

TEAMS GB NEWSLETTER

October– December 2025



**Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS**

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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 **27 November** Email to: editors@teams.gb.org.uk or **what's app** to 07722 014530.

Front cover: Formby Beach. Photo by Mark Edwards

Letter from Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

How quickly this Jubilee Year, focused on hope is speeding along. We notice again as in past years how, even despite this summer's heat and dryness, with our patch of lawn gone patchy and brown, a particular quality colours the sunlight during the latter half of August, betraying the onset of autumn and heralding, in due course, the close of the year. Next week when the schools re-open,

Janet will brace herself, alongside all the other staff, for the full tilt of her school administration responsibilities; our son and our daughter-in-law will resume their teaching and other pastoral duties in their respective schools; and our four grandchildren will begin again in a new classroom, one of them this time in secondary school. It looks like a cycle, but isn't quite, because it never comes round to exactly the same place. The restart point keeps shifting forward. The cyclical appearance disguises underlying evolution and journey.



Janet and Paul with Martin Brown from CAFOD

As for journeys, we hope those of you who enjoyed holidays travelled and returned safely with a wealth of memories and expanded horizons. Thanks to WhatsApp, we vicariously ventured into France with one of our sons and his family, then explored Northern Italy with another son and his family, finally taking some time out ourselves at the "Witness to Hope" Celebrate Festival at Worth Abbey, as described in a separate article we've submitted to this issue. Serendipitously, we reconnected at Worth with the CAFOD Jubilee Icon (of which we wrote in the last issue) that, in the course of its own pilgrimage, arrived to visit the Abbey while we were there.

Janet Denman's passing on 24 July was a loss and signal of evolution for all Teams in this country. Latterly, the toll of Alzheimer's swallowed up what Janet could contribute within our own Northampton St. Thomas Team, and to the whole Teams GB Movement. But Janet and Antony (who died in October

2023) together as Super-Regional Couple sought energetically to reinvigorate the spirit of hospitality among us, and bore witness to difference in faith background as a cauldron and catalyst toward unity in marriage.

Within a few days of Janet Denman, Kevin Quinn also passed away on 28 July. Kevin carried immense presence among the Teams in the Banbury area—he and Margaret piloted Banbury 3 Team in 2019; in St. John's Parish in Banbury; and in the local community as a secondary school teacher and through other activities. Tributes to both Janet and Kevin appear in this issue.

Old cedes to new, and with great joy and hope we are very pleased to welcome and congratulate **Greenford 2 Team** who completed piloting in June, guided by Piotr and Dzidzia Chodzko-Zajko. The Team will mark this milestone with an act of commitment at Mass at Our Lady of the Visitation Church in Greenford on 21 September. Luisa and Emmett, Kim Elaine and Daniel, Chantala and Darren, Katherine and Valiton: We all pray that you will find in your sharing together, as we ourselves have done, support, impetus, and real discovery and encounter with Jesus at the heart of your marriages and the home you build around it.

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

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Regional Couple, Teams GB Central Region



As they come towards the end of their service we would all like to offer our thanks and gratitude to Paul and Annette for all they have contributed to Teams as the Transatlantic Super Regional couple over the last 5 years.

Their commitment and service has been inspirational and we have enjoyed all the interesting articles and news they produced for this newsletter.

Thank you both,
Mark & Dympna, Newsletter Editors

Letter from Super Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

We hope you've had the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful summer with your family and friends, and to take delight in the beauty of nature. In our own garden, we've experienced an abundance of fruit and vegetables—more than ever before—thanks to the warm spring and hot summer. However, we are also conscious that such weather is



a clear sign of global warming. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by wildfires and drought, and with all who have struggled with extreme heat. We continue to pray for peace in our troubled world.

In July, we were delighted to attend the International College meeting for Responsible Couples in Valpré, Lyon, France. It was a joy to meet the new ERI team, and to share prayer, study, fellowship, and fun with those gathered from around the world. We also heard about the many challenges that Teams couples are facing. The gathering brought together forty couples and fifteen priests at the former seminary of St. Jean Vianney, the Curé of Ars.

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A highlight of the week was our visit to Ars, where we attended Mass and went to confession in the church where the Curé's body lies in state. It was a peaceful and prayerful setting—especially fitting as one of the week's key themes was silent prayer (*oraison*), as taught by Fr. Caffarel. We've shared the talk given in Lyon by Elizabeth Saléon Terras, who also led us in silent prayer during the gathering in Turin. Many will remember how the entire

stadium fell into a profound silence as Elizabeth guided us in meditation—a truly unforgettable moment.

This August, we were saddened by the loss of two long-standing and devoted members of the Teams movement. Janet Denman has now joined Antony in her heavenly reward after many years of dedicated service. Closer to home, we marked the passing of Bernadette Wall, widow of Stan, who also contributed greatly to Teams in the Solent area. We give heartfelt thanks for their lives and service.

Marriage is especially important in today's world. Teams continues to offer spiritual support for both young and older couples seeking deeper meaning in their marriages. This year's study topic, *"Love is More Than Love"*, explores this theme through the speeches and writings of Fr. Caffarel. Our lead ERI couple presented on this during one of the College sessions, and part of their talk is included in this newsletter.

This will be our final letter as Transatlantic Responsible Couple. We are deeply grateful for the help and support so many of you have offered during our five years of service. Teams is full of extraordinary people—from the creative and prayerful to the organised and visionary—but always marked by hospitality and warmth. Thank you all for your time, your energy, and your gifts.

We are pleased to announce that Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin from Ireland will be the next Transatlantic Responsible Couple. Many of you met them at the Regathering in Swanwick and have witnessed their enthusiasm for the movement. We wish them every blessing in their new role, and we know you will give them your full support.

With our love and prayers,

Paul and Annette O'Beirne,
Teams Transatlantic
Super Regional Couple



Brendan & Rosemarie Gavin
taking up responsibility



Personal Prayer Workshop

While we were in Lyon we were able to visit Ars , home of St John Vianney , The Cure of Ars. While there we had a talk by Elisabeth Saléon-Terras on prayer

From the Personal Prayer Workshop 1 - Tuesday, July 22, 2025

1-What is personal prayer?

Let's remember that it's above all an encounter of love with Christ, who wants to bind me to himself and draw me with him to the Father in the surge of love that is the Holy Spirit.

We could say: Prayer is a conversation between the soul and God.

But Father Caffarel specifies: It's "*being present to God present. It's a vital act, which engages our whole being.*"

He explains:

Prayer is a profound orientation of the soul, an exchange beyond words, which, without neglecting the spoken word, is made up of something much more, an attention, a presence of the whole being.... to the presence of God."

And it's easy to understand that personal prayer, this intimate encounter, implies letting go of all activity in order to be all for Him alone, unlike vocal prayer, which can be experienced while walking or driving...

But we must add right away that it's not a question of making an effort, or even concentrating, of reaching out to God as if prayer were first and foremost the work of man. A twentieth-century monk warned us against this: "*You are reaching out to a God you want to love, instead of resting in a God who loves you.*" (Dom Guillerand)

Here's the key word: "**Rest** in God while **being fully present to God's presence**".

Didn't Christ say: "*Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, ... and you will find rest for yourselves.*" (Mt 11:28-29)?

2- But why live in prayer?

3 fundamental reasons : ***simply because God is waiting for me**

Father Caffarel tells us: "The true motive for prayer is this: God is waiting for me, God is calling me, God loves me. He has much to say to me and much to give me. But it's essentially for Him and not primarily for me that I come. As you well know, love is only true if we first seek the good of the beloved .

This is what one of you testifies to in the survey: "I become aware, as Father Caffarel says, that when I start praying, the Lord is happy, he waits for me and rejoices in my presence.

The God of immense Majesty and infinite tenderness awaits me, calls me, makes himself a beggar for my presence! "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat my meal with him, and he with me." Rev 3:20

* **Why prayer?** To be living, awake people! ... " *The Glory of God is the living man*", says Saint Irenaeus. Saint Paul warns us: "*The time has come to awaken from your sleep. "Awake, O you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you"* (Eph 5:14). But often our hearts are asleep.

And yet, at baptism, God gave us the gift of a new heart, not the seat of our feelings and emotions, but a new heart that enables us to enter into a relationship with Him.

But how is it, then, that so many men and women who received this "new heart" at baptism live far from God, don't know him, or don't even suspect the dynamism within them? And yet the sacraments are effective: no one who has been baptized has received this new heart, but they act at a depth that often eludes us.

And that's what prayer is all about: becoming aware of our deepest heart, awakening it, educating it, living little by little at that intimate level where God is there, where God dwells...

Pope Francis in his latest encyclical "Dilexit nos" encourages us to *"rediscover the importance of the heart...For he tells us the true personal adventure is the one built from the heart. At the end of life, that's all that will matter"* (2 and 11).

And Father Caffarel draws our attention to this fundamental point:

"So God is within us, at the heart of our being. Present, alive, loving, active. He calls us there. That's where he's waiting for us. ... It's not a question of interior experience, it's a question of faith: believing in the Presence. Prayer is a pilgrimage to the inner sanctuary to adore the true God .

If I try to live prayer in this way, what effect will it have on my life?

3- The effects of the prayer life on our lives

As much as we have emphasized that personal prayer is a matter of love and gratuitousness. We can also see that praying brings great benefits, even on a human level.

If prayer helps us to live in the depths of ourselves, we're less likely to be tossed about by all the currents of thoughts and feelings that flow through us all day long. There's a kind of stability that comes gradually under God's gaze.

This is what many of you shared in the survey, I quote:

"It's a joy to perceive how even our poor prayer manages to transform our thoughts, our mood, our way of being with others, our life."

"It helps me daily to discover God's presence in my personal life and our married life."

"It brings us inner peace, family peace, strength and a sense of our service, self-confidence to face whatever comes our way."

Finally, *"It strengthens our trust in God, who is with us in every situation, and helps us to discern what is truly essential, what brings us closer to Him, and what is not important even if it's not wrong."*

Christ's words are thus confirmed: *"Seek the Kingdom of God, and all else will be added to you"*

This is what encourages us to come and meet the Lord in this daily heart-to-heart encounter, and that's what we're going to try to do together now.

Elisabeth Saléon-Terras. Ars, Feb 2025

Paul and Annette O'Beirne

1. Henri Caffarel, Audio five evenings mutuality
2. Henri Caffarel, Milestones on the Road, Ed Parole et Silence

New Teams Study Topic

The following article was submitted by Paul and Annette O' Beirne

"Love is much more than love"

Study topic 2025-2026

Talk by the Leading couple in Lyon

To help us in this year's formation, we have prepared a study theme based on the text by Father Caffarel, *"Love is much more than love"*.

We find ourselves with the opportunity to go to the roots of the ideal of the sacrament of marriage in the Church, which today is more alive than ever. As team members, we cannot be content with rereading a few sentences or paragraphs isolated from their context and involving extracts that we cut out as we please. If we want to be faithful to our vocation as Christian couples, we must be well-formed and be able to give a reason for the richness of our sacrament of Marriage. We may think that we have dealt with this subject many times in the history of teams. But we assure you that working a whole year with these texts will place us at the deepest root of our conjugal vocation. And that in return will allow us to focus on the orientation of this second year: Called to live in communion with our spouse. A life of full marital communion strengthens us for our mission as a Christian couple in the world around us. We feel more solid as a couple to be a sign of God's presence in a world that

needs us. And in our case, we, Mercedes and Alberto, feel strengthened as ERI responsible couple for the service of greater love for others to which we have been called.

We invite you to accept these texts with absolute respect and admiration. They are suitable for everyone, from young newlyweds to those who have already been married for a long time. It will also help the spiritual counsellors and advisors to enter into the very heart of marriage. We must be aware of the language of the time in which Father Caffarel wrote, which cannot be denied, of his style with constant references to French literature, which may require us to make an extra effort in our reading. Indeed, we will not be able to look at this at the last moment, but it is no less true that it would be a real waste not to make a slow study of the subject, to savour it, to ruminate on it, to treasure it. His texts, as well as all the proposals for this year's sit-downs, will make this course a real time of revision, deepening, and awareness of our reality of Christian marriage, which should lead us to strengthen our mission, wherever each one of us is carrying it out.

Father Caffarel, "prophet of marriage", can help us, in this year 2025-26, to renew our "yes", to better understand the springs of human love

enlightened by our Lord Jesus Christ, while at the same time he can give us new graces for our sacrament of marriage. And in doing so, as Father Caffarel wrote it, the study of this theme will also help us to grow in our love for God.

In conclusion, we believe that our sacrament of marriage enables us to announce hope to couples and the family. We thank the Teams of Our Lady for the support and the encouragement it gives us to be able to live our sacrament in this Movement.

Thank you very much.

Mercedes Gómez-Ferrer and Alberto Pérez

ERI Responsible Couple

Printed copies of the 2025 study topic "Love is more than love" are available from our Literature couple, Alan and Gaynor Hakes.

Send an email to :

literature@teams.gb.org.uk

Cost £3 plus postage

Q: Did Eve have a date with Adam?

A: No just an apple!

Solidarity Testimony

At the College in Lyon questions were raised about how to help couples better understand the importance of contributing to the Movement: *Where does the money go? How does it help?*

With these questions in mind, Ghada and Antonie Ibrahim from Lebanon were invited by the ERI to share how receiving funds has supported their area. Their short but moving testimony touched them deeply, and we are pleased to share it with you.

They have given their permission to use this video on social media and websites. Testimonies like this are powerful reminders of how members' contributions are put to work, and they highlight that

Teams of Our Lady is much more than a local base team - it is a worldwide movement united in mission.

This is the English version -

The Importance of Solidarity-Based Fundraising

<https://tinyurl.com/TOLsolidarity>

Paul & Annette O Beirne, Super Regional Couple



David Wells at Warrington Team Retreat

The time had come for us at Warrington 1 to think about our Retreat for this year and, struggling for ideas, we turned (as usual!) to our lovely chaplain, Sister Margaret. Last year she moved from Warrington to the Mother House of her order, The Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle (known colloquially as the Selly Park Sisters). She runs their recently opened and very well equipped Retreat and Conference Centre and suggested that we might all go there for a conference/retreat she was organising to be given by the Catholic author David Wells. This was an inspired choice as we, as a Team, have studied his books and some of us had heard him talk before.

The theme for the day was HOPE: Hope does not disappoint! Why do we need it, and what difference does it make?

What a wonderful day we had! Several Sisters from Selly Park plus many others – some from our home parish in Warrington- attended. What a treat for us to meet up again with Paul and Helena McCloskey! It's fair to say that we all had a great and thought provoking day. David is an inspirational speaker being able both to articulate some deep ideas whilst keeping us all thoroughly entertained!



During the morning and afternoon sessions, drawing extensively on the writings of Pope Francis, scripture and many other sources he explored how Hope can help us transform

- Apprehensiveness into confidence
- Anxiety into serenity and
- Hesitation and doubt into conviction

Most of all, it was an uplifting day of joy and we were reminded, in the words of Pope John Paul the Second “We are the Easter People and Hallelujah is our song!”

Sally & Steve Hawkins, Warrington 1 Team



The best way to get
your husband to do
something is to suggest
he's too old for it

North West Crazy Golf

The North West Teams gathered once again in July for the ever popular (and not a little competitive) crazy golf in Wallasey.



It was lovely to have the time to catch up with friends from across the sector, sharing news and fun as we watched our golf balls head inevitably towards the water (again!)



Mark and Dymrna Edwards, Formby Team



Solent Sector Picnic

We were blessed with a beautiful afternoon for the **Solent Sector Picnic**.

Chichester are a fairly new Team with lots of enthusiasm and brilliant hospitality skills. They made the other sector members very welcome at St. Peter's Church Hall at West Wittering. Below are some of the 'petanque players' while Stephen created a great game he named St. Peter's Golf. It involved hitting golf balls at plant pots. Points were scored for a hit, more for a knock over and a ricochet caused quite a stir. It got very competitive!



We prayed, ate and enjoyed the good company while catching up on health and family news. Members of Solent Sector belong to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton or the Diocese of Portsmouth so there were lively conversations on Team life, spirituality and how each diocese is approaching the need for creating larger parishes. We discussed how Team members are able to support building these new, united communities. Also how chaplains may benefit from Team meetings as a chance to rest and recover from their many responsibilities.



Thanks be to God for safe travel, great weather and a wonderful catch up.

Jim and Pat, Solent Sector Couple

Purley Picnic

Purley's picnic held at Anna & Toni Kowals; home in Purley on Saturday 31 August. We were expecting rain but with help from above we managed to avoid the really wet stuff until the end.

It was nice to see everybody face-to-face as we usually meet via ZOOM.

Tony & Angela Penna, Purley Team



Cambridge Picnic

The Cambridge Team enjoyed a picnic at Rutland Water on a very warm day on 12th July. All team members attended including Sr Tamsin our spiritual Advisor. **Dominique Thompson**



National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope: St John's Way

In the previous newsletter, we wrote about the **National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope** created by Phil McCarthy and the “**Hearts in Search of God**” Project as a walking witness and blessing upon this country for this “Pilgrims of Hope” Jubilee year. As we write, the four separate legs of pilgrimage are mustering to set off enroute to St. Barnabas Cathedral in Nottingham for the celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sunday, 14 September.



The **St. John's Way** is one of these pilgrim routes, 169.4 miles in total starting from St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, London on 1 September, to be tackled in 12 Day Stages. Day Pilgrims have been invited to register to accompany the core group of Perpetual Pilgrims on any one or more of the Day Stages.

As it happens, Stage 7 on 7 September will launch at 08:00 from our daughter Frances' parish of St. Bede's in Newport Pagnell, embarking for 17:15 Sunday Mass in our own home parish at Northampton Cathedral, 17.4 miles altogether. Paul and Frances have both enrolled as Day Pilgrims, Paul feeling the responsibility as they close in on Northampton to guide the Pilgrims unerringly to the foot of the Cathedral altar.



Having arrived at Northampton, the Pilgrims will take a rest day on 8 September before resuming the next day, bound for Market Harborough and points beyond all the way to Nottingham.

The walking is only part of the pilgrimage. Hospitality toward the Pilgrims is also a big part, a way of contributing and entering into its spirit that multiplies the experience for travellers and hosts alike. Hospitality of this kind is something for which our life in Teams has well prepared us. And so, working with others in the parish and around the town, we are aiming to provide the Pilgrims on the day they arrive with an evening meal with local families who will then drop them at the hotels where they have chosen to lodge. The Pilgrims have expressed particular concern, in anticipation of the prospect of seven consecutive days' walking, to be able to launder clothes during their rest stay; we are seeking to assist them with this. And on the assumption that Northampton may present frontier territory to them, we hope to entertain them on their rest day with a short walking tour of its points of interest—especially those associated with St. Thomas Becket, one of the Cathedral patrons.

The National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope seems one of those events deserving of wide attention and focus in this country that just as easily may pass largely unnoticed. Through the happenstance of its traversal through our own town and parish, we are hoping we may come to look back on it as a highlight of our own Jubilee devotions, a moment of encounter, friendship, faith-sharing, and prayer.

**Janet and Paul DeBoo,
Northampton St. Thomas Team**

Celebrate 2025: Witness to Hope

For the first time ever, we attended a Celebrate Festival!

From 15 through 20 August, we served on the event support team assisting and answering to our son Dominic and his wife Rachel, leaders of the Sparks festival programme for 6- and 7-year-olds. What a blast!



The festival gathered on the grounds of Worth Abbey and School, near Crawley in Sussex, under Gatwick Airport's flight path. Its heartbeat, including 11:00 am daily Family Mass, pulsed from the great blue Big Top hoisted on pasture at the site's southwest corner. Children's sessions, meanwhile, met in wonderful modern classrooms at the acreage's north end, with the intervening uphill kilometre stretch to be navigated multiple times each day. We got our steps in.

Many guests quartered in school lodgings, but we camped on a pitch adjacent to Dominic, Rachel, and their boys, within earshot of the Big Top. Sunshine blazed as we pegged our tents, but moderated on subsequent days; nor did the wind gust too vigorously, or rain visit beyond a drizzle. It was camping about as straightforward as one could wish.

We knew beforehand to look out for Clare and Chris Bird from our own Team standing stints with the small army that kept the site infrastructure and logistics on the rails. Clare was recognisable driving a white van with their dog Nemo's ears flapping at the passenger's front window soliciting cuddles from all and sundry. Our unexpected delight was seeing and catching up with Catherine and Iain Massey from Northampton St. Ann Team based at Towcester, who years ago married at Worth Abbey. Iain balanced the diet of Big Top praise with early



morning doses of Matins and Lauds in the measured company of the Abbey's Benedictine monks. Lorna Heron, companion with Catherine and Iain in Northampton St. Ann Team, camped with her sisters and three of her children who, like ourselves, were helping to deliver children's programmes across various age groups. We also made acquaintance with Father John McKenna, a former Chaplain to Teams in the Barnet area.

Our commitments with the children precluded mixing much with the main programme's exuberant worship and speaker line-up developing the Jubilee-inspired festival theme **"Witness to Hope"** in stages from **"Empowered to Live in Hope"** to **"Building Our Foundation on Hope"** to **"Witnessing to Hope in Our World"**.

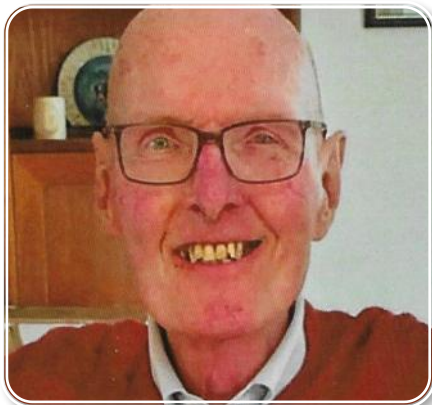


We counted our blessings hearing homilies from our own Bishop David Oakley, and from Father Roberto Pasolini, Preacher of the Papal Household since last November. We were well content with our role that dealt us powerful lessons in trust, enthusiasm, and warmth through our fellow Sparks team colleagues and the sparkling palette of personalities of the magnificent children.

We would welcome repeating the experience in much the same capacity. We would prepare ourselves better to promote Teams of Our Lady more systematically, though we did strike some hopeful conversations and dispense a couple of leaflets. It would be intriguing to re-encounter some of the same children moulded by the passage of time. Bishop David Oakley has already pegged his stake in the ground: he'll be back next year!

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Northampton St. Thomas Team

Remembering Kevin Quinn



On the 20th of August at our Parish Church of St. John's Banbury a packed congregation gathered for Requiem Mass to thank God for the life of Kevin.

Kevin and Margaret had been married for 53 years and were both born and brought up in Plymouth. They were blessed with two children and in due course four grandchildren, all of whom he was very proud.

His parents placed great value on education and this influenced his career focus towards teaching completing a degree at Exeter

University. Following his first teaching appointment in Bristol, the family moved to Banbury in 1978 where Kevin taught Economics at Banbury School until retirement in 2008.

Teams life began for them in 1985. We have so many memories through our Team meetings, conferences and retreats. Kevin and Margaret piloted the most recently formed Team in Banbury.

There are three words that formed the centre of Kevin's life: -
FAMILY FAITH FOOTBALL

His family life was the foundation for his teaching career. He was recognised as a very firm but fair teacher who saw the good and potential in every child. His teaching skills also benefited the Parish, as he was called upon to lead RCIA courses, act as a school governor and Parish and Deanery Council member. Kevin lived his faith on a daily basis.

He was a life long supporter of Plymouth Argyle and often along with his son Anthony travelled to far flung outposts of the footballing world to follow his boyhood team through good times and bad.

We had the privilege to travel many miles in Europe with Kevin and Margaret and it was always great fun because Kevin would try anything, especially where food was concerned.

We were not with them this year when they went as a family to Rome for the Jubilee Celebrations and found themselves in St. Peter's when white smoke billowed announcing our new Pope. Despite rather failing health Kevin was able to complete visits to each Holy Door in the city's basilicas.

Kevin will be missed by us all, but his was a life well led, full of faith, love and laughter - and one to be celebrated with so many happy memories.

John and Gerhild Osborn

Remembering Janet Denman

Janet Denman was a deeply caring person. Let's call it her essence: root of her motivations, touchstone for her actions, milieu for her reflections. At Janet's funeral, her brother Billy, casting back to their childhood, said that, much as they scrapped like sisters and brothers, he always felt Janet looking after him. As they left childhood behind, he valued her regular contact and counsel.

Janet's caring heart emanated compassion, warmth, empathy. She took pains to set people at ease. It rings true to Janet's disposition that so many people remember Janet and Antony as exquisite, even legendary, hosts. Zealously committed to hosting well, as Trans-Atlantic Super-Regional Couple, Janet and Antony pursued a cause to revive, by formation and other means, core Teams values they perceived having waned since the Movement's GB dawn, most pointedly the "lost art" of hospitality—of welcoming local, national, or international Teams couples into our homes for Teams business or events, or simply as passing through on holidays or otherwise. Not only this; they emphasised a reciprocal duty to incorporate social calls, visits, and overnight hospitality with Teams couples into our travel itineraries. Their own practice, they insisted that the bonds fostered thereby strengthened the whole Movement, and served the Gospel.

Janet's choice of teaching for her profession, gravitating to focus on special educational needs, also echoes the logic of her personality. Her civic-spirited hours volunteering at a Northampton contact centre where estranged partners could meet with their children, then as a magistrate, then visiting in a Leicestershire prison, endeavoured at offering routes out of brokenness.



Key tests formed Janet and Antony as a couple. Their daughter Sophie was their pride and joy. But it was their perseverance in forging from their different faith backgrounds a unity of authentic respect and belief befitting their calling in marriage through which they influenced the whole Teams Movement.

Caring made Janet thoughtful and spiritual. She breathed life into passages from scripture she read aloud at Mass or in our Team Meetings,

where what she voiced as reflection or prayer could easily linger afterwards in our thoughts. Janet loved art and things of beauty, and she exuded style with a splash of fun; but her stylishness was always only ever an adornment on her steadfast core of warmheartedness.

Janet and Antony, as Sector Couple, meticulous editors of the Teams GB and Trans-Atlantic newsletters, and Trans-Atlantic Super-Regional Couple, contributed significantly and substantively to the Movement on a par with Harry and Clotilde Meigh, who first brought the Movement to this country.

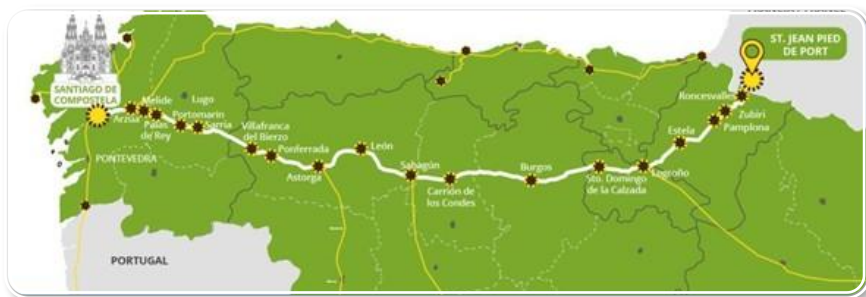
Born on All Saints' Day, Janet passed away on 24 July 2025. As she, with the best of her bravery, navigated in her last years the degenerative impact of Alzheimer's, her eyes now and again reflected the discomfited look of one whom she herself, in the full grasp of her powers, with a consoling embrace, or gentle stroke of the cheek, would have sought to reassure. May she and Antony both rest blissfully and unendingly in God's joyful consolation.

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Northampton St Thomas Team

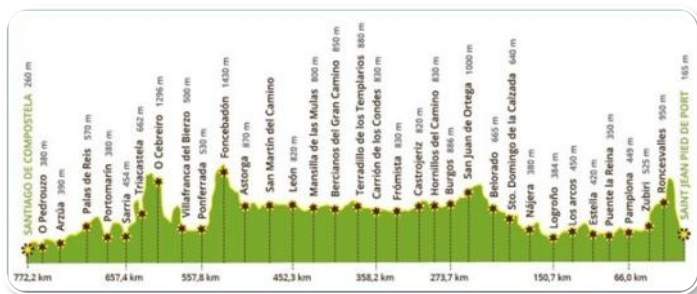
Walking the Camino for Louise

In February this year, Louise Aldred of the Nottingham Team took suddenly and seriously ill, and died in April, ravaged by a brain tumour. Then one of their close friends began encouraging David to consider walking one of the various Camino routes to Santiago de Compostela.

Now David is doing exactly that, choosing the 485-mile **Camino Francés**, most traditional and popular of the Camino routes, the world's most famous footpath. Cited on the UNESCO World Heritage List, it launches from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port 135 km west of Lourdes in southwest France straight over the Pyrenees and onward via 35 trekking stages to the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle at Compostela.



With David's permission we submit this article on his behalf. His first blog entry journaling his progress, dated 21 August 2025, reads as follows: "Up betimes, to quote Pepys, and an early breakfast before a flight at 7:45. Landed in Biarritz where there was heavy rain but it stopped while I was waiting for the bus to the station.



Here I met two Canadian ladies, both heading for the Camino, though they had started in different parts of Canada and only met in the airport in Paris. We got the train together, and I arrived at St-Jean-Pied-de-Port 24 hours after leaving home, more or less to the minute. Which was too early to book into my accommodation, so I went to the Pilgrim Park office and am now equipped with my Pilgrim Passport and a shell."



David's wayfaring recalls for us the 2010 film **"The Way"** starring Martin Sheen, and especially our favourite number from its soundtrack, a Galician folk song "Nadal de Luintra" by Berrogüetto about Joseph and Mary reaching Bethlehem. Frustration overtakes Joseph, roughly and raucously spurned for hospitality for want of wherewithal to grease an innkeeper's palm, and he begins to shed tears. But Mary, unflustered and unflappable, speaks to console him: "Don't you cry, Joseph; don't weep for anything, money least of all. What more wealth could you possibly want than this that accompanies me?"

This is the sort of expedition with which Paul and Clare Callaghan used to beguile us when, as South Midlands Sector Couple, they would circulate at the Sector Summer Picnics shaking a tub of Cadbury's Roses, and soothe our awkward newness by talking of Paul's sailing and their family holidays in the wilds of France. From that time, it has been Janet's particular desire for us to walk out the front door and, leaving the car behind, set off on an adventure.



We look forward to David's return, replete with encounters and experiences, when we hope to persuade him in the next newsletter to share his lasting recollections and inspirations.

Janet and Paul DeBoo,
Northampton St Thomas Team

Camino Waypost Image courtesy of Sergio Kian on Unsplash;
Camino Passport and Shell Photo by David Aldred
Maps from <https://santiagoways.com>

October Team Meeting

Reading: Luke 17:11-19

No-one has come back to praise God, only this foreigner

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

Psalm 97(98):1-4

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Concluding prayer

Lord, may we be open to others, accepting and not judging. Thank you for the healing that you give us each and every day. Amen.

**"Faith is a place of
mystery, where we find
the courage to believe
what we cannot see
and the strength to let
go of our fear of
uncertainty."**

Brene Brown

October Reflection

'On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.' It's easy to overlook the first line of that gospel as an incidental detail or a stage direction. But St Luke carefully crafts his gospel as a journey to Jerusalem. And if the destination is significant so too, surely, is the route he took to get there. 'Walking along the border' betrays an attitude, an approach, a strategy even; it reveals an aspect of Jesus' own deliberate way of living and loving. And it's where we can expect Jesus to take us if we are serious about following him.



Borders are uncomfortable, threatening, precarious places. In geographical terms it's where 2 or more cultures collide, where frictions between conflicting viewpoints are most keenly felt. It's a sensitive, volatile area – border territory – where guards are usually posted and things not usually up for grabs are called into question. It's a place that requires you to be more aware and awake than normal, to be on your guard against differences.

There is something raw and exposed about walking along a border and a feeling of vulnerability nearly always comes with it. Yet this is route Jesus intentionally took to Jerusalem. This is the way he deliberately chose to walk. And who does Jesus come across? People who because of their affliction were forced to live on the frontiers, on the margins of society – lepers. But also 'foreigners', in this case a Samaritan. A man with a different religious and cultural background. The word Jesus uses here literally means 'other'. And it's this person who, when healed, comes back to give thanks.

Our experience of and openness to the 'other' can also be one of the most profound and transformative things that can ever happen to us. And it happens in a powerful way in our marriages. Encountering the 'other' gender, perspective, temperament of our spouse, being taken out of one's own world and into theirs, can often mean healing for us and for them. The healing that can overtake us when we accept, embrace and honour our differences teaches us that it's not just okay to let down our guard when we sit down together, sometimes it's vital.

Fr John Udris

November Team Meeting

Reading: Luke 7:11-17

The only son of his mother, and she a widow

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

Psalm 62(63):2-6,8-9

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Concluding prayer. Lord when our hearts are troubled, when our soul thirsts, let us seek you and know that you are near. Amen.



November Reflection

At the moment I can only turn to and recommend silence in the face of the loss of a child. This silence opens up a great crater which looks into the depths of the living God who promises life but not now and not to the one whom we want to be alive here and now. That generates anger and incomprehension.

Why is there resurrection for that mother and not for us?

So in the silence, in the anger, in the incomprehension please turn with me to Psalm 62. We use it often at Morning Prayer.

Break the silence with your longing, your thirsting like it was last Summer for our parched landscape

(Laugh or cry here in November over what was written in August and was unable to say where we would be in November)

The silent pining in prayer becomes a gaze into the Lord with the little flickering red light nearby

Your love is better than life. Can my lips really say that?

Give me time Lord

And let me add in these lines missed out in our given text, but there all the same for you and for me

On my bed I remember you

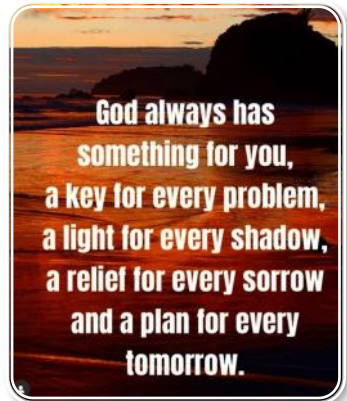
On you I muse through the night

My soul clings to you

Your right hand holds me fast

And I link arms with that Mother as the Lord gives her son back to her, but he is different now.

And I am different now.



Fr John Butchard, Formby Team

December Team meeting

Reading: James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers and sisters, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 145(146):6-10

Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Concluding prayer

Dear God, as we wait in hope for the lord's coming may we actively live our lives to make your kingdom come in our world day by day. *Amen*



December Reflection

I don't know if it is a true statement of St Augustine, or just a play on one of his other quotes, but I can remember this being attributed to him. 'Lord give me patience but hurry up!'

When we are looking forward to something special, a wedding, baptism or any celebration we can get impatient waiting for it to come, then as the time approaches, we can get into a panic, have we got everything arranged, do we know how many people are coming, will everything go smoothly. We can also be so focused on that future event that we fail to appreciate some of the things that are happening in the here and now.

Waiting for the coming of the Lord is no different, we cannot wait for that encounter in many ways. But there is much to be done here on earth, we have to live our lives to the full, allowing the Lord to nourish us and feed us. Even when we are bowed down or oppressed, he is with us showering us with his blessings. If we are not carefully we can overlook them and so not realise that the Lord is with us here and now.

We live our lives in this world, in the presence of the Lord, with our hearts set on the world to come, when we will live with him forever. Let us use the time on earth to make sure we are ready to greet him when at last he comes to take us to himself, and we can enjoy that eternal life, that he has promised and the eternal banquet that goes with it. Now that is something well worth waiting for patiently.

Fr Graeme Dunne

**"ONE MINUTE OF
PATIENCE, TEN
YEARS OF PEACE."**

GREEK PROVERB



GB Website: www.TeamsGB.org.uk

Superregional: www.Teams-transatlantic.org

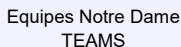
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www.TeamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade

TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com



Fr Henri Caffarel

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.



Marriages are like fingerprints;
each one is different and
each one is beautiful.

