



THE FRIENDS OF MORLEY NEWSLETTER

May 2008

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 15 June 2008—3.30 pm
Including tea and Evensong

Warden's Report

The Staff continue to attend Training events & Conferences whenever possible.

Bob has been recommended by Southwell Diocese to attend a Bishops' Advisory Panel next month.

The role of assistant Chef is now being shared between Alison Bamford & Emma Judd.

A visit by the Environmental Health Officer resulted in the award of 4 stars.

Pat Gower continues to visit each month to conduct Holy Communion.

This year has seen the installation of CCTV and locks on the Wing bedrooms and the provision of wireless broadband for guests throughout the main House. We also upgraded our photocopier.

In the garden the first phase of work was begun on the trees and we have also started to replace the benches we lost last year.

At the end of March we encountered a major problem with mice and had to set up an environmental services contract to deal with any future incidents.

Despite January showing a marked improvement over 2007, we have experienced a disappointing first quarter. The main reasons are the early Easter and a number of groups reducing their numbers or the length of their stay. Looking further ahead, we have had 9 groups cancel their events completely due to lack of support and if we are unable to fill them this will account for 338 bed nights lost - equivalent to a month's business.

Jeff Witts

DON'T FORGET

Friends' Spring Gardening Day - Thursday 8 May, 10.00 am onwards

A chance to help tidy up the gardens after the winter and to prepare for the summer.
Please bring a packed lunch - drinks will be provided.

Friends Newsletter on-line

At a recent committee meeting it was suggested that it might be a good idea to put our Friends' Newsletter on-line so that Friends could use their PC or laptop to access it whenever they liked. Don't panic ... we're not proposing not to send it out by "snail mail" as Jeff would say, but just looking to the future as more and more of us use the internet to communicate with each other and find information that we need. The web site for the Retreat House has been upgraded already with a slightly new look and an easier way to get from one page to another - why not have a look if you haven't recently at www.morleyretreat.co.uk.

I arranged to meet with the man who looks after the web site and he has been able to set up a system whereby Friends (who have paid their subscriptions) will be issued with a user name and password so that they can access another page on which he will post the newsletter. We do not feel it appropriate to publicise the newsletter on open access to anyone, but this will allow those who pray for us to have more detailed information about how things are going than we would publicise generally.

I am sure that we can develop this facility further, with special prayer requests and thanksgivings posted perhaps, but we'll start with the newsletter.

This month's newsletter will therefore be added to the page especially for Friends and we would like you to give it a try. To read it there the user name is "morleyfriend" and the password "jxCv6H4t". Do have a look and let us know what you feel about this.

Next year the password will change and we will only send it out to paid-up Friends of Morley. It may be that in future some Friends will prefer this way to get the newsletter and we will be able to save on the costs of postage and printing.

Catherine

A Day for the Friends of Morley Monday 15 September 2008

So far only three people have booked in for this event, details of which were first given in the last newsletter. We really need more than three for the day to be a success, and certainly it is not fair to ask speakers/leaders to both put aside time and plan for us if so few can come. Please book a place for yourself!

Canon Nicholas Henshall will lead the event which will commence with coffee at 10.00 am and conclude with tea and cakes at about 4.30 pm. The day will include some quiet space but will also provide an opportunity for Friends to meet each other and to pray together. The cost for the day will be £20 per person.

Please contact the House to book your place (details on back page)

Some Friends may like to come to the Quiet Day that will be led by the Revd Katie Tupling on the day after, Tuesday 16 September. We would be glad to offer you Dinner, Bed and Breakfast on the Monday evening. Should you wish to stay for both events we will charge a special rate of £65 per person.

Please contact the House to book your place (details on back page)

Morley Memories

In 2010, Morley Retreat House will have been operating for 50 years - a significant anniversary! We would welcome any memories you may have from your association with the House over the years. Sometimes very ordinary memories are the most interesting to those of us who weren't there. Please let Sheila Randall have them either by post to the Retreat House or email to se.randall@ntlworld.com.

Thank you.

The Chair of the Friends writes....

Dear Friends

I want to say something unusually personal in this edition of the Newsletter - by way of highlighting for me what has become an increasingly major theme, and one which connects directly with the work of Morley and the role of the Friends.

As some of you know, my mother has been ill for some time, and was recently taken into full time care as a result of vascular dementia. While seeking to respond appropriately, a big part has been trying to support my father, who is very much alive and well, but is 80 years old. The conversations we have been having in recent days have all been about respite - if he is going to be able to cope with the demands of the present and the uncertainties of the future, then he needs also to be helped to take time off, to get away, to get perspective.

Of course this is how it is for many of us, and an increasingly important issue for society as a whole. But I am aware that in my dad's needs I have also had a glimpse of my own, and of many people who come and talk to me: the need for respite.

It may be respite from the demands of a busy job, as much as response to a personal tragedy; it may be the aftermath of a particularly demanding family situation, or the result of loneliness or anxiety. It may simply be waking up one morning and asking "why do I live like this?"

We all know this experience. But it is so difficult to respond. How can I take time out? how can I afford (in time and money) to go away on retreat? who will look after things if I go away? The real question of course is "how can I afford not to?"!

I recently listened to a fascinating sermon about Noah's flood. The preacher told us that modern archaeologists think that events of the flood probably happened around the Black Sea - originally a very small sea, which became massively enlarged following sea level rises. Because the Black Sea has hardly any outlets, over the centuries it has become polluted in its very depths - at the bottom is a poisonous soup with no oxygen. Ecologists are now worried that all the poison will come to the surface and destroy the whole ecology and economy of the area.

And the preacher's point? We need to have the confidence to go diving in the poisonous depths of our own fears and needs and experience. We need to give time and space to respite - for ourselves and others - or the dark depths will master us, overpower us.

Watching someone you love battle with dementia is an immensely hard experience - though tragically a very common one. Seeing my dad's needs as he seeks to accompany my mum on an increasingly demanding journey highlights his need for respite and recuperation. But we all stand there. And the Easter Gospel of a God who makes all things new summons each of us to take very seriously our own need to seek reflective space if we are to live and flourish as human beings.

With my best wishes.

Nicholas

Prayer Focus

Give thanks for:

- All the Staff at Morley including Jeff, Catherine and Bob.
- St Matthew's, Morley and our local churches.
- Alison Cattermole, Alison Bamford and Emma Judd our chefs.

Please pray for:

- The Staff and Trustees as they work together.
- The unexpected number of groups cancelling their bookings due to lack of interest.
- Rest and refreshment as we take our summer holidays.
- Nicholas Henshall and all the staff at Derby Cathedral.

Forthcoming Day Events at Morley

Now that the evenings are lighter, why not book to come to a day event at Morley? Perhaps you could even encourage a couple of your local friends to come with you. Each event costs £20 per person.

Tuesday 27th May - Quiet Day "The Way of the Wild Goose"

The Revd Maurice Johnson has led this day for the last few years, which has been fully booked. It is a chance to experience celtic-style worship activities.

Monday 16th June - "Healing Oils of the Bible"

Anne Bramley, from St Peters Church in Derby, has worked for 26 years in nursing and midwifery. She will present a relaxing time which will include prayer, reflection, the use of ancient oils used in the bible. This new venture will be quiet, but not silent. We think that many will appreciate the chance to explore biblical wisdom in the use of oils and scents.

Monday 23rd June - Quiet Day "A Journey ..."

The Revd Pat Gower is our Chaplain and will host you on this day.

Wednesday 25th June - a chance to come and enjoy the gardens on our summer **Quiet Garden Day**, with prayers led by Pat Gower, our Chaplain. Bring your own lunch - there is no charge for this day. The House will provide drinks throughout the day.

PRAYER CARD 2008

A new prayer card is enclosed

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Subscriptions were due in January (£7.00 for individuals and £15 for parishes)
Please make cheques payable to **THE FRIENDS OF MORLEY** and send to the Treasurer
at the address below.

Morley Retreat and Conference House, Church Lane, Morley, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 6DE.
Tel: 01332 831293 Email: morleyretreat@btconnect.com www.morleyretreat.co.uk