

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EAST ANGLIA



SPRING 2018

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter
For the Diocese of East Anglia

**COME TO A DAY OF PRAYER
AND RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The theme for the day is

**TRANSFORMED IN
HEART AND MIND**

**“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put
within you” Ezek36:26**

Led by

Gary Stephens

Gary is a full-time Catholic Lay Evangelist with over 25 years experience. He has a Healing Ministry and is an Associate Member of the Prince of Peace Community Liverpool

The day includes

PRAYER AND PRAISE

HOLY MASS

ADORATION

RECONCILIATION

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Date: Saturday, 24th Feb 2018

Time: 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Place: Bowthorpe Church Centre

Bowthorpe Hall Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich, NR5 9AA

Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch
For further information contact Philip on 07910157584

Organised by the Diocesan Service Team for Charismatic Renewal

www.ccr-eastanglia.org.uk

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

How are your New Year resolutions going? Mine is to clear all the washing up each day. Having managed a week, I have reflected on how I have had to change my routines and my priorities of serving. I realise I do not like change if it disturbs my comfort zone.

In preparing a faith journey testimony for my parish Proclaim group one thing became clear – to grow in knowledge and love of the Lord I have had to step way out of my comfort zones in some areas and trust the Lord will uphold me. Agreeing to be chair of the DST was certainly one of those times, but I have found taking on something for which I did not feel naturally inclined or qualified, has led me to walk more closely with the Lord and discover things about Him and about myself that have been very valuable.

I was so blessed by people in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal when they told me about the Holy Spirit. I am grateful to them and would like to do the same for others, helping them to know the unconditional love of God and the wonderful life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit.

You may know that Michelle Moran has recently stepped down from being chair of the National Service Team for Charismatic Renewal, having served for 10 years, culminating in her organising of the 50 years anniversary in Rome last year. Maria Heath has been elected to be our new leader and we recently received a letter from her, reflecting on how we should move forward from our Jubilee with expectant faith. She quotes these words of Pope Francis, spoken on the eve of Pentecost: "...it is the moment to go ahead with greater strength, leaving behind the dust of time and facing the new with trust in the Holy Spirit." One of her suggestions to build a stronger identity within CCR is to have regional gatherings over the next 18 months. I will keep you in touch with developments as we learn more.

A new development we are still praising God for is the way that The Gift, life in the Spirit course, has been run in so many parts of our diocese, with several recent courses arranged for the run up to Christmas. The Gift has helped many discover a new connection with God, and a new enthusiasm

for their faith. You can read about how this has continued to grow in the parish of March, Cambridgeshire, on page 6. Their follow up to the Life in the Spirit course, namely the half day they held in September is now being followed up by a full Day of Renewal on 10th March (see page 8). They discovered it was not so difficult as you might think to put on an afternoon of renewal and are delighted with how it went. If you would like to follow up your running of The Gift with an afternoon of renewal in your parish the DST is happy to help. (see below)

Pope Francis is enthusiastic about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and another initiative he put in place last year was a document called “Iuvenescit Ecclesia” (The Church Rejuvenates) addressed to bishops throughout the world. This supported the need for the charismatic element in the church and set out guidelines how charismatic movements should be integrated with the hierarchical structure. I will quote one phrase: “Both dimensions (the institutional and the charismatic) together concur to make present the mystery and the salvific work of Christ in the world.”

THREE STEPS TO SET UP AN AFTERNOON OF RENEWAL IN YOUR PARISH

- (1) Approach your parish priest to agree a day for your parish (three month’s notice usually) and ask him to say Mass and hear confessions.
- (2) Contact Phil Walters and he will organise a speaker and if necessary a music ministry. (07910157584)
- (3) Advertise the day locally and ask the DST to circulate your advert by letter or email.

Philip Walters

We hope you enjoying reading your copy of the Holy Spirit in East Anglia newsletter. We currently post a copy to everyone on our mailing list, unless we only have your email address as contact information. However if you would like to be removed from our mailing list or would like to change the way you receive the newsletter please contact Rob Smith either by email to robsmith01 at hotmail.com or phone 01603 460764

Editor

The Tears and Tissues Ministry

A Report on the Autumn 2017 Renewal Day

We arrived at the Centre on this warm, sunny October day to find no programs available. Not an oversight by admin – we were told that the day’s programme would be in the hands of the Holy Spirit who would be guiding the Little Way Healing Ministries (LWHM). The Team was headed by Fr Laurence Brassill OSA and Pauline Edwards. The only certainty was that Mass was to be at 12 noon celebrated by Fr Michael Johnstone. For the rest, the Holy Spirit was to be in full control... As the Team prayed for the day these beautiful words were given: “Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I encounter may feel Your presence in my soul.”

This very much foretold the spirit of the day, but there was a lot of comedy, too, as Pauline and Father Lawrence grappled with each other for the microphone as the Lord filled them with inspiring words that they were impatient to impart. At times it became as comical as a Morecambe and Wise show with the repartee that revealed their close working relationship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pauline went on to explain how she and Fr Lawrence came to work together at the insistence of the Prior at Clare, and initially it was not an easy relationship, Pauline having a true Yorkshire ‘telling how it is’ approach. Fr Lawrence very openly shared his own failings of hating confrontation and being quite unconfident - a result of his rather sad childhood. This resulted in struggles loving his fellow brothers in the community and always giving way to others’ opinions – in all, a brave testimony. Pauline pointed out two lessons from this:

Firstly, we must look at ourselves if others have a problem with us. We should not just look in the mirror, others are better able to point out our failings. She quoted Matthew 7:v 1-4; “Do not judge, or you too will be judged....”

Secondly, God loves us passionately – therefore we should have confidence. Not to do so is showing no respect for ourselves as God made us. As Fr Lawrence pointed out, “Jesus has come courting, we are all

spouses of Christ.” How can we not have confidence and not respect ourselves?

Mass at midday was offered for the repose of the soul Frank Hibbert, a longstanding member and Leader of the Diocesan Service Team for many years who died peacefully after a long illness. Fr Michael gave a sermon about ‘looking beneath the surface’ as we should do when reading the Bible. It is so easy simply to read the words without delving for the deeper meaning by imagining the setting, the emotions of those involved in the stories, and the true nature of what the evangelists are reporting. During the afternoon we had a time of prayer and ministry, with confessions available for those who wished to avail themselves of this healing Sacrament. The LWHM team came among the congregation, armed with packets of tissues in case they were needed, for those wanting prayer for individual healing from the Holy Spirit. Afterwards, some who had experienced healing gave a testimony of their experience.

Grateful thanks to the Little Way Healing Ministry team for all their efforts and prayers, and to Marie and Mike for their beautifully inspiring music.

Report on the Half Day of Renewal on Saturday 9th September 2017 in March, Cambs

The event took place at Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter and was God's amazing work. It was called "Transformation and Growth in the Holy Spirit."

We started a shared lunch at midday - it was an opportunity for people to meet and talk. It was important to help people feel warmly welcomed. We were not sure how many would attend. In the end we had the wonderful problem of nearly running out of tables for the number of people who came from all different areas of East Anglia, even as far away as London and Norwich (two hours away!). People were so generous with their time - prayer ministry was offered and members of the Diocesan Service team travelled long distance. There were between 40 and 50 people present.

We began with some praise, then George Stone gave a talk which covered the areas of prayer, scripture, the sacraments and service. He acknowledged that we receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism but asked what were we doing with the gifts? Were we allowing them to remain dormant? We were challenged into thinking what gifts and charisms we were using. George helpfully outlined what the charisms were. The talk was grace filled and more than that, we exercised what was in the talk by doing. George divided us up into pairs and asked us to give each other testimonies asking us to share what Jesus meant to us. From that exercise we could retain what was well expressed and improve on what was not so well expressed. The next time we speak about Jesus to anyone it will be an even deeper sharing! He also helped us to understand how important it is to listen and be open to the words and promptings of the Holy Spirit. The more we listen, the more we walk in alignment with the will of the Lord. He also helped us to discern words of knowledge from the Lord (again we were given an exercise to practise this). One lady from our parish said she finally understood what tongues meant and the sharing was deep and meaningful and uplifting. People asked enthusiastically when the next day would be.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Worship, Confession and then Holy Mass in the afternoon and prayer ministry afterwards. We are blessed to have a priest, Father Paul Maddison, who is all for this Renewal and he was grateful to us for setting it all up. We think it was the fruition of so much we have received from the past.

Comments on the day:

“When will the next one be?”

“I thought it was wonderful, powerful. The best thing I did. People came from London and Nottingham. I did not think there would be many people. In the end I gave up my chair three times. It must have been God.” More than one person said how- during the sharing and the exercises, a powerful and palpable love and presence of God could be felt in the room. One lady said that although there were many people there whom she did not know, it was as though she did know them, such was the loving atmosphere. Our parish priest was moved in that so many wanted to come to confession, the sacrament needed to carry on after mass. He was delighted. There was prayer and unity throughout the day and after the mass. By Anthony and Ann Mashman

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

“LIFE TO THE FULL”

How the power of Easter can help us every day Led by David Payne

Director of CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) film producer, writer and leader of missions around UK

Saturday 10th March 2018

10.30– 4.00pm

Our Lady of Good Counsel & St Peter
St John's Road, March, PE15 8RJ

- *Bring a shared lunch*
- *Tea & Coffee provided*
- *Praise & Worship*
- *Talk by David Payne*
- *Adoration*
- *Reconciliation*
- *Prayer Ministry*
- *Holy Mass*