

Sharing the Journey



A monthly newsletter from the Journeying team

December 2021

Dear Friends

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Sharing the Journey.



Maranatha! ... Come Lord Jesus!



The Birth of Jesus... Light of the world

Anchored in the faith of the Old Testament we learn early on in the New Testament through the words of Simeon in Luke 2: 29-32 and most particularly in verse 32, that the Good News of Jesus Christ is for all people...

Praising God, Simeon lifted the baby Jesus into his arms, saying:

- 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

(Luke 2:29-32. NIV)



A Christmas Truce, December 25th 2014

Dug-in from Switzerland to the North Sea, cold, wet, missing home more than ever, inspired by the Christmas message, soldiers on both sides of the line spontaneously climbed from their trenches and met in *No-Man's-Land* on that first Christmas of the first world war. Carols were sung, football games shared. A unique occasion... A sign of hope amid the awfulness of war.



Advent in the Valley, Saturday 11th December



We gathered on the banks of the river Wye, close to Tintern Abbey. Sue read 'the birth of Jesus is announced' and then together we set out along the Way... Woodland, wet and slippery in places, Devils Pulpit, Offa's Dyke and the peaceful Moravian Chapel at Brockweir, before returning to Tintern in time for coffee and cake... A lovely day with just a hint of rain.



2022 pilgrim-holiday programme



A warm welcome to all, to our Journey programme 2022!

Set in beautiful locations with strong spiritual connections, each pilgrim journey provides a real away from it all experience – a time to refresh, a time to grow...

For details please follow the link: <https://www.journeying.co.uk/journeys-2022>



Pilgrim-holiday, FAQ's

Just for interest, here's a few snippets from the FAQ section of the Journeying website:

Do you have to be a Christian to go on a Journeying holiday?

No. Some guests are seeking to deepen their existing knowledge and experience of God. Others are just curious. We all share in a love of the outdoors and the spiritual experience of walking in beautiful surroundings.

What sort of prayer/worship is used?

Our worship is primarily focused on what the Celts called the 'Big Book of Creation' - or what might be termed 'God out of the box'. For in the wideness and wildness of the natural world God speaks in great and powerful ways. But we also include times of reflective worship at the start and end of each day - and often

while we are out walking or simply just sitting on a beach. Think of communion on the side of a loch or by a hill stream or on a hill with a view all round.

Do guests share meals and meal preparation?

Sharing meals is central to all Journeying holidays. On holidays where we self-cater, we share the meal preparation. Where holidays are fully catered, this is done by the accommodation staff.



Marion and Pippa, sharing the chores –
Journeying in West Wales.



*“I will honour Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year.”*

(Charles Dickens)



St Lucy

St Lucy (Santa Lucia) whose feast day, December 13th is widely celebrated as a festival of light during the short days of winter...

Born in 283 AD in Syracuse, Lucy committed her life to Christ. It is said she took food to those Christians hiding in the catacombs of Rome, wearing a candle lit wreath on her head to light her way, leaving her hands free to carry as much food as she could. St Lucy was martyred in 303.



Journeying by gas light...



This Christmas...

‘Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!’

(2 Corinthians 9:15. NIV)



A look back to the Wildlife Journey of Northern Ireland, July 2021.

As the old year draws to a close here's a look back at just one of the pilgrim-journeys we enjoyed during 2021. A week shared with friends from A Rocha and the Corrymeela Community and captured in these words from pilgrim, Maureen:

"What an all-round memorable experience we shared! The scenery, the people, the observations of the local flora & fauna quite apart from the spiritual aspects and our contact with the special people of Corrymeela and, that superb sea view!! I feel so blessed to have been a part of it all!"



Images:

- * Welcome to Corrymeela, Ballycastle, our base for the week.
- * Sea view and sunset, Corrymeela.
- * Listening to nature.
- * Giant's Causeway.



A Rocha

The worldwide family of A Rocha organisations are committed to nature conservation as an expression of Christian mission. A Rocha's approach is based on five guiding principles: Christian, Conservation, Community, Cooperation, and Cross-Cultural.

Founded in 1983 by Peter and Miranda Harris and initially based in Portugal where Peter and Miranda established a field study centre and bird observatory, A Rocha means "the rock" in Portuguese.



The Corrymeela Community

The community grew out of Ray Davey's, World War II experience. He had joined the YMCA to support the troops, but was captured and sent to a POW camp at Dresden, witnessing the bombing of that city. The bombing affected Ray deeply. While a prisoner, Ray thought about building community amidst conflict.

During the 1960's and the growing sectarian tensions brewing in Northern Ireland, Ray and his students bought a site at Corrymeela, Ballycastle where all people of good will could gather and learn to live as a community. Today the Corrymeela community continues under the banner: *We welcome everyone — because together is better.*



God thinks YOU are amazing!



Saint Seraphim of Sarov, writes...



“Drink water from the spring where horses drink. The horse will never drink bad water. Lay your bed where the cat sleeps. Eat the fruit that has been touched by a worm. Boldly pick the mushroom on which the insects sit. Plant the tree where the mole digs. Build your house where the snake sits to warm itself. Dig your fountain where the birds hide from heat. Go to sleep and wake up at the same time with the birds — you will reap all of the day's golden grains. Eat more green — you will have strong legs and a resistant heart, like the beings of the forest. Swim often and you will feel on earth like the fish in the water. Look at the sky as often as possible and your thoughts will become light and clear. Be quiet a lot, speak little — and silence will come in your heart, and your spirit will be calm and full of peace.”



A Champion of all things Journeying



We reported in the last edition of *Sharing the Journey*, the passing of Mary Jackson, a champion of all things Journeying from its very earliest days. Mary's Funeral and Thanksgiving service took place in her home City of Bath on Thursday 25th November, her One Hundred and Fifth birthday! Richard MacDougal-Smith, represented all of us at the service.

God Bless, Mary.

Photographs:

- * Order of Service.
- * Richard at the service.



* The Lake District 1991. Mary in the centre.



Two favourite carols with similar beginnings

As we draw close to *the* night, two favourite carols with similar beginnings, fill the air...

On Christmas Eve 1818, in the small town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria, Fr. Joseph Mohr brought a poem he had written to Church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for that night's mass, after river flooding had possibly damaged the church organ. The Carol; 'Stille Nacht,' SILENT NIGHT.

With Christmas 1843 approaching and in celebration of the recently renovated church organ at Roquemaure, Southern France, the Parish priest asked poet Placide Cappeau, a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem. Soon afterwards, Adolphe Adam composed the music. The Carol; O HOLY NIGHT.



In the Journeying shop

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High quality polyester-cotton polo shirt in Journeying Sky Blue.

Available in Female and Male cuts in all sizes from extra small to 2XLarge.

WALKING TO AN ISLAND

The story of Pilgrim Adventure (now, Journeying) and a personal account of travels to remote islands and holy places in Britain and Ireland.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF CELTIC BLESSINGS

Uplifting blessings from the Celtic Lands. Discover the old rhythms of life that can still be seen in the Celtic lands of Ireland and Wales.

To place an order, please visit our online shop: <https://www.journeying.co.uk/shop>



Friday Gathering

Each Friday at 10 p.m. (UK time) ... A time to pause and prayerfully hold in our thoughts all those connected with Journeying. We have no particular format and there's no linking over the airwaves. As *always, hope you can be with us.*



Now, it's time to dust the decorations off!

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Christmas,
The *Journeying* Team.

You are welcome to share this Newsletter

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