

More community comings and goings:

This summer we said farewell to our volunteers from last year:

Bill (to whom many thanks for editing this update for the last 2 editions) is now in Birmingham, starting a Masters in Theology and Religion.

Caleb and Hannah are in Manchester, Caleb is starting a PhD in 'Christian ethics and ecology' and Hannah is Project Coordinator for 'God and the Big Bang', a science and faith programme in schools—see <https://gatbb.co.uk>

Mark is hoping to spend a year with the L'Arche Community in London

Darius is studying Media Management at the RheinMain University in Wiesbaden

Adam has started work in the parish of St Peter's Parkstone, Poole as part of the Diocese' Ministry Experience Scheme.

James Morey who has done some great work on the land with us, has now moved on.

James Harknett has also moved on to explore other community opportunities

Jay Kellow has decided not to proceed on a journey into SSF, and left in September to return to Oxford to live and work among the homeless community.

We send them all the very best of good wishes for the future.

And a big welcome to our new team of volunteers!



From left to right in the photo:

Jake Bussell knows Hilfield well from 14 years at Families Camp. He goes to Birmingham University next year to read psychology.

Maria Scheller, from the west of Germany, is spending 6 months with

us as part of her Social Anthropology course at Frieberg University.

Lei Gu is from the city of WuHan in China, and has just finished her studies for a Fine Arts degree at University.

Katharina (Katie) Lange, who grew up in south Germany, comes to us from Winchester University where she did a psychology degree.

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Update

No 23 October 2017

CHANGE AT HILFIELD

Brother Sam

Is moving on from Hilfield this month. He has been based here for 33 of his 43 years in SSF, as the Guardian for two separate periods, this time since 2005. Under his leadership the Community has changed and developed hugely. From being a mainly First Order Brothers SSF Community, Hilfield has evolved into a mixed Community of Brothers and lay people together living out a Franciscan vision; not always easy, but a forward-looking model for religious communities. He has led our emphasis on integral ecology which embeds a theology of creation and interdependence, lived out on our land, with our many visitors, and sustained by a prayerful life as a Community. His last Sunday with us at Hilfield as Guardian will be 8th October.



Brother Sam will be based at the SSF House of the Divine Compassion, a place of hospitality in Plaistow, East London. He will share in the life of the house there with Brother Julian and others. We wish him every blessing as he makes this move.

Brother Clark



was elected Guardian of Hilfield by the Provincial Chapter on 30th September. He will come to us in January 2018, and we welcome him most warmly! Brother Clark, from the Province of the Americas, has served as Minister General of SSF for 10 years. More about Brother Clark in the January 2018 issue.

And in the interim, the Community will continue the life and work of the Friary, looking forward joyously to the next phase in the life of Hilfield Friary.

The Hilfield Community

Continuing the Franciscan witness, long-established at the Friary, the Community consists of both vowed Franciscan Brothers of the Anglican Society of St Francis and also lay community members who seek to nurture and share the Franciscan values of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Inspired by St Francis of Assisi, the Community offers hospitality to people of different faiths and no acknowledged faith and works for a more gentle and respectful care for the earth.



Glimpses of life and work at Hilfield
A calendar for 2018

Our 2018 Calendar is now on sale.

It highlights our eco-church emphases and our seasonal celebrations. Buy from the shop, or by post, £5 per copy, plus p&p.

This summer ...

... the education programme was in full swing, as reported in the last Update. Visits from many schools, including from Wadham Academy who brought all of their Year 9 Students in groups to spend a day with us.

... Andy Lester from A Rocha UK led an inspirational day in June about the care of our common home (ecology), and why it is central for people of faith.

... the Families Camp and the Youth Camp in August once again brought in a lively influx of young people!



... On Saturday 16th September, at the Stigmata Festival Lyndon Webb gave a powerful address based on the San Damiano cross.

News from Richard, our Land Manager:

Our new 20 acres of land will provide opportunities for creating new wildlife habitats, as well as more grazing for the sheep; Richard will have his work cut out, supported by a newly formed land management group. Work has already started on much new fencing. Our animals are proliferating; we've been given a cow, Molly, of the same Shetland breed as our present herd, which brings our total to 9. Also 9 sheep, 25 laying chickens and 4 pigs. What this editor didn't know is that these animals provide all of the meat consumed at Hilfield during the whole year. Not bad for a community which regularly feeds 30-40 people a day!

From Noel, Garden Manager

Brother Giles and Bill masterminded the kitchen garden through til August, and there's been a bumper crop of beans, kale, courgettes and fruit. Noel now has that responsibility—he's an experienced gardener, and is focused at present on getting the polytunnel planted up with salad and other crops for winter use. He knows well that garden work is 'relentless' and much welcomes volunteer help with it.



Community News

A big welcome to **Antje and Noel**, who were married in July, and have joined us as members of the Community. Antje will be running our programme and school visits, while Noel is looking after the vegetable garden.



Simon 'Baldy' Munro returned from his travels and is now living as part of the Pilsdon at West Malling Community in Kent. He has been a supportive and helpful presence over the last 4 years at Hilfield, and we wish him well for his future explorations.

Kerri has studied hard over the last few years, and was licensed as a Lay Minister in the C of E at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday Sept 30th.

Lydia and Jimmy met while volunteering at the Friary in 2013 and are now joyfully engaged to be married. Jimmy is now a curate in Wiltshire, and Lydia, an American, is a biologist. They planned to be married at the Friary this November, but are now facing much uncertainty, because of the long delay in the arrival of Lydia's visa. They welcome your prayers, both for their future together and for the visa.

This autumn ...

(Please note that the next 2 workshop weekends are now fully booked (Emily Dickenson etc (13th-15th Oct) and 'Franciscan Peace-making' (3rd-5th Nov.)

16th—19th November 'A Time to Craft' with Suzi Herbert. Bring your particular craft gifts to share in this weekend at the Friary, a time of friendship, learning and encouragement. Suzi also runs craft days, Weds 11th Oct, 15th Nov, 13th Dec—bring a project and packed lunch or start something new. No need to book.

Lunch club for older people, Tuesdays, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec, 2 course lunch, and a look around the Friary grounds. Please book in advance.

Pre-Advent Quiet Day December 2nd 10.00 a.m. —3.30 p.m.

And our 2018 programme is now out -

Theme - "Seeking, Receiving and Sharing Mercy" Many fascinating day courses and workshops on subjects ranging from music, contemplation, prayer, immigration, wild flowers, and Understanding Islam.

See all details on our website, and book early to avoid disappointment.