



Equipes Notre Dame  
**TEAMS**



**TEAMS GB NEWSLETTER**  
**April - June 2024**

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## Tell us your Team news

Send us some photos and a few lines for the newsletter by **31 May** to: [editors@teamsgb.org.uk](mailto:editors@teamsgb.org.uk)

## Changed address?

Contact your **regional couple** for any change of postal address or any change in the number of newsletters your Team needs. Contact details in the directory inside back page of the newsletter.

## Front cover:

Window in St Hilda's Church, Ampleforth Abbey, York.  
Photo by Mark Edwards.

Husbands are the best people to share secret with.

They'll never tell anyone, because they aren't even listening.

Don't forget to pray for the International Gathering in Turin.



# Letter from Regional Couple

## Dear Friends in Teams.

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire,” said St. Catherine of Siena. We learned from the BBC a couple of weeks ago that, for the first time in history, the average global temperature throughout the whole of 2023 was 1.46°C above pre-industrial levels, making 2023, as such, the hottest year on record. Given this, we suppose that the year ahead will see us again setting at least some parts of the world on fire, just as in several recent years, but not particularly through being what God meant us to be; much the contrary, rather. Under the right conditions, a stray unguarded spark also triggers an inferno.



As a Regional Couple, we have been preoccupied since last year’s Gathering, and even before that, with expansion, that work of fostering and establishing new Teams for our Movement in this country; and not only ourselves, but all our companions in the GB Province Team undertaking review of all our slogans and literature with a view to amplifying our social media presence and broadening our audience to committed Christian couples beyond the Catholic family.

Our own assignment is to revisit outreach to the Catholic community. For this work, we would dearly like to discover a spark in the right conditions. In many ways, it seems so obvious that Teams is exactly what our parishes, and so many couples in different situations within our parishes, need right now to grow in faith and ardour, lighting fires of fellowship and missionary discipleship that fan parish life. But the fire feels slow to ignite; and without question we are still grasping for the pithy message that catches on, the singular emphasis that incisively exposes and sharply focuses the need that Teams emphatically answers.



We are at the beginning of our work, and not without early results. Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham Diocese helped us organise a Teams Information Event last November from which we now have a Team in piloting. The Teams Birthday Celebration proudly hosted at Cambridge in December spawned a Teams promotion activity at Stansted on



Father Clement Orango, parish priest at Saint Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church, Stansted Mountfitchet, with Martin and Fran Agnew of Bishop's Stortford 1

the first weekend of Lent, instigated by members of the two Teams a stone's throw away at Bishop's Stortford. We have expressions of interest to pursue at Birmingham, and opportunities in and afield of our own parish at Northampton.

Expansion needs commitment and perseverance, no doubt about it. It needs strategic thinking that targets building networks of Teams. The Team at Nottingham, for example, would thrive better having counterparts in as many significant population centres of that Diocese as possible, so our promotion should concentrate there. Similarly, the opportunity at Stansted makes it possible to envisage a string of Teams stretching from Cambridge to Chelmsford, so that's what we should aim to realise.

Above all, expansion needs prayer: that God will choose our Movement as His instrument, leading us to places where sparks will kindle. For, much as we think of our Movement as an exploration of marriage, what we offer first and foremost in Teams is Jesus—for couples, working together, to draw close to Jesus, and by seeking Jesus to attain perfectly, under His guiding hand, what He means them, as couples, to be. Father Caffarel said it himself: **“The essential thing is to seek Christ.”** We therefore earnestly urge all of you to support the work of expansion by praying fervently that the Lord desire to be sought through Teams.



We wish peace in safety, and a blessed Easter season, for all of you, your families, and all those dear to your hearts.

**Paul & Janet Deboo, Responsible Couple, Central GB Region**

# Notes from the editors



**Dear Teams friends,**

It's been a busy few months in the somewhat full, Edwards household. Mark continues to do well and doesn't appear to have any long term problems following his near death experience last October. The defibrillator is working well and hasn't been needed, thank God. It is visible under his shoulder but as he hadn't planned to be a swimwear model it hasn't caused a problem.

We have been blessed with a month long visit from a friend, Fr Andrew Fewings from Australia, who we first met as part of a 'Satellite Team' 20 years ago. During his time he was a welcome addition to our local Team Meeting and our Sector Gathering. During his stay we visited Harrogate and Chester and he enjoyed visiting our local Catholic primary school where he met the head teacher and took questions from one of the classes. He stayed with Teams friends in Ealing briefly in March prior to heading off to Ireland for a Sabbatical.



An impromptu sit down in Chester Town Hall



Fr Andrew (Left) with Head Teacher, Tony Haughton

We have been delighted to welcome a new couple to our own team. We have also enjoyed getting together with Teams across our sector and you'll see some photos later in the newsletter. There is lots of news in the Transatlantic newsletter which we have edited so the GB newsletter is a bit lighter this quarter.

Many of you have asked about our Ukrainian guests. Our first family have settled locally and we keep in touch regularly. Our second Ukrainian family Mum Iana and daughter Taisiia are well, quickly getting into school and work. They hope to move to their own home nearby and for the Dad and older son, if they can get a visa, to join them in the UK. Unfortunately visa requirements have recently changed so Ukrainians can no longer sponsor family members but thankfully we can still act as sponsors so hopefully the family will be reunited soon. Hosting two families has given us a little understanding of the uncertainty that refugees from war zones face and our hearts go out to those people caught up in conflicts, particularly the civilians in Gaza/ Israel conflict.

Our outdoor nativity production that we organised in December with a local soloist and community choir was blessed with beautiful weather and a record participation.



With a combination of pantomime, nativity, musical and a little political satire it was a joyful celebration. We were also able to bring the play and its message of love to 6 local primary schools.

We are currently rehearsing for our Easter passion play with many people from our local churches. It is very moving, planning and taking part and even more so in witnessing the drama on Good Friday. In between times we enjoy taking part in Open the Book storytelling assemblies on a monthly basis in several local primary schools.

We wish you all a very happy Easter and Pentecost season.

**God bless**

**Mark and Dympna Edwards**

**Newsletter Editors**

*P.S. Please do send us photos and a line or two about any recent Teams gathering or event.*



## Seasonal Reflection



As we embrace the Easter season, may the message of resurrection and renewal inspire and uplift each married couple within our Northern UK region. Just as we celebrate the victory of life over death during this sacred time, let us also reflect on the transformative power of love within our marriages.

As we delve into the recent survey results revealing the composition of our region, we recognise the diversity and potential for growth. The expansive geographical area covered provides ample space for expansion, reminding us that our movement thrives not only in numbers but in the shared enthusiasm we hold for one another. This enthusiasm is rooted in our collective commitment to celebrating the beauty and blessings of sacramental married life.

Let us remain steadfast in our understanding that our true strength lies in community, and it is magnified in the presence of the Holy Spirit, an inseparable aspect of our marital union. As we explore innovative approaches to share the essence of sacramental marriage, let us be guided by the Holy Spirit, trusting in its boundless love to infuse our efforts with joy and purpose.

Reflecting on the past six months, we find inspiration in the in-person gatherings that brought us together—our Regional Gathering in October and the recent mixed Teams meeting in the North-West sector. These events provided moments of reflection, discussion, and a heartfelt Mass, reinforcing the sense of unity that defines our regional community.

Our Scottish Team's flourishing state and readiness to welcome new couples into their expanding community signify the vitality of our movement. Additionally, the dedication of individuals like Pat and Tony Banks, Dympna and Mark Edwards, and Katie McRae and



Peter Wordsworth contributes significantly to the strength and vibrancy of our Northern Region. Their roles as National Intercessors, Newsletter Editors, and Website Administrators showcase the diverse talents and commitments that make our regional community thrive.

Recognising the challenges posed by an aging population and an increasingly secular society, we acknowledge the hurdles ahead. However, let us stand firm in our confidence in the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. It is this boundless love and joy that will guide the endeavours of our Province Team and various project teams as we embark on our current growth initiatives.

May this Easter season bring a renewed sense of hope, love, and unity to each married couple within our region. As we celebrate the resurrection, let us also rejoice in the ongoing renewal of our marriages and the collective journey we share. May the Holy Spirit continue to be our guide, infusing our efforts with grace, resilience, and the boundless joy that comes from the celebration of enduring love.

**Joanne & David Harries**  
**Northern GB Regional Couple**



### **News Alerts from Teams Transatlantic Website**

*If you would like to be up to speed with the latest news from Teams, you can register for alerts of new posts on the TransAtlantic super region website:  
[www.Teams-TransAtlantic.org](http://www.Teams-TransAtlantic.org)*



*Then whenever we publish new news, we'll tell you!*

**Share your news!** We will very happily receive news from Regions to share and publish. This could be something that is going to happen, something that you have completed and you want to share, or just lovely news. This should come to us via your regional team.



## Remembering Steven Craston



*A famous leader once said: 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' Stephen made a great life. Together with his wife, Sabine, he hosted the Bishop's Stortford 2 Teams Group since 1998. He strongly believed that meetings should be a special time to strengthen bonds between*

*couples, to have joy, laughter, good food and a safe space to explore our spirituality and pray together.*

*Born in Warrington, the eldest of three boys, his childhood was a happy one. He was educated at Ampleforth, with sport and music being his two big passions. While his work life comprised a 30-year career in sales, both abroad and in the UK, it was at 55 that he found a new calling as a Carer. For a further 15 years he helped people to live their lives with dignity, listen to them, laugh with them and show them how much they matter.*

*We and so many others will miss Stephen greatly. As a role model for Teams, as well as a valued member of our Church and our Catenian Welfare officer, he was loved and respected. This was in evidence at his wonderful funeral service - with so many people present that it was standing room only!*

**From the Members of Teams - Bishop's Stortford 2**

## North West Sector Gatherings

The North West sector led by Mark and Carol Traynor have been busy with Teams gatherings.

In December 2023 we had a lovely Birthday Celebration mass and shared table in Crosby organised by the Formby Team. We had an opportunity to witness to



Teams in the parish and were joined by members of the parish at the shared lunch afterwards. We also welcomed a new couple interested in joining teams at the event.

The Wirral Team organised the North West Mixed teams meeting in February 2024.



We met in the parish presbytery thanks to Fr Pascal. Starting with a shared lunch we had a useful regional update from David Harries.



Mark and Carol Traynor led us on a reflection of the ten commandments by Bishop Robert Barron which formed the study topic for mixed team meeting. The link is here for any team who would like to use it as a study topic. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFemAFXCQ9Q> or search Bishop Robert Barron, Ten Commandments.

We finished the day with mass in the oratory. We enjoyed catching up with friends and Fr Andrew enjoyed making new Teams friends.

We're looking forward to our Sector retreat on 16th March at St Joseph's Freshfield.

**Dympna & Mark Edwards**  
**Formby Team**



# April Team meeting

## Acts 4:32-35

### **The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul**

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

## Psalm 117

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

Let the children of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the children of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

### **Concluding prayer**

Lord, thank you that despite our failings your love had no end. Our love for you and others is often limited. Help us to see others as you see them, our brothers and sisters in Christ, to share our time and resources willingly, work for justice and peace in our world. Amen.

## April Reflection

*The Lucan passage from the Acts of the Apostles is Luke's ideal perspective of how the Church should be, rather than a claim to how the Church actually was historically. The focus is on the harmony between the community of believers who shared their material possessions so that nobody went without. That everything was said to be held in common is one aspect of Luke's perspective of koinonia: that is the absence of hierarchical barriers between people.*

*Another important aspect of the reading is the idea that the apostles testified to the Resurrection of Jesus. The focus is on evangelization through the sharing of testimony and the explaining of the significance of the teachings of Jesus. But, earlier in chapter 2 reference is made to the breaking of bread in peoples' homes in the same context of sharing. Thus, the lived experiences of the early Christian community can be said to be a reflection of the eucharistic celebration in which the community were at one with each other and with Jesus Christ.*

*In the context of our family life today, we are called to imitate that sense of "togetherness". With our obsession with mobile phones and social media we can become very individualistic in our lifestyles unless there is a conscious attempt is made to resist these pressures.*

*The ideal of families having meals together and involving themselves in some common activities ensures that families can reflect that sense of communion with each other and thereby with Jesus Himself. In so doing the family can become a microcosm of the Church and a model of how synodality might operate in practice.*



**Fr Bill Muir, CJ**

# May Team Meeting

## **Galatians 5:16-25** If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

## **Psalms 103(104):1,24,29-31,34**

*Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord.

**Concluding prayer.** Come Holy Spirit, set us alight with your fire. May we see the fruits of the spirit in our lives and in our world. Amen.



## May Reflection

Assuming things go to plan, you won't hear this (Jerusalem Bible) translation of Paul's Letter to the Galatians in Catholic churches again, since a new edition of the lectionary, using the 'English Standard Version' translation, will take over next Advent. As always, it will be a case of 'loss and gain'. We'll lose the familiar cadences of the Jerusalem Bible, while the cost to parishes will be considerable. But we're told that the new version will be more accurate, and perhaps it will allow us to hear over-familiar texts afresh.



Take Paul's talk of 'self-indulgence' in this second reading for Pentecost Sunday. We know what self-indulgence is. We put on a few pounds over Christmas. We take in a few more units of alcohol than we're meant to. We overdo it on the puddings front in a "naughty but nice" sort of way. We don't get enough exercise. That's self-indulgence. Most of us recognise it in ourselves – and reckon it deserves nothing more than a polite warning from our GP.

But Paul isn't concerned about people pampering themselves (as we'll hear when the ESV kicks in). Rather, he tells us: "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." It's not a question of whether our GP would approve of our lifestyle. Paul writes as a Jew, whose God saw on the sixth day that Creation was 'very good'. He's not afraid of our bodily existence and doesn't regard the physical world as evil. Yet he believes we have a choice – follow the lead of the Holy Spirit or live in the power of Sin.

The danger Paul warns against is not 'self-indulgence' but a lifestyle not guided by the Spirit of God. Either we let the Risen Christ, the one who pours out the Spirit, govern our lives or, as an inevitability, bad stuff – really bad stuff – will happen. Paul's list of vices is long – and none of them seem likely to bring contentment. In contrast [as the ESV puts it], "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." What sort of world do we want for ourselves and our children? As clouds darken on the global horizon, perhaps its time to slough off our self-indulgence in favour of spiritual struggle and to seek the Kingdom of God afresh.

**Fr. Rob Esdaile**, parish priest of Woking and Knaphill

# June Team Meeting

**Mark 14:12-16,22-26**

**This is my body; this is my blood**

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.' After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

**Psalm 115(116):12-13,15-18**

*The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.*

How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the Lord's name.  
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people.

**Concluding prayer.**

Lord, it is such a privilege to share in your Passover, to receive the gift of yourself that you give us in the Eucharist. Help us to see you in this sacrament and to cherish this gift. May we also recognise you in each other as part of the body of Christ in our world, and appreciate the part that each individual makes to making your kingdom come on earth. Amen.





## June reflection

*This gospel and reflection for June relates to the solemnity of “The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ” commonly known as the Feast of Corpus Christi. We may have memories from the past of Eucharistic processions in the streets or around the church, of First Holy Communion days. For me as a child it was a Thursday, a school holiday and haircut day. Yes! Because the Government schools were open, businesses and shops were open, the local barbers were relatively free.*

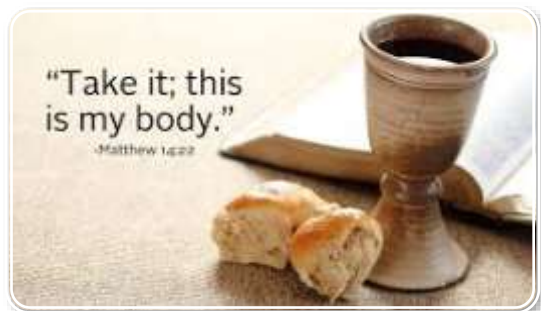
*I asked three 11 year-old children why they wanted to be baptised. One replied: “So I can receive Communion.” Another replied: “To be part of the community.” There is something mysterious and wonderful about the Eucharist and the community that celebrates it. We enter into God’s new covenant with its way to salvation, by sharing into the death and life of Christ and by being connected to our brothers and sisters. Jesus’ word in the Gospel: “This is my body, ... this is my blood” has many implications. Saint Augustine highlighted the connection between Christ, ourselves and the communion we receive:*

*“So if it's you that are the body of Christ and its members, it's the mystery meaning you that has been placed on the Lord's table; what you receive is the mystery that means you. It is to what you are that you reply Amen, and by so replying you express your assent. What you hear, you see, is The body of Christ and you answer, Amen. So be a member of the body of Christ, in order to make that Amen true. (Sermon 272, 408AD)*

*At the last supper we hear that Jesus broke the bread to share to others. The next day his body was “broken” on the cross. Pope Francis gives us a reflection on this brokenness: “We think of all the saints – famous or anonymous – who have “broken” themselves, their own life, in order to “give something to eat” to their brothers and sisters. How many mothers, how many fathers, together with the slices of bread they provide each day on the tables of their homes, have broken their hearts to let their children grow, and grow well! (Homily 2019)*

*May we truly acclaim Amen!*

**Fr Andrew Fewings,  
Teams in Victoria, Australia**



# Teams Directory

<b>GB &amp; INTERNATIONAL</b>	
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## Prayer Cascade:

[www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade](http://www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade)

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**Wessex Sector** Couple  
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## Teams Websites

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**Superregional:** [www.Teams-transatlantic.org](http://www.Teams-transatlantic.org)

**International:** [www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com](http://www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com)



# Last notes...

**The Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-56)**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
and my spirit exults in God my Saviour,  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.**

**Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the almighty has done great things for me.**

**Holy is His name,  
and His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear Him.**

**He has shown the power of His arm.**

**He has routed the proud of heart.**

**He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.**

**He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy  
According to the promise He made to our ancestors  
of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**

**Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.**

***“Chains do not hold a  
marriage together. It is  
threads, hundreds of tiny  
threads which sew people  
together through the  
years.”***

***I was visiting my daughter last  
night when I asked if I could  
borrow a newspaper.***

***“This is the 21st Century” she  
said. “We don’t waste money on  
newspapers. Here, use my iPad.”***

***I can tell you this..... that fly  
never knew what hit him....***

Equipes Notre Dame, Teams, is an international  
Christian movement for married couples of all ages.  
Charity Reg No: 1044902



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TEAMS