

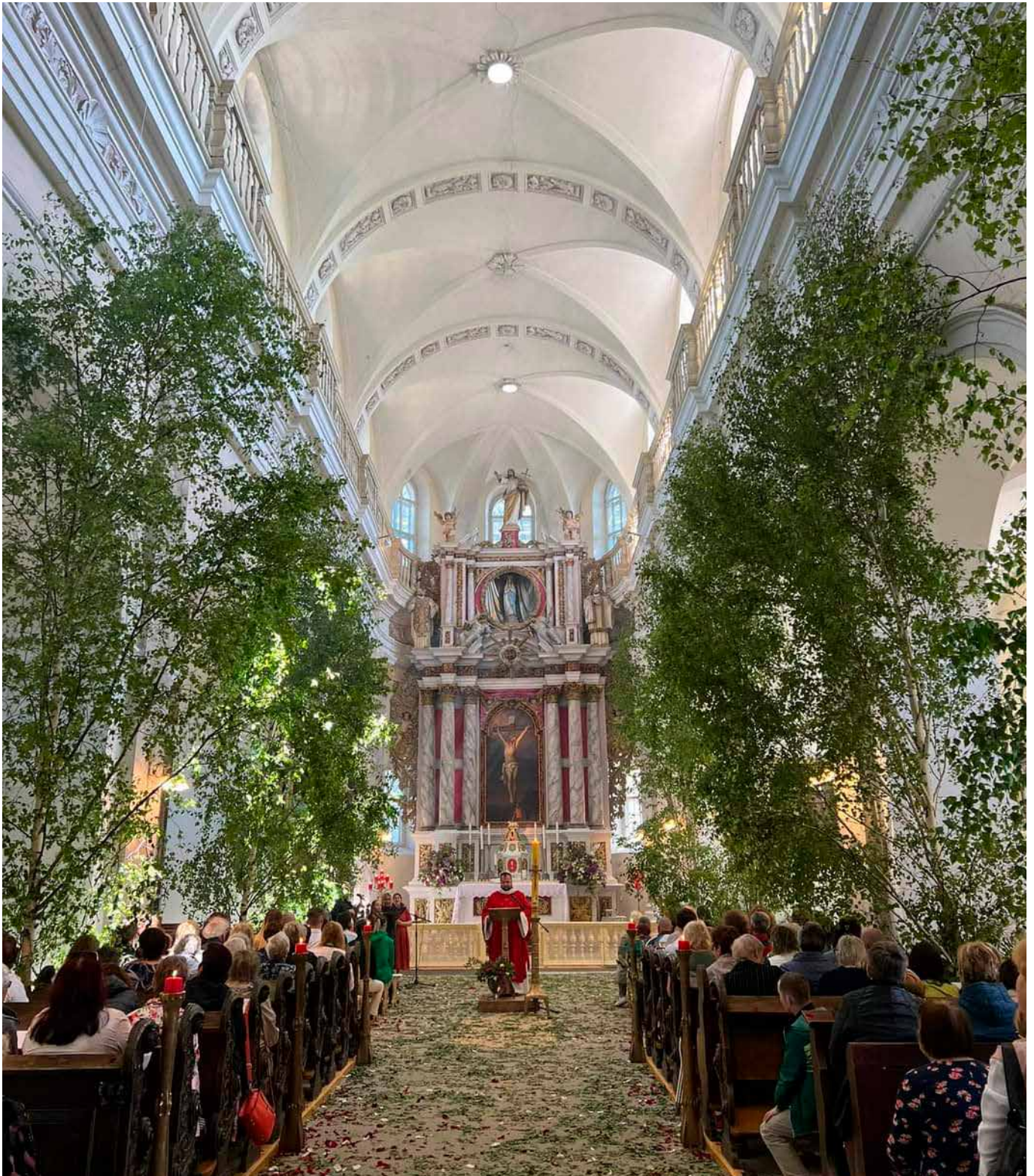


SHCJ ASSOCIATES Newsletter

EUROPEAN PROVINCE

October 2022 (Winter Issue)

Issue 34



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Contacts for regional prayer groups

Birmingham (monthly meetings, varying dates)	Jenny Banks Bryer 0121 427 1207
Hopsans (1st Sunday March, June, Sept, Dec)	Eva Adom-Duah / Sabina Yedu-Agrey 020 8450 6536
Lytham	Srs Anne Stewart and Philomena Grimley 01253 275439
Salford 1 (last Thursday of month)	Julie Courtney 07813 877999
Salford 2	Maureen Hamilton 0161 793 0231
London Prayer Group	Celia Capstick 0208 888 0580

Co-ordinator's Letter

Dear Everyone,

I hope you are all well and enjoyed this rather extraordinary summer. Many joys of sunshine and visiting family mingled with dangers of heat, war and financial worries, the sad loss of friends and the death of the Queen.

The Queen did us proud, I heard one man say. Indeed she did, responding to her calling with wholehearted generosity. Her steadfastness, love and sense of duty shone like a beacon and made our lives the richer. Our thanks for her example, for her goodness and influence in the world. She was sustained by faith and like Cornelia, her presence exuded the presence of God.

'To help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world and to rejoice in God's presence and to be a force for good.'

My local community hosts many Ukrainian families who express their gratitude for the daily kindnesses and generous offers of help in their hour of need. Whereas, the truth is, the community is the richer for having them with us. Their belief that good will prevail is inspiring.

Sadly, we have not met together as associates this year. The threat of Covid was strong motivation not to. Meeting virtually via zoom for prayers and an international meeting on sodality have been our mainstays.

We are indebted to the Society for their love and support in helping us rejoice in God's presence, encouraging us to be all that God wants of us.

Many thanks, especially to Sr Anne.

With love
Mary

Thank You Jenny

On behalf of the associates I'd like to thank Jenny Banks Bryer for her many years as excellent editor of the excellent newsletter. Her shoes are hard to fill.

She steps down as the newsletter passes from print to more sustainable digital and it feels like the end of an era. We are indebted to Jenny for the generosity of her service and know in the spirit of Cornelia that the newsletter will find a good home.

On a personal note I am indebted to Jenny for her guidance in my life. In the last few years as I took the role of coordinator and many years ago when she taught French at the convent in Edgbaston. She encouraged me to apply for university and overlooked a tendency to play truant particularly on Monday mornings when it should have been double French.

When A levels were over Jenny invited head girl Louise Williams and me to be nannies for Joseph, then a mere toddler.

It has been a privileged to work with her then and so many years later.

Mary Howell

Ola and Pasha

In March this year following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, our son Ian, his wife Rachel and sons Oliver(19), and Jacob(17) offered to host a displaced Ukrainian family. They were matched with a mother, Ola and her son Pasha (18). Following weeks of negotiation, during which time Ola and Pasha were in a holding camp in Poland, they finally obtained visas and were allowed to travel to England in April. Pasha was excused military service due to an ongoing kidney complaint but his twin sister who is in the Police Force was not allowed to come.

Ola and Pasha have adapted well to their new strange life in the UK and after settling in were eager to work. Due to their limited spoken English they were restricted in their choice of work Ola, who was a teacher in Ukraine, is working in a care home and Pasha is working in a hotel kitchen: both are also learning English.

Fortunately their new home is large enough to allow them the space and privacy to look after themselves on a day to day basis while usually sharing a meal together once a week. On Sundays they meet up with fellow Ukrainians living in the area.

As you can imagine Ola and Pasha miss their family friends and life in the Ukraine but for the present they are safe, well and happy in their new home.

Maureen Hamilton

Synodality

Associates of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus
International Zoom Meeting on Synodality
April 9 2022

There were over 60 people present at this meeting from West Africa, North America, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Europe. The meeting was held in English and Spanish. We used some of the questions posed by the UISG to guide our conversations but encourage our Associates to talk from their own experience. This is a brief summary of the key points that emerged.

What seeds/signs of synodality are you aware of in your local church or more widely?

The leadership and lifestyle of Pope Francis himself

People working together in their local communities, creating initiatives to tackle poverty and injustice eg. Foodbanks, facilities for homeless people

Communities taking responsibility/working in solidarity especially in Chile and the Dominican Republic

The leadership of women

Good working relationships between pastors and people in parts of the church, eg. Chile and the Dominican Republic

The new awareness of the need to care for our planet, the inspiration of Laudato Si

The inspiration of our Holy Child charism and the life of our Foundress Venerable Cornelia Connelly

The use of social media/Zoom to encourage greater international communication

The willingness of many people to collaborate, participate in the life of the local church and community

What are the “Weeds” that are choking efforts to promote synodality?



Clergy are afraid of engagement and open discussion of issues

Sometimes there is a lack of boldness, courage among lay people to challenge – a culture of tameness

Clergy are often unwilling/unable to delegate and listen

Certain groups feel left out/excluded by the church eg. LGBTQ, divorced and remarried people

Racism and elitism

The ever widening gap between people who want the church to be relevant and adapt to the 21st Century and those who wish to take the church back to before Vatican 2

What can we as SHCJ Associates do to promote synodality?

We can be willing to share our gifts and resources, our Cornelian spirituality to help and encourage others

We can help to develop programmes for lay formation and training

We can ensure that we promote an outgoing church, one that reaches beyond parish borders and boundaries – an inclusive church

We can use our own international network to promote further dialogue and exchange of information/ideas

We can be prepared to speak honestly and openly about the issues that concern us and affect the church

We can encourage the involvement and participation young adults in our Associates groups

Submitted on behalf of the SHCJ Associates by:

Sr Anne Stewart

SHCJ ASSOCIATES' BOOKING FORM

Associate Annual Retreat
The Cherwell Centre, Oxford
2nd – 4th December 2022

This will be a quiet retreat with input from Sister Judith

Cost £130 Full Board

Starting Supper at 7pm – Friday 2nd December
until finishing after lunch on Sunday 4th December

Please return the form with £50 non refundable deposit or
full payment with a cheque payable to **SHCJ Associates** by
1st November 2022 to

Mrs Sophie Rudge,
27 Dee Banks,
Chester CH3 5UU

Email: sophierudge@btinternet.com

Please note numbers are strictly limited,
so early booking is essential to guarantee a residential place.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Dietary Requirements: _____

En Suite Essential Preferred

Please Tick as appropriate

Signed: _____

Christina Leigh Baker RIP

Please continue to pray for Tina who so sadly died on 15.6.2022 and also for her devoted husband Paul and family who are devastated by their loss. Paul gave us permission to print this last, extraordinarily moving letter Tina wrote before she died.

Dear Friends,

I don't like eulogies – they are often too long and contain details that listeners already know, so I decided to write you a letter to say thank you to my many friends.

I was born in Nelson in Lancashire, but at the age of a few months my family moved to Blackpool where I grew up in a loving family with Mum and Dad, Patricia, Paul and Antonia - I was the eldest and probably the bossiest. I attended Layton Hill Convent school run by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ's). A brilliant school where I made lifelong friends who shared the excitement of me falling in the school pond the day of the eleven plus exam; as well as sharing the terror of maths with Miss Turner. School reunions and belonging to the Associates of the SHCJ order have been of great importance to me, and the news network I have contributed to has been a joy.

From Layton Hill I went to Endsleigh Teacher Training College in Hull, where again I made another group of lifelong friends. We shared the ups and downs of student life struggling at times with teaching practice but managing to qualify for what I know is the best profession in the world. We still meet regularly and share news and memories – and I talked a few days ago to my fellow adventurer with whom I explored Morocco and ate rum and raisin ice cream in Venice – pioneering stuff in those heady days of the sixties.

I was fortunate to begin teaching in Sacred Heart Secondary Modern School in Salford where the staff and pupils formed yet another group of friends who I have kept over the years. I taught Biology and was even asked to stock the tiny pond next to the entrance hall – I carefully put goldfish in and they lasted twenty minutes before the Salford seagull's ate them. I wasn't asked to repeat the process. It was in Sacred Heart that I met Paul, my future husband who took me on a first date to see the cup final of the Salford Schools Year Five Football League – what romance! Paul has been my rock always. Sacred Heart became Cathedral High which became All Hallows. With each change came some new colleagues who in time became friends.

After I retired I spent time doing things that I enjoyed – keeping the news network fed with local information, attending reunions and get-togethers with old friends. I loved gardening, especially helping as assistant gardener at St. Chads to the dedicated gardener who I won't



I won't embarrass by naming. I loved spending time walking with my sister Pat and of course Paul and I travelled abroad. I also spent time with my Mum in her final years supported by someone who became one of my closest and most trusted friends.

Finally there is one last group who have been of huge importance to me. I have been blessed to be part of the community of St. Chad's where my requiem will be held. I have made so many friends amongst the congregation that their names would fill many many pages. I want to thank in particular the Oratorian Community; Fr Richard who interrupted his Birthday Party to give me the Sacrament of the Sick after my heart attack, accompanied by Brother Gerard and Dan Hanlon; Brother Fabian whose kindness to Paul through these terrible few weeks has been a great support; Father Chris whose emails have brought me joy and comfort. Finally Fr. Ray - a fellow native of Blackpool or Sandgownian as it is more correctly known. He has inspired and supported me throughout my years both at The Holy Name and then when the Oratorians moved to St. Chad's.

My life has been blessed with so many friends and such strong friendships that I can only say thank you to each and every one of you for your prayers of support, the Masses offered for me and the deluge of cards and emails bearing your love. May God bless each of you.

all my love, your friend, Christina

Andante Report

Sophie Rudge Reports

Mary Munn and I attended the Andante Study Days and General Assembly, which were held in Lizari, Latvia in June this year.

Thirty seven participants from thirteen organisations representing eleven nationalities gathered in the beautiful Latvian countryside in a modern ecologically friendly, cultural centre which was beautifully decorated with many original artworks of the founder Antonio Meneghetti. His vision of creating a centre which drew on the partnership of people and nature created an inspiring venue for our topic, “A vulnerable world calls for creative women”.

The full report of the study days has already been published in the SHCJ European Province news for 12.9.22.

Mary McHugh, a renal physician, was the keynote speaker from the UK and she has promised to come to an associate gathering and speak about medicine and creation, which is a fascinating and important topic.

At the General Assembly we agreed to do everything we could to try and influence the Synod process at the Continental level.

A small working party has been set up and Simone Curau-Aeppli, (SKF, Switzerland) managed to secure a meeting with Father Martin Michalík, secretary to the Council of the Bishops’ Conferences in Europe, CCEE, at St. Gallen on 15th August, where she was joined by Co-Chair of Andante Sabine Slawik. The meeting was very cordial, and Father Michalík briefed them about the Continental phase for the Synod, as well as being briefed about Andante by Sabine and Simone!

In the autumn a synthesis document will be released by the Holy See’s synod office which will be sent to the local churches for further discussion.

There will be a meeting of the CCEE (Council of the Bishops’ Conferences in Europe) in Prague in February 2023 which will be attended by four delegates from each country’s Bishops’ Conference and in addition the CCEE will nominate 50 delegates.



Mary at the Andante General Assembly

It is vital that Andante is represented at Prague so obviously we shall lobby the CCEE to be one of the fifty delegates.

In November Andante will hopefully organise a zoom discussion for all Andante members, which we hope you will be able to participate in, as the SHCJ are part of Andante.

The Andante study days are a wonderful experience, including the two hour Mass on Pentecost Sunday and Mary and I would like to thank the SHCJ for supporting our attendance there.

Sophie Rudge



Mary Munn enjoying the cultural evening at Andante

Noticeboard

Prayers Please

Please continue to pray for Tina who so sadly died on 15.6.2022 and also for her devoted husband Paul and family who are devastated by their loss.

Prayers being collected

We have been collecting prayers for our updated prayer book for SHCJ Associates

We would welcome other prayers including themes such as
175th anniversary of Cornelia Connolly or our response to the
pandemic or climate change.

Contact Betsy Keating
Email: betsygem@gmail.com or
Tel: 01706-212036

Prayer to Obtain the Beatification of Venerable Cornelia Connelly

O God, who chose Cornelia Connelly to found
the Society of the Holy Child Jesus,
inspiring her to follow the path marked out by your divine son,
obedient from the crib to the cross,
let us share her faith,
her obedience and her unconditional trust
in the power of your love.
Grant us the favour we now implore
through her intercession ...
and be pleased to glorify,
even on earth,
your faithful servant,
through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Thanks to all who sent articles and photographs