

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EAST ANGLIA



AUTUMN 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
**KNOWING GOD'S
MERCY AND
DISCERNING HIS
WILL**

Led by

Gemma Wildsmith

Gemma is a trained youth worker with many years experience in youth ministry and young adult formation. She has a passion for evangelisation and discipleship

The day includes
PRAYER AND PRAISE
HOLY MASS
ADORATION
RECONCILIATION
PRAYER MINISTRY

Date: Saturday, 13th Oct 2018

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

**Place: St Mary's Catholic Church
322 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4BD**

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.renewaleastanglia.org

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

As of July 2018, we now have a new website and are beginning to build afresh to serve Renewal in the diocese. For clarity right at the start of the site, we state that Catholic Charismatic Renewal emphasises the availability of the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit for all, and encourages a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

A new website helps us to think again about what we are doing to serve Catholic Charismatic Renewal as the Diocesan Service Team – we certainly want to direct our efforts to this stated goal. As to how we do this – we are encouraged to respond to Pope Francis when he asks the CCR to bring Baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

Promoting The Gift was one way of doing this and we are pleased running this life in the Spirit course has been bearing fruit. A good number of parishes have now run The Gift and many of you have told us of people blessed by the Holy Spirit. Some of these have been printed here or in the Good News magazine. However we know that walking and maturing in the Spirit can be a lonely and difficult road without support.

When we are awakened to the excitement and joy of making Jesus central in our lives and living by the power of his Spirit, we know we need to nurture that desire so that habit and everyday living do not take over.

It has been good to see the formation of prayer groups as follow up to The Gift. Praying with like minded people is a big support to sustain the enthusiasm and commitment we feel at the end of a Life in the Spirit course. I know I have learnt so much about the ways of the Spirit by praying and ministering with others. To make this experience as available as possible we have put a list of the prayer groups we know about on the web site, but if your group is not there and you would like it to be, let us have details and we will put them on. We will also correct details if they no longer apply.

We believe that another way to support those who are new in the Spirit is to accompany them to a Day of Renewal or a Celebrate weekend.

The next Day of Renewal is on October 13th. This time the location is Ipswich, in the south of the diocese. We know it can be a long way to travel up to Norwich so are trying to make these valuable days more available. Our speaker this time, Gemma Wildsmith, spoke for us at Celebrate 2017 and many commented how she sheds light on the pathways to God by her clear explanation and sharing.

If you have any queries or comments about the above you can contact myself (07910157584) or our editor Rob (07426932147) or indeed any of the team you will find on our website www.renewaleastanglia.org.

Philip Walters

PS This new site means we have incurred additional expense on top of the other regular things we are doing, like printing and posting this biannual newsletter. We receive no funds apart from donations, so if anybody has a heart for the work we do and feels they could give us regular support with a small standing order or a one-off donation, we would be most grateful. For more details please contact Phil

We hope you are enjoying reading your copy of the Holy Spirit in East Anglia newsletter. We currently post a copy to everyone on our mailing list and email it to those we only have an email address for. We maintain our mailing list in compliance with recent GDPR changes.

If you would like to be added to or removed from our mailing list or would like to change the way you receive the newsletter please contact Rob Smith by email to robsmith01@hotmail.com. We are also intending to have the newsletter available from our new website.

THE ST IVES PROCLAIMERS

As is usual in most Catholic parishes Advent and Lent are considered as times in the liturgical year when parishioners give more time to their spiritual growth. During these liturgical seasons there has always been an opportunity for adult formation in the Sacred Heart Parish, St Ives with talks by invited speakers or using the Café resources such as “Knowing God even Better”. However when the East Anglian Diocesan New Evangelization team was begun and promoted “The Gift” the Sacred Heart Parish organised their own team who prepared the course for Lent 2016. With the help of prayer group members from St George’s, Norwich and St Laurence’s Cambridge, thirty parishioners were baptised in the Spirit.

I realised that many wanted a deeper experience of studying the Scriptures so we started The Big Picture sessions in 2017, a turning point for many as it involved sharing and opening up to the Spirit in small house groups.

In 2018 the DST encouraged us to study the book Making Intentional Disciples and at the beginning of Lent the book was on sale in our parish at a subsidised rate as the Parish Priest, Fr Karol Porczak MS was keen to have as many parishioners as possible to study the book written by Sherry Weddell. The Plymouth Diocesan Team gave us a model to follow and although it was very disciplined, it worked!

Two chapters of the book are read before the meeting and then each person has 2/3 minutes to give their opinion on their week’s reading. The meetings began with prayer then the group work finished with Compline and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. At times the book caused a lot of controversy but a Proclaim group has grown out of the course.

A Pentecost Vigil Service organised by some of the group was held using the liturgy for the vigil as a basis with times of praise in hymns and tongues in front of the Blessed Sacrament and spontaneous prayer from many who had never prayed like this before. One parishioner said she felt the Holy Spirit had really touched her heart.

On 21st July the Proclaimers started their programme of door to door evangelization in the smallest village of our parish Knapwell, led by Fr Karol. There were six of us who went in twos after a blessing and a prayer for protection and of course there was continuous prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the “proclaimers” during the two hours from when they had left the church until their return. Arriving at the door we said where we had come from and informed the residents that we prayed for them and asked if they wanted prayer or help. Reactions of course were very mixed but we left a card with a picture of the Divine Mercy with the following message ;

You might think that God doesn't love you
because of what you have done.

But GOD does loves you
and you should know how much.

Out of that love
the Son of God, Jesus Christ,
died for us and for you on the Cross
**but HE has risen from the dead
and lives amongst us.**

In His Body and Blood He offers us all
total forgiveness and the fullness of LIFE!

God loves you as you are – NO preferences!

God's love is directed towards each one of you – NO exceptions!

You do not need to pay for God's Love – NO conditions!

We are very glad to have You among us
and share this message with You.

May God's peace descend on you all at this address
and remain in your hearts forever.

Contact details were added to the card and those of us who did the visiting are praying for the people we spoke to. It is hoped to have more groups of proclaimers so we can plan visits every Saturday morning.

Elizabeth Barker
RE Coordinator.

TESTIMONY from SIMON FOX

Simon lives in Ardleigh and is a member of the prayer group there. He has kindly allowed us to include his testimony of his recent encounters with the Holy Spirit

“...up until the beginning of 2017, I was just going through the motions. Looking back though, I think I must have been searching a bit.

Most reluctantly on my part I went along to The Gift course that Clare and Jan were running and which I really struggled with. Obviously I was no match for the Holy Spirit and although at first I was in a state of denial after my baptism I did eventually realise that I was changing and that maybe what people were saying to me about how I was different was perhaps true.

I then went on another Gift course at St Marks in Ipswich and this time I couldn't deny things were happening. Clare cadjollled (she would say invited) me to go to New Dawn and I went in to the tent with Ros Powell. I was surrounded by people singing at the top of their voices and waving their arms about. Most alarming! I went back the next day for the praying over and I was given the gift of tongues.

In the September I went to Medjugorje, again with great deal of reluctance on my part and two very remarkable things happened to me there. By now I was beginning to get the message and so voluntarily signed up for a Spiritual Warfare course with Ros Powell at Pantasaph. Apart from a strong urge to escape when we got there but before the course started, all went well, and I was given the gift of laughter which is just marvellous.

Looking back at how I used to be and how I am now I realise how generous God is if only we have a little faith and ask Him for help. I have this urge to tell others what has happened to me because if I have received all of this then surely they will too.

Simon Fox, Ardleigh

COSTESSEY PRAYER GROUP CELEBRATING its 40th ANNIVERSARY



On 17th July 2018 Costessey Prayer Group celebrated its 40th year anniversary. The group was started in July 1978 by Fr Michael Hood and some Costessey parishioners, several of whom are still active members of the group. The group has met weekly, during term-time, throughout the forty years and is still meeting every Tuesday morning at 10am in the Garden Room at Our Lady and St Walstan's in Costessey.

The celebration meeting was a thanksgiving for what God had done for the group and through the group over the last 40 years plus prayer for all the people who have been members of the group, including many who have passed away. On Wednesday Fr David Ward kindly celebrated the evening mass for the intention of the group and thanked the group for its ministry. This was followed by tea and cake in the Garden Room in which we were joined by some past members of the group and other parishioners.