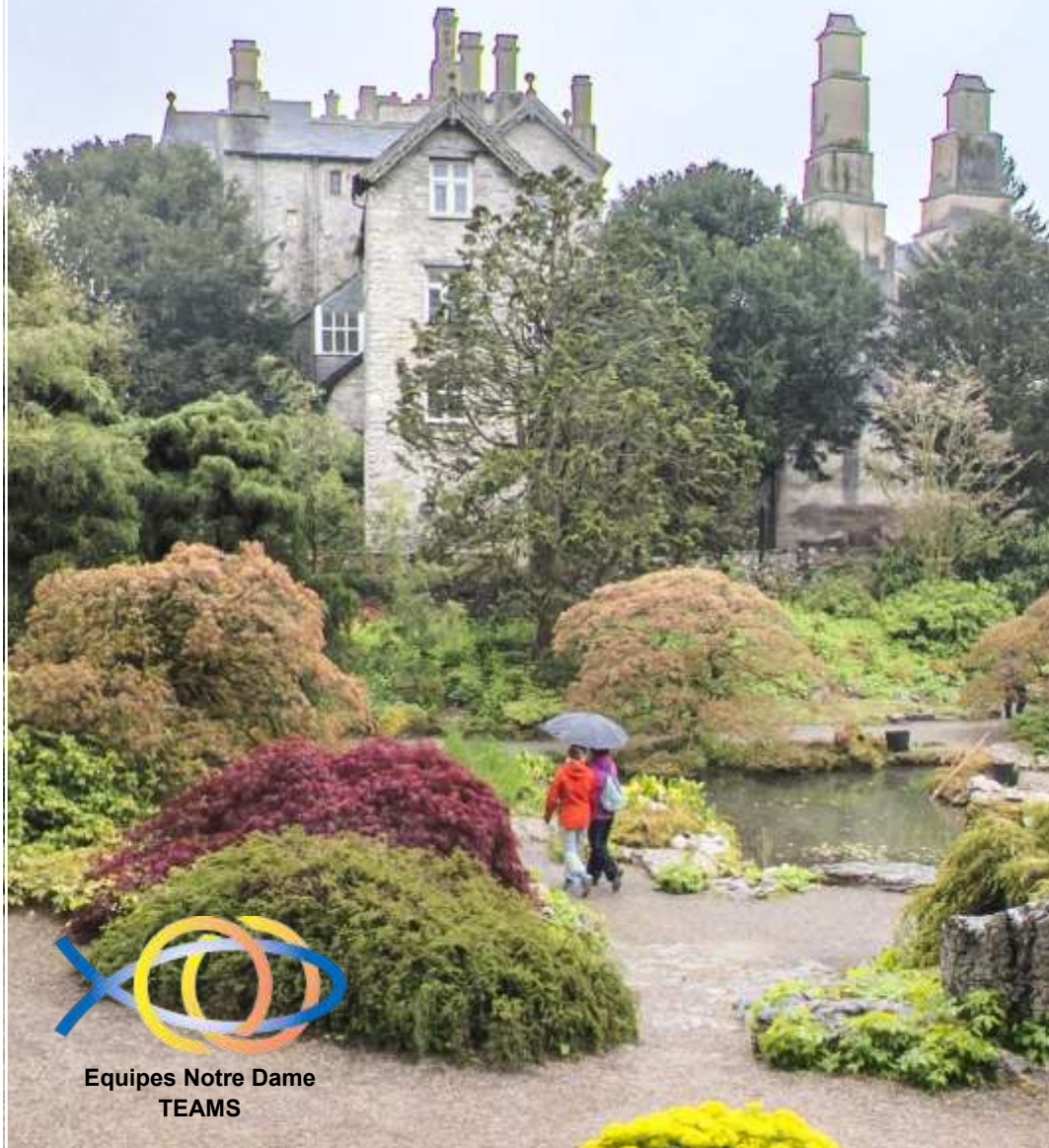


TEAMS GB NEWSLETTER

July-September 2025



**Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS**

Contents

Note from Editors		1
Letter from Super Regional Couple		3
Jubilee Year	National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope	6
	CAFOD Jubilee Icon on Pilgrimage	7
North West Sector Retreat		9
Remembering	Andrew Grist	10
	Dave Meyer	11
	Louise Aldred	12
April	Team Meeting	14
	Reflection	15
May	Team Meeting	16
	Reflection	17
June	Team Meeting	18
	Reflection	19
Teams Directory		20

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 towards the end of the newsletter.

Tell us your Team News

Send us some photos and a few lines for the next newsletter by 31 August **Email to:** editors@teamsgb.org.uk or **what's app** to 07722 014530.

Front cover. Sizergh Castle, Kendal



Notes from the editors



Dear friends in Teams,

We hope this finds you well.

Since we last wrote we have had our Easter Passion Play and celebrated the Church Easter & Pentecost season enjoying the weeks of fine dry weather before some much needed rain.

Thanks to Joanne and David for the Regional Couple letter with news and updates across the region, reflecting on the North West sector retreat and liturgical calendar for the coming year. We found the retreat thought

provoking and as always, enjoyed catching up with Teams friends.



We are grateful to Paul and Janet Deboo for their articles on the Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope. Dympna reflects on the CAFOOD Jubilee workshops in schools through what it means to hope, to be a pilgrim and how we can live this out in our everyday lives. She is often inspired by children's generosity of spirit and how they think of others.

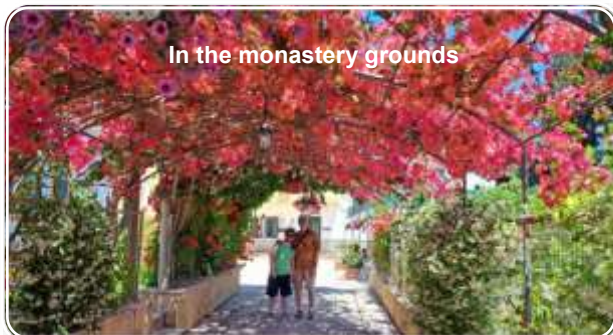
We include reflections to accompany our readings and would like to pay tribute to the team of clergy and lay people who write these reflections. If you know someone who would write a reflection once per year please let us know.

We remember Teams members who have recently passed and thank God for their lives and all the people they have touched.

Pope Francis started the Jubilee year and we have been blessed by all he brought to our world. We are thankful for Pope Leo and pray for him as he takes on the role of leading the church. We include some quotes from both popes in our newsletter.

We have just returned from a family holiday in Corfu where we came across several small Greek Orthodox monasteries. In one, the monastery of Theotokos (Our Lady of the Angels) we met a young Swedish woman who had received a physical healing there a few years ago and now returns to volunteer for a few weeks each year. It was heartening to hear that the power of prayer and miracles are still very much alive in our world.

She showed us around the monastery which had housed plague sufferers. It fell into disrepair until the 1930s when a nun Anastasia had a calling from Mary asking her to rebuild it. For three years she lived in a very old hollow Olive tree and is associated with many healings.



Letter from Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

We greet you warmly as we journey through a spiritually rich season in the Church. The feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost, and the Most Holy Trinity remind us of God's abiding presence and our shared mission as disciples.



The Feast of the Trinity holds particular meaning for David and I, especially through our connections with Trinidad — named by Columbus in honour of this great mystery. As members of Teams, our community stretches far and wide, reflecting the universal Church and our common vocation to love, to witness, to serve.

This Easter season brought a moment of great significance. On Easter Monday, we bid farewell to Pope Francis, giving thanks for his courageous and humble leadership. We now welcome Pope Leo XIV, elected on 8th May. Let us keep him in prayer as he begins his ministry as successor to St Peter, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide him with wisdom and compassion.

Back home, our weather has kept us guessing — sunshine and showers all in one day! Still, we see God's presence in every season and are reminded to approach life with openness and trust.



"There are difficult moments in life, but with hope, the soul goes forward and looks ahead to what awaits us."

-Pope Francis

Across the world, many continue to face hardship and displacement. We hold these situations in prayer, especially in the Holy Land, Ukraine and all places affected by war or disaster. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope — rooted in faith, active in love, and steadfast in prayer.



This spring, the North-West sector held its annual retreat, reflecting on three of the six Jubilee challenges Pope Francis has posed.

Fr Mario-Benedict U. Ashuikema led us through:

- * Food Poverty – Nourishing Each Other in Love
- * Forgiveness – Healing and Reconciliation in Marriage
- * Rest – Sabbath for Marriage

These thoughtful and practical sessions encouraged couples to reflect deeply on their vocation. We considered how love in marriage can be a source of healing, rest, and witness to the world.

We're also pleased to share that a new team in Aberdeen have now concluded their Piloting journey with enthusiasm, superbly supported by Paul and Annette O'Beirne. Their vibrant meetings show great promise, and we look forward to seeing them fully integrated into the Teams movement.

In April, the North East and Yorkshire sector, guided by Paul and Sue Rowney, gathered online for prayer using CAFOD's Stations of the Cross. This reflective evening drew couples together across distance in a shared experience of compassion and contemplation.

Looking ahead, we're excited for the upcoming Celebration of Marriage at the parish of St Anne, St John the Evangelist and St Luke the Physician. Married couples will serve as readers and lead prayers at parish Masses, followed by a joyful gathering at St Anne's with food, dancing, and fellowship — a celebration of God's love alive in our marriages.

Throughout the life of this newsletter — covering July to September — we remain in Ordinary Time, yet each of these months offers rich opportunities for spiritual reflection and growth.

- * July, dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus, invites us to reflect on sacrificial love and renewal.
- * August, focused on the Immaculate Heart of Mary, calls us to deeper trust, prayer, and attentiveness in our vocations.
- * September, marked by the Exaltation of the Cross and Our Lady of Sorrows, reminds us that love and suffering are often intertwined.

Let us continue this journey as Pilgrims of Hope, drawing strength from our faith, each other, and the rhythm of the Church's seasons.

Please pray for those discerning roles within Teams, and for all who have gone before us in service. We also give thanks for those forming new Teams and those accompanying them with love and dedication.

We close with the words of St Paul:

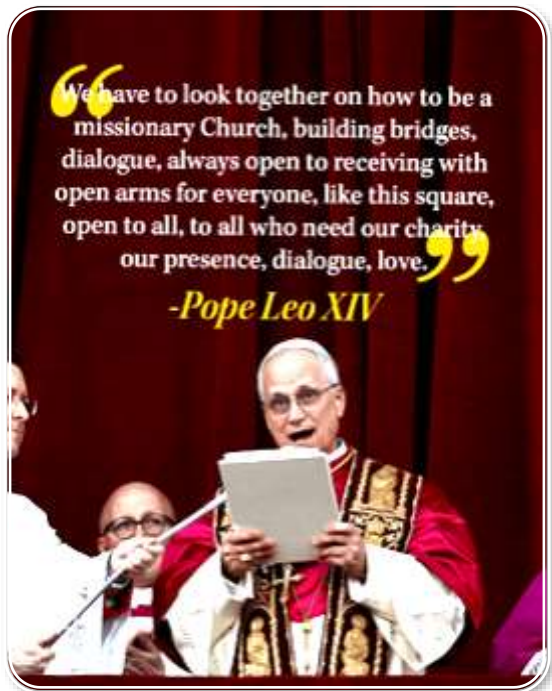
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." — Romans 15:13

With our prayers and gratitude,

Joanne & David Harries,
Responsible couple for Northern Britain



Fr Mario-Benedict



National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope



Among our Teams colleagues we have met many walking enthusiasts. Rambling aside, we certainly all recognise and feel bound to each other in our Teams as people on a journey. The whole notion of “synodality” from recent years feels entirely natural to us. Equally germane is this Jubilee Year’s accent on pilgrimage. So we feel excited to share with all of you our personal discovery (probably old hat already to many of you) of recent days of the “**Hearts in Search of God**” Project, its “**Pilgrim Ways**” website (<https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk>), and its mission “to promote

walking pilgrimage in England & Wales by developing Pilgrim Ways between the cathedral of each Catholic diocese and one or more shrines within the same diocese”. This is a resource to explore if your Team is seeking inspiration for an outdoor activity with a spiritual purpose, possibly in connection with your next Team retreat.

For this Jubilee Year, the Project has created the **National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope** as a walking witness. Small groups of designated “perpetual pilgrims” will start from 4 different points and walk a series of day stages to meet at St. Barnabas Cathedral in Nottingham to conclude the Pilgrimage by celebrating Solemn Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sunday, 14 September.



The 4 routes forming the arms of a Sign of the Cross across the country are:

St. Mark’s Way (North), 108 miles starting from Leeds Cathedral on 6 September

St. John’s Way (South), 173 miles starting from St. George’s Cathedral, Southwark, London on 1 September

St. Luke’s Way (East), 155 miles from St. John’s Cathedral, Norwich on 4 September

St. Matthew’s Way (West), 216 miles from St. David’s Cathedral, Cardiff on 28 August

Each main arm has two feeder routes to complete the traversal of all the country’s Dioceses. Feeder routes do not feature in the main Pilgrimage event, but the route details are published for individuals and groups to use and adapt.

Involvement with the Pilgrimage looks to be invited various ways, like offering overnight accommodation to some of the perpetual pilgrims, or accompanying the pilgrims on one of the day stages, or waving and offering encouragement as they pass by, or supporting them with prayer. Further information on all aspects of the Pilgrimage is available from:

<https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/national-pilgrims-of-hope-walking-pilgrimage>

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Northampton St. Thomas Team

CAFOD Jubilee Icon on Pilgrimage



On behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, in order to celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope", CAFOD commissioned for the Catholic Church in England and Wales an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia. CAFOD chose to reach out to an artist from Ethiopia because of the strong tradition of iconography within the country, and to demonstrate that this is a global Jubilee, not just something happening in England and Wales. Ethiopia is also one among various countries where issues of poverty, violent civil conflict, international debt, and climate

change cause Jubilee themes of justice and liberation to resound with particular urgency. The Catholic Bishops' Conference has adopted this artwork as its official Jubilee icon for the Church in this country.

The icon interprets Luke 4:16-21, where Jesus enters the synagogue at Nazareth and reads from the scroll of Isaiah with reference to himself the passage beginning, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." It portrays features evocative of the artist's North Ethiopian culture, but through the imagery of the rainbow, greenery, and Jesus' mixed audience seeks to emphasise that the Jubilee speaks to the whole creation. You can learn more about the icon from <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-icon>.

The Jubilee Icon is undertaking its own pilgrimage throughout the Jubilee Year touring the dioceses of England and Wales. On Sunday, 25 May it arrived in Northampton Diocese from Leeds, where it was on display as a focal point for prayer and reflection at Northampton Cathedral (Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate and Saint Thomas of Canterbury) and our town's other Catholic churches. On Thursday, 29 May it left Northampton to visit the other Jubilee Pilgrimage churches in the Diocese at Bedford and Marlow, departing thence on 4 June for the next stage of its journey.

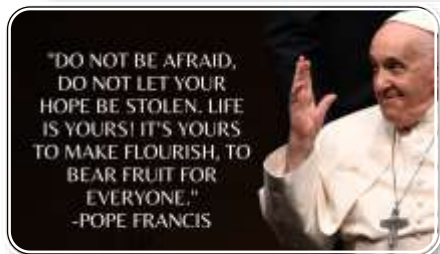
I led a couple of reflections with the Icon during its Northampton sojourn, dwelling on how the Icon speaks to the Jubilee exhortation to hope (having hope, spreading hope) now and as we face the future.



I chose three features in the Icon—the Rainbow, the Book of Scripture, and the figure of Jesus—to suggest how our God encourages us to invest all our hope in Himself and nowhere else, summing up all His promises with a phrase familiar to all of us as a common and customary incitement to trust and hope: “I give you My Word.”

Paul DeBoo, Northampton St. Thomas Team

Pilgrims of Hope in Schools



The Jubilee is being celebrated in schools through CAFOD assemblies and Jubilee workshops. As a CAFOD education volunteer I have led workshops and seen how children are responding positively to the call to be pilgrims of hope. In the workshops children share their hopes for themselves, their families and the world.

I am often astounded and inspired by what the children share.

Children learn what it is to be a pilgrim and receive a pilgrim passport as they journey through the workshop. They think about what they would bring on a journey and hear stories about children from around the world, about caring for others, welcoming strangers, and how through CAFOD we aim to ensure that everyone has what they need. Through wordsearches, mazes and matching exercises they learn about social justice and what they can do to make the world a fairer place following the teaching of Jesus in scripture. There is a call to action, with children producing a display that CAFOD sends to our government about cancelling debt and making the world a fairer place. The workshops end with the Jubilee prayer and are empowering and uplifting.



Like many parishes, schools have also taken part in the Live simply award, committing to live simply, sustainability and in solidarity with actions at a local, community and global level. As a schools assessor I have the privilege of hearing the stories about what they've done, often reaching out to care homes, foodbanks and caring for our world. In one very small school (3 classes) children wrote to various world leaders about our role in caring for our planet. They were delighted to received replies from Pope Francis, King Charles and even a handwritten letter from David Attenborough.

Dympna Edwards, Formby Team

North West Sector retreat

Some highlights of the North West Sector retreat in April on the Wirral included:

- ◆ Thought provoking input from Fr Mario-Benedict on the Jubilee Challenges and how they relate to us as couples;



- ◆ The warm welcome and catching up with Teams friends;

- ◆ Celebrating Fr Paschal's 80th birthday;



Fr Paschal's birthday



- ◆ Spending time as a couple reflecting and walking around Port Sunlight a beautiful village created by Lord Lever in the 19th Century to provide good housing for his workers

- ◆ Sharing the Palm Sunday parish vigil mass and welcoming young families for refreshments afterwards;

- ◆ Sharing excellent food with great company (as always).

Our thanks to Mark and Carol Traynor, our Sector Couple and the Wirral Team for organising and hosting the event.

Mark & Dymrna Edwards, Formby Team

Remembering Andrew Grist

Cockfosters 4 and Team members in North London were shocked recently when Andrew Grist collapsed and died while out walking near his home in Barnet.

Andrew and Deirdre were original members of Cockfosters 4 from the early 1990's. When Deirdre died 5 years ago in the middle of Covid lockdown restrictions none of us could attend her funeral, except for our Deacon Don who conducted the service.

So it was no surprise when we heard that Andrew had expressed the wish that Don should conduct his funeral. Our current chaplain Fr Enrique IMC and our past chaplain Fr Luis IMC were also vested and the final Commendation, Sprinkling of Holy Water and Blessings were carried out by the three of them together.



Andrew was loyal and faithful to our Team and a late change in venue meant our last meeting together was to be in his house. We had fish and chips, and his daughters told us he had said to them how pleased he was that he didn't have to prepare food that evening! As host he had written a beautiful opening prayer.

He always came well prepared for our Meditation and Discussion Topic. This year we have been studying "The Road to Emmaus" and when his daughters realised how much he had been enjoying this topic, they said it should be used at his funeral.

We will remember his sharing with us in prayer at our final meeting - "...not asking anything of God but just thanking Him". His kindness and gentleness will be greatly missed by his two daughters, sons-in-law and four young grandchildren as well Teams members in North London.

Tony and Maggy O'Byrne

Cockfosters 4 Team

Remembering Dave Meyer

It is so sad to know we will never again have the opportunity to see the welcoming smile of Dave Meyer. He will be greatly missed by all his friends, his family and by his fellow parishioners in Bexhill, and by his many friends in Teams.



Dave died on Sunday 23rd February, aged 92. After suffering from heart failure he spent the last nine months of his life in a nursing home, visited every day by Gill his wife, who was supported by their three children and five grandchildren.

Dave and Gill were early members of Thames Ditton team, and took part in all Teams activities within their team, and in their local Sector and the GB region, including attendance at the International Gathering at Santiago di Compostela in 2000. They served three years as Sector Couple for the Surrey and Sussex sector. Then 18 years ago they moved to Bexhill and joined the Eastbourne team, and shortly afterwards, with the help of Martha and Jan Kazmerack, started a team in Hastings.

Dave's passions were music, gardening and walking. He walked and led walks with the Ramblers in Kingston on Thames, and he sang in the Hastings choral society. He and Gill attended all the winter London Phil concerts in Eastbourne. Gill and Dave were members of CCJ (Council of Christians and Jews) in Surrey and later in East Sussex. Gill, with the support and help of Dave, became Chair of CCJ in Hastings.

Gillian Meyer
Hastings Team



Remembering Louise Aldred

With her husband David, Louise Aldred was a founding member of the Nottingham Team that completed Piloting and made a Team Commitment at the Nottingham Diocese Family Day on 22 June last year.

The following paragraphs that follow are extracts that David has permitted us to borrow from his written account of his life with Louise, prepared to share with all those who knew and wish to remember her.

Janet and Paul DeBoo

"Louise was born in March 1959, in North London. I was born just 5 miles away, and 5 months later, but we didn't meet for some time!"

"We met at the first meeting of the Durham University Folk Dance Society in Dunelm House in our second term. She'd come along for the first time with her friend Sue - and she never let me forget that I danced with Sue first! But as we danced, I can remember the bright blue eyes that looked into mine."

"In among all this we talked a lot about our faith. I was then Anglican – having been 'summoned by bells' (that is, the writings of DL Sayers and her descriptions of bell ringing had led me into both campanology and Anglicanism); Louise was Catholic, but had been growing uncertain in her faith. Meeting and arguing with an Anglican in and among the hallowed grounds of Durham made her faith far firmer - and led me on my journey to Rome."

"We were married on the 3rd October 1981, at St Paul's Church in Wood Green. Throughout all this, our Catholic faith was immensely important to Louise; the love of God was the engine of so much that she did, and she remained faithful to the Church, even through times when some of its ministers caused her grief. Attracted by the combination of intellect and mysticism she became a secular Carmelite, secretary of the local group; the daily office was a feature of her life, and she read voraciously - always making notes in the books, underlining and marking up paragraphs."

"At the start of 2024 we became part of the first Team of Our Lady in Nottingham, joining with five other couples and their families under the



guidance of Karen and Adrian Jones, whom we'd known for some time. We all made our formal commitment to Teams in June, at the Diocesan Family Day. Our Team became something of a second family, with us feeling very much the grandparents of the group."

"In mid-February (2025) we had a very busy weekend of events related to the Teams of our Lady and to marriage: the Teams gathering in Northampton, and the Marriage Mass in Nottingham. Louise enjoyed both immensely. Both were great witnesses to the power and meaning of marriage, something that was so much part of our lives together."

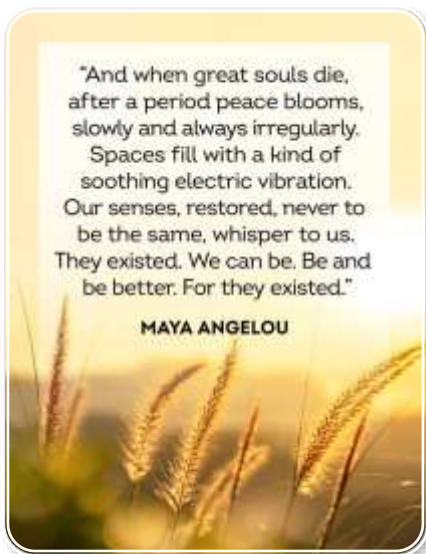
"Just days later, she started to feel that her co-ordination was off - she couldn't serve properly at tennis, her typing was inaccurate, and she felt uneasy cycling. She saw the doctor, who referred her immediately to the QMC, where they found that the cancer of 2022 had spread to her brain. Within days surgery was arranged, which, due to complications, unfortunately left her with limited movement on one side. The surgery could not remove the entire tumour without doing a lot more damage, and the intention was for radiotherapy to complete the job. She was transferred to Linden Lodge, a specialist rehab unit, and was starting to regain movement."

"Even in hospital, she was still making friends, talking to the nursing staff, finding out their life histories and what made them tick, and providing motherly advice where needed!"

"She died on 29th April 2025. I have received so many cards in condolence and sympathy since then; and heard so many stories from people of how they met Louise, and how much she meant to them. So much impact she had, of which I only knew a little. I knew she was a wonderful person, and she was always my Louise; but she was also Louise for so many others. I'm left empty and alone by her loss, though the family she gave me is around me and such a source of strength; but I can be glad of so many years together, so much love, so much shared."

"And those bright blue eyes will live on with me as long as I live."

David Aldred, Nottingham Team



July Team meeting

Luke 10:38-42

Martha works; Mary listens

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

Responsorial Psalm 14(15):2-5

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.
He who does no wrong to his brother or sister,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.
The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.
The just will live in the presence of the Lord

Concluding prayer

Lord, may we make time and space to spend with you and with each other.
May we be open to listen, to hear and to be changed by the encounter.
Amen.



July Reflection

Finding the Better Part

In this short but powerful Gospel passage, Jesus visits the home of two sisters - Martha and Mary. Martha is busy with preparations, working hard to make everything perfect for their guest. Mary, on the other hand, simply sits at Jesus' feet and listens.

Eventually, Martha has had enough. She turns to Jesus and says, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work? Tell her to help me!"

But Jesus doesn't rebuke Mary or tell her to get up and serve. Instead, He gently replies, "Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her."

This story is not about choosing between working or praying, between action or contemplation. It's about priorities.

*Martha's service was good—necessary, even. But Jesus points out that it had become a distraction. In her effort to **do** for Him, she had lost the chance to **be** with Him. How often does that happen to us?*

We rush through our days filled with good intentions, caring for family, helping others, staying productive—yet we find ourselves stressed, tired, and spiritually dry. In the middle of all that busyness, Jesus quietly invites us, like Mary, to stop and simply be with Him.

He's not asking us to abandon our responsibilities. Rather, He's reminding us that when we put time with Him first, everything else flows from a place of peace and purpose.

"Only one thing is needed," Jesus says. That "one thing" looks different for each of us—it might be five minutes of quiet prayer before work, a walk without headphones, or reading a few verses of Scripture at night. These small moments help centre us and renew our hearts.

So, this week, starting today perhaps, let's take a moment to slow down. Let's make room for silence, for prayer, for being present with God. Like Mary, let's choose "the better part"—and trust that it won't be taken from us.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus, in the middle of my busy life, help me to stop and sit with You. Teach me to listen, to rest in Your presence, and to find peace not in doing, but in simply being with You. Amen.

A Reflection Question

Where in my daily routine can I make space to listen to Jesus, even for just a few quiet moments?

David Harries, Wirral Team



August Team Meeting

Reading: Luke 14:1,7-14

Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled

On a sabbath day, Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

Psalms 67(68):4-7,10-11

In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom:

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.



Concluding prayer

Lord, your love means that we are precious in your eyes. May we resist the temptation to compare ourselves with others, to judge ourselves or others. May we see you in others, reach out and share your love. Amen.

August Reflection

There is something about eating and sharing time with friends which is both special and different from other times people meet up. We know this from our lived experiences and in Teams the meal is a time of informal communion. It is eucharist; joyous and relaxed; we like to share food and our stories. We let our guards down in our trust and joy. The setting is informal.

*We want to be a synodal Church,
a church that walks,
a church that always seeks peace,
that always seeks charity,
that always seeks to be close
especially to those who suffer.”
Pope Leo XIV*

It is unlikely that the scenario we read in Luke’s gospel would have been the same for Jesus on that sabbath. He ate with every sort of person- including sinners, tax collectors and pharisees, and with his friends, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and with the multitudes he miraculously fed. But with the pharisees Jesus knew what to expect; they would have been constrained by their interpretation of following the rigidity of the Law and as such caught up in hierarchy, rules and power games. They would have been so caught up in appearing to do the right thing that they might have allowed even the best meal gatherings to be strained.

The pharisees wanted to love the Law but in doing so not follow the way of God. We all know of the chaos that rule-making and tradition can cause. Jesus knows that some pharisees are waiting to catch him out. He has just healed a sick person on the sabbath and as such he expects to be rebuked by some of those present, but all the same, Jesus goes to the table and takes the risk of engaging with those present.

Being
HUMBLE
means recognizing
that we are not on earth
to see how
IMPORTANT
we can become,
but to see how much
DIFFERENCE
we can make in the lives
of others.
—Gordon B. Hinckley

He loves those pharisees even if they are ready to criticise and condemn and he eats and drinks and teaches how to be something new, better and freed of social conformity, and narrow perspectives. I am sure that if I were a pharisee at that meal, I would have been initially enraged by Jesus’s upside-down wisdom. Can you hear the rumblings around the table as the penny drops? The ‘wisdom’ of the law crashing into the new vision of humility and inclusivity. The challenge to love and ditch the ego. Jesus speaks to the pharisee in all of us.

John Turner, Formby Team

September Team Meeting

Luke 14:25-33

Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So, in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

Psalm 89

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

You turn people back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men and women'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

You sweep people away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

Concluding prayer.

Lord, as we commit to you today, give us the gift of faith and perseverance to follow you faithfully day by day. Amen.



September Reflection

There are two themes to this gospel reading and frankly I find both a challenge when trying to consider the Teams who will read this reflection!

The first was our loving Jesus talking about us necessarily hating those closest to us if we are to be his disciples. This sent me back to Raymond Brown and others to unpick this a bit. I was pleased to discover that our understanding of hate was not what was being demanded but a level of detachment that placed God first in our lives, regardless of all else. That felt better and fitted well to the Teams endeavour for the Rule of Life (Rom 12:2) to model our behaviour individually to the will of God but here, as part of a couple. I wonder how that is going among your Team?

The other theme is the one of prudence, preparing well before building, or God help us, setting out to war. When these traits are taken to the extreme, we may be so prudent in protecting what we have and building additional space to store them, that we disconnect with the desire of God for all we do to be balanced. In Luke 9:1-6, Jesus commissions the disciples, sending them out in pairs but with nothing tangible but their faith that God will take care of them in their endeavours - and of course, the Holy Spirit was with them and God did take care of them.

There is a tension between prudence and wild acts of faith. I read a Zen quote from John Burroughs, 'Leap and the net will appear', a statement meant to encourage us to be brave when we don't quite know the outcome. In many things and as people of faith we certainly don't know all of the possible outcomes, only the desired and final destination. Our personalities may make us more or less willing to take the step into the darkness, with only the extent of a torch beam as a guide.

But we are commanded to go..... and we might be as prudent as we can be, but not in a way that ceases to depend on our singular faith in God and our undivided love for each other. I am not sure I have ever leapt without some knowledge of the presence of a net but occasionally, I have not had any control over what happens next and I believe it is then that we see the hand of God at work in us!

Deacon Nick Johnson
Poole 2 Team



Teams Directory

Super Regional Couple

Annette & Paul O'Beirne
SRcouple@Teams-Transatlantic.org

Super Regional Spiritual Advisor

Fr Liam O'Donovan SCA
Chaplain@Teams-Transatlantic.org

GB & Regional Treasurers

Dominique & Chris Thompson
5 Petrebrook, Chelmsford CM2 6QJ
GBTreasurers@TeamsGB.org.uk

GB Literature Couple

Gaynor & Alan Hakes
Literature@TeamsGB.org.uk

GB Virtual Teams Coordinators

Dzidzia & Piotr Chodzko-zajko
MixedTeams@TeamsGB.org.uk

GB Book of Remembrance

Margaret & Sean McGettrick
Remembrance@TeamsGB.org.uk

GB Intercessor Coordinators

Pat & Tony Banks
Intercessors@TeamsGB.org.uk

GB Website Editors

Katie McRae and Peter Wordsworth
WebEditors@TeamsGB.org.uk

GB Newsletter Editors

Dympna & Mark Edwards
Editors@TeamsGB.org.uk

Central Regional Couple,

Janet & Paul DeBoo
Central@TeamsGB.org.uk

Northern Regional Couple

David & Joanne Harries
Northern@TeamsGB.org.uk

West London Sector Couple

Marysia & Andrzej Maryniak
WestLondon@TeamsGB.org.uk

North East & Yorkshire Sector Couple

Paul & Sue Rowney Email tbc.

North Thames Contact Couple

Margaret & Tony O'Byrne
NorthThames@TeamsGB.org.uk

North West Sector Couple

Carol & Mark Traynor
NorthWest@TeamsGB.org.uk

Thames Valley Sector Couple

Sue & Geoff Collier
ThamesValley@TeamsGB.org.uk

Southern Membership database

Maggie & Richard Acres
SouthernMembership@TeamsGB.org.uk

Surrey South & Sussex Sector Couple

Carol Hope & Bill Norman
SurreySussex@TeamsGB.org.uk

Contact Couples Southern Region:

Solent: Pat & Jim Gilhooley; Solent@teams.gb.org.uk
Surrey North: Howard & Theresa Park SurreyNorth@teamsGB.org.uk
London South East: Robert & Valerie Mann; LondonSE@teamsGB.org.uk
London South West: Louisa & Chris Elliot; LondonSW@TeamsGB.org.uk

Vacancies: Southern Region, Wessex Sector, North & Midlands Sectors.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Holy Spirit,
You are the Spirit of the Father and the Son
blessed in Eternity.*

*You have been sent to us by Jesus
to make us understand what He told us
and lead us towards the fullness of truth.*

*You are for us the Spirit of life, the Spirit of
creation, the sanctifying Spirit.
It is You who renew all things.*

*We humbly ask You to enliven us and to make
Your home in us,
in each and every one of us,
in each of our couples and in each of our teams.*

*So that we may live in the sacrament of marriage
as a place of love, a path to happiness
and a way to Holiness.*

Amen.



Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS

Teams Websites

GB Website: www.TeamsGB.org.uk

Superregional: www.Teams-transatlantic.org

International: www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com

Prayer Cascade

prayercascade@TeamsGB.org.uk

www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade

TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com

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.

***"Life is too short
to be reading quotes
about life being too
short.***

***So stop reading this
and go and
live your life!"***

Kevin Ngo



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

