimage and husband to Sheila passed away on 27 August - he will be sadly missed by all of us, especially the tea angels in the Accueil.



## CA Filming



This year, James Silsbury - normally a branc - was filming everything about the CA Pilgrimage. Here, James talks about his work in

Lourdes and for the next couple of months!

Lourdes 2010. Wow what a year. What turned out as a small chat over a beer last year turned into a reality this year as I embarked on the mo-

mentous task of filming a small documentary about the work the Catholic Association does out in Lourdes while on Pilgrimage.

I set off with my camera in one suitcase, the tripod in another, just hoping they would reach Lourdes safely. They did and the filming began almost instantly. I set myself a chal-

### STOP THE PRESS: Missing - CA waterproofs and blue squash jugs!

Do you know where these are? They did not arrive in Lourdes this year and we suspect they are sitting in a box in someone's garage, having failed to make it onto the CA van on one of its numerous ports of call en route to Lourdes. If you have any information, please contact Anna

[chief\\_handmaid@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:chief_handmaid@catholicassociation.co.uk) or on 07814024738

lenge and with a rough idea of what I wanted to film, set out capturing everything I possibly could - even if this meant getting into an interesting and slightly argumentative 'conversation' with an Italian stagiaire one evening!

Well, one week and 15 hours worth of footage later, I arrived back home, ready for the task of digitising the footage to the laptop. With this now done, I have set about making a rough edit of the film, trying to condense 15 hours of footage down to 15 minutes - this gives you a rough idea of the ratio!

The film should be ready by November at the very latest, although I would like to get it finished by mid October, but that may be a fantasy rather than a reality at the moment looking at the amount of footage to actually edit.

I will keep you posted of my progress and let you all know as soon as possible when it's finished

Left: Roy Scivyer with Andy Lyons and Matt Sanderson

## Walsingham Retreat

Every two years the Catholic Association Hospitalité holds a retreat at Walsingham - now organised by Pat Richardson.

The next CA Hospitalité Walsingham Retreat is taking place on 8th-10th April 2011, and will be given by Fr Antony Lester, O.Carm.

If you would like to attend, please fill in the form available on the CA website and blog, and then email / send to Pat's address with a £20 deposit per person. The Walsingham retreat is a very popular event, so people should send their forms to Pat as soon as possible.

For more information about the event please contact Pat directly at

[richardson59@btinternet.com](mailto:richardson59@btinternet.com)



Walsingham Shrine

## Roy begins Dachau Placement:

A young CA branc who travels with the British Province of Carmelites has recently started a years placement at Dachau, the Second World War concentration camp.



## Chief Nurse's Report

Sue Woodford

I hope that you all enjoyed the 2010 Pilgrimage to Lourdes as much as I did. I would like to thank the nurses for their hard work as always. There were one or two blips to this but didn't spoil the week. I hope that everyone liked being back in the Accueil Notre Dame this year. All being well we will all be back in 2011.

I am hoping to get the nurses volunteer form onto the website, so that nurses can download it and use that form rather than the Handmaid and Brancardier form.

I would hope to have all forms in by June so that behind the scenes things can run more smoothly.

I would again like to thank Rupert for all his hard work over the past few years and hope to see him in Lourdes in the future and welcome Matt as the new Chief Brancardier for the next few years

## CA Young Helpers Report

Tina Walker

"The best group in the Hotel this year - the number 1 group" That was the praise given to the Young Helpers Group by the Management of the Hotel Alba - and what an honour to be told that, as they have many groups in their hotel throughout the year!

"The youth were fantastic" - Just one of the many compliments received from different members of the Pilgrimage.

So I would like to say "Thank you" to all members of the young helpers group for working so hard.

The numbers had increased from last year to 85 people. 37 returning and 48 newbies! I hope that numbers will continue to increase. It was great to welcome Bro Sandy Fairley and Greg Tomlin to assist myself and Becky Banfield with the young helpers. I hope that they too will return next year. We have plenty of volunteers to

assist parish and diocesan groups to encourage potential young helpers - just let us know where and we'll be there!

In summary, we had a "fantastic" group that was "the best!" See you all at the Reunion.

[CA REUNION 2010: The Lord Moon pub, Whitehall, London at 7pm on 4<sup>th</sup> December.](#)

## Glanfield Children's Group

A little about what we do:

The Glanfield Group is a registered charity, (under the Catholic Association umbrella,) which organises respite for children and young people who have a wide range of disabilities, or who are physically or emotionally deprived or neglected.



The Group has been running since 1987 inspired by the late Frank Glanfield who was involved with the care of children with special needs both in France and in England. It was then that a modest group of just 12 set the foundations for what has most recently, (Aug 2008,) become a group of 96 including children, parents, siblings, helpers, nurses, doctors and our very own chaplain.

The aim of the group is to provide

both a holiday for the children and a much needed rest for their parents who are welcome to either join the group or stay at home.

Due to the skills and expertise now within the group, we are able to give the children experiences that their disabilities would not usually permit, such as swimming, a trip to the top of a mountain in the Pyrenees, a day out at the zoo and for some of our older members, a few beers in the pub. Further details can be found at

[www.glanfieldchildrensgroup.co.uk](http://www.glanfieldchildrensgroup.co.uk).

If you would like to join the Glanfield Group Carol Singing in London to raise funds for the group, then please contact Matthew Sharrock at

[matthewsharrock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:matthewsharrock@yahoo.co.uk)

for more details



Glanfield Carol Singing 2010



# What does a hotel Nurse do?

Theresa Mahon

I love being a hotel nurse!

Four years on, I've realised you need to be adaptable and perceptive, because each year I acquire more pilgrims that need assistance than have actually registered as assisted pilgrims!

Apart from last year (when we were very short of nurses and I had three hotels), I have worked as hotel nurse for the Arcades Hotel, caring for pilgrims from my own diocese of Portsmouth. This works very well because I know many of the 'regulars' (both registered assisted and other pilgrims) and they are able to let me know of any problems that occur when I am not there. I also know of people who are willing to lend a hand to anyone who needs a little extra help.

## A REGULAR, VISIBLE AND AVAILABLE HOTEL NURSE MAKES FOR A HAPPY AND SAFE PILGRIMAGE.

I will also liaise with the pilgrimage director for the diocese on various matters such as cards for anointing, or any particular problems either of us has picked up on. This year, my knowledge of the regulars was particularly useful because one of our assisted pilgrims had not registered. I was surprised to see that her name was not on my list, as she comes every year. When I bumped into her near the hotel on the first morning, she explained why she had not registered. As I knew her well, it was not a problem and I was able to look after her as usual.

On the morning of the Gathering Mass, we have our first hotel nurses' meeting. That is when we go through all our registered pilgrims and the

'Cartes de Malade' are given to us by the Chief Medical Officer to hand out that lunchtime. The meeting takes place in one of the hotels and is led by the Chief Nurse and the Chief Hotel Nurse. We get a list of important mobile phone numbers including the number of the 'On Call' doctor. We plan which nurses are going to be 'on duty' at each event (at least 2 nurses) and discuss any problems we have already encountered! We also plan another meeting for a couple of days' time, to see how things are going, as it is often on the first day that we discover sick people who have not registered or that some assisted pilgrims are not in the hotel we had them down for! We may have to arrange extra wheelchair pushers or on occasion, or even transfer someone to the Accueil, if they are unable to cope in the hotel.

On a typical day, I go to the hotel before the first morning event, to ensure that all the people needing wheelchair pushers have been collected and to find out if there have been any problems overnight. At the Mass, I sit near our assisted pilgrims whom need a little extra help, in order to ensure any problems can be handled discretely. This makes for less stress for all concerned. As many from the hotel tend to sit near each other, it also means I am nearby if anyone needs me. It's not all work, after Mass, we often go for a coffee in one of the many nearby cafes.

I always go around the hotel dining room at lunchtime, so I can listen to the needs of my pilgrims and pass on any information. It was easy this year, because they were all in one hotel. Last year, I had to try to get around three hotel dining rooms at lunchtime!

Also this year I was greatly helped by my friend John Robins, a Lourdes'

veteran of some 23 Jumbulance trips and 3 CA pilgrimages! He came as my own personal brancardier/Health Care Assistant as I had had surgery in June and was not allowed to carry anything heavy. He also wanted to make sure I did not overdo it! It worked incredibly well as we got to know everyone in the hotel and he also pushed one of my assisted pilgrims all week! Going round the hotel dining room at lunchtime together, meant he could alert me to anyone who needed to talk to me, if I was busy with someone else. It meant no one got missed. They got to know him too and he was able to deal with many non-nursing problems. *I have often thought that it would be really helpful if each hotel nurse had a brancardier and/or handmaid attached to them, because there are many things that need sorting out that are not specifically nursing and an extra pair of hands in the form of an "experienced" Lourdes person would be so helpful.*

After going round the hotel dining room, I have my own lunch. I have found it much more convenient to go self-catering, because trying to eat lunch, while attending to the needs of others, at the very least, makes for indigestion! That is, if you do not get back to your table to find that your plate has been taken away by the waitresses! After lunch, it is usually time to go to the next event.



Hilary our AP, John Robins, Theresa Mahon and the bear.

## Role of the Hotel Nurse cont:

Although by nature I am not an obviously assertive person, I find when I am in Lourdes, I take on a different persona when it comes to coping with traffic, Italian voiture pushers and the sometimes over zealous Lourdes authorities!

This year we had a particularly bad case of over-zealousness in the Underground Basilica during the Blessing of the Sick! I was attending to one of our Accueil pilgrims with our 'On Call' doctor. We had the situation well under control, when next minute, this golf-type buggy turned up with blue and red flashing lights! An Italian doctor and some French first-aiders were most put out when we declined their rather forceful offer of a lift to the local medical centre! They eventually drove off, flashing their lights and tooting their horn, but alas for them, no patient!

In between the scheduled events, there may be things like dressings to do, checking up on anyone who may not be feeling well or taking someone over to the Accueil to see a doctor. (If someone is very unwell, the doctor would come to the hotel to see them). The 'café-culture' is big in Lourdes and we spend many a happy interlude in the various cafes, over a coffee or something naughtier, such as an ice-cream!

## WHAT DO I TAKE ON PILGRIMAGE?

What to take with me on the pilgrimage is always a difficult one to decide, because I do not know what problems I will be dealing with be-

forehand. Obviously, with flying, there is a weight restriction, which I cannot ignore. I also need to allow room for my own clothes, toiletries etc! I usually take my blood pressure monitor, blood glucose monitor, tympanic thermometer, oxygen saturation probe and British National Formulary, which lists all medications. I also take a selection of small dressings to cater for things like blisters and minor injuries and things like Paracetamol, rehydration sachets, antihistamine cream and dried prunes! The Accueil will have a wide range of medications if someone needs something more serious.

I always find the week absolutely flies by! Partly I think because I am so busy, but also because I love every minute of it. Before I know it, we are at the last Mass. This, I always find, a rather sad affair; partly because it is the end of the pilgrimage for another year and we all have to say 'goodbye' and partly because (owing to the fact that the wheelchairs need to be taken back late afternoon the day before) many of our assisted pilgrims are unable to attend.

In my 'day job' I am a community nurse. This makes it easier I think, because we have to be adaptable and essentially I am doing a similar job in Lourdes. You need to be a mixture of nurse and friend, because Lourdes is an emotional place. Sometimes, a sympathetic ear is as important as any nursing that you do. I love coming on the CA pilgrimage and am looking forward to becoming a full member of the Hospitalité next year.

needed someone to look after Japhat, a precocious little boy (after a minor incident with a nail gun and a squirrel), whilst he finished the carbon fibre hull.

Noah enlisted Colette Sharrock (former CA president) to look after his children during the ark construction phase, and thus the role of the hotel nurse was born.

## Treasurer's Report

Richard Long-fox

Those of you who remember my Treasurer's reports from previous years may recall that I measure the success of a Pilgrimage - that is success just from a Treasurer viewpoint - firstly by how well we have been able to subsidise both Assisted Pilgrims, whether staying in the Accueil or Hotels, and also deserving cases among the Youth; secondly, I measure success by how well we have done in the fund raising collections. I regret to have to say that neither of these measurements have been as satisfactory this year as I would have liked. In 2009 we supported 12 Assisted Pilgrims at a cost of over £3000; this year it was only 8 costing less than £2000; similarly the Youth supported from the Way Donnelly fund dropped from 8 to 6 and the cost was proportionately down.

Fund raising was, with one exception, up on last year with a particularly good result from the Way Donnelly collection at the end of the Hospitalité service. The real disappointment was the Sick Pilgrims' Fund collection on the main Stansted flight which was down by £175 compared to the combination of Stansted and Southampton in 2009. Luckily, much of this shortfall was made up by collections from the train pilgrims (as we crossed Paris in a coach) and the Clifton coach.

Full details of the amounts involved which will appear in the annual accounts to be presented at the AGM in February.

Send in your questions to Les care of the Hospitalité Secretary, and he will try and give a sensible answer to any questions you may have.

