



# WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS EDITION 2019

## In this edition:

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 Christmas                 | 19 Ryedale Branch closure       |
| 3 From the Chair            | 20 Bl. Maria Gabriella          |
| 5 Rector's Report           | 22 Christmas with St J-H-N      |
| 8 Dowry of Mary Timeline    | 24 Nancy Ayley                  |
| 9 A new face in Walsingham  | 26 A Dowry House Retreat        |
| 11 Greyfriars in Walsingham | 29 How to be Perfect            |
| 15 Departed Members         | 30 <i>The Portal</i> on retreat |
| 17 Spring Meeting booking   | 32 Tamil Pilgrimages            |

...and much more!

(Articles with the initials **dc** at the end have been written by the Editor)

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# CHRISTMAS



A South Creake angel reads from the New English Bible: “There were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord, and the splendour of the Lord shone round them. They were terror-stricken, but the angel said ‘Do not be afraid; I have good news for you; there is great joy coming to the whole people. Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you – the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign; you will find a baby lying wrapped in his swaddling clothes, in a manger, All at once there was with the angel a great

company of the heavenly host, singing the praises of God:  
**Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth  
peace for men on whom his favour rests.”**

The Chair and Executive Committee of the Walsingham Association  
send their best wishes and prayers to all  
readers of the Newsletter for a

**Very Happy and Holy Christmas**



Jenny Thomson, Jason Wickard, Margaret Bleasedale,  
David Chapman, Malcolm Clark, John Parry, Margaret Plumb, Victoria  
Saunders, Wendy Smith and Cyril Wood

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Such a busy time of year for the Walsingham Association. Victoria is our treasure, without her we would be in such a mess. Getting out proxy voting papers for the first time, and, yes, I know some of you were most unhappy with the form. Many useful suggestions have been made,



and will be incorporated in the 2020 form. Then the retreat, it was so good, and enjoyed by all. Spiritually we were transported. Father Michael Rear led us into retreat with St John Henry Newman. Practically much had to be done to enable us to get so much from those days. Thank you, Father Michael.

Then, the AGM weekend, started within hours of the retreat closing.

Mass for departed members was celebrated by Father James-Mary. Saturday was the AGM. Well attended. I reported in writing in the booklet, sent to all attendees and Branch/Group secretaries. In addition, reported 26 groups/Branches; 112 new members in 2019; 1861 members of which 443 are family; 23 Honorary life members; 38 overseas; and 5 complimentary/concessionary. In total, 1346 Individual and 587 in Branches. 1488 records on the membership data base have been archived due to membership cancellation, death, non payment of subs

The meeting agreed that the North Staffordshire motion be implemented. This in practical terms means that Family membership will be increased to £26.00 from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. No change to Individual members. 251 members voted to accept, 44 against and 50 abstained. There were 2 spoiled papers. John Parry (North Staffs Branch), Margaret Bleasdale, and Jason Wickard; as 3 vacancies all were elected to executive committee. Thanks were expressed to Annie Fennell for the 2 years she had been on executive committee. A secret ballot was taken for the position of Vice-Chair. Wendy Smith and Jason Wickard had been proposed. All proxy votes and those taken at the meeting were

counted and double checked, Jason Wickard was elected to the position of Vice-Chair. Saturday evening, our Annual Dinner was held. Members plus guests enjoyed being served a splendid meal. Thank you to all staff. National draw and 100s club numbers were drawn. Since then all cheques have been sent. (There is a list of winning numbers on page 21.)

Sunday morning, Remembrance Sunday. As always the Shrine staff ensured this special day was a day of deep reflection. Thank you to them for allowing us to partake in this day. No sooner than these events had taken place the deadline for this newsletter, has arrived.

**Please note the Spring meeting in 2020 will be held 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April and that our retreat will be held Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, our AGM then Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Booking forms are included in this newsletter, please book early to ensure you are able to get the room you require. Booking is also open for the retreat and AGM, whilst the booking form will be in the next newsletter (during Lent), you MAY phone Victoria and book. The en-suite rooms get booked early, so if you want one, do make that phone call SOON.**

During the year the WA have been pleased to help the Walsingham Trust to complete fittings of the new en-suite bedrooms, and to pay for the cost and installation of an automatic door opener on the door from the garden to the lift. We re-equipped the dining room with new cutlery. We have also completed the £50,000.00 target set 2 years ago towards the new candle house at the Shrine. Plans for this have yet to be passed by North Norfolk district council.

Great news, the Walsingham Trust have agreed, generously, once more to provide 10% off stays in Elmham house and purchases from our shop at The Shrine. They will also provide 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes for our National Draw.

Please remember your renewal of membership, and send (once you have received them) your card and payment, STO or cheque.

[jennypilgrimWA@btinternet.com](mailto:jennypilgrimWA@btinternet.com)

The garden is white with frost, not snow, and birds are feeding. Wishing you and your dearest, peace and joy at this very special time of year.

Jenny

## RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

### Greetings from Walsingham!

The Trustees of the Walsingham Trust met in London last month to finally agree the architect's plans for the re-development of the Slipper Chapel Site. The architect will now present these to the Norfolk Planners by the end of the year. There is no change in the layout for the building around the Slipper Chapel. The Planners advised us that the Pilgrim Hall should be moved from the Car Park to a part of the Picnic field. This works well without taking up too much of the area for picnics. We shall not be building a new Church, but the present Church will be extended, giving additional seating, a new sacristy, shop and exhibition area. A benefactor has offered to finance the fundraising expenses of the project that we shall call "Rebuilding England's Nazareth" This fundraising campaign will begin in 2020.



As we come to the end Of 2019, we approach a most important moment in the spiritual life of our country with the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Sunday after the Annunciation. To prepare for this we have now visited 19 Cathedrals, the most recent being Leeds, our last visit in 2019 is to Arundel and Brighton in late November. In 2020 we shall be visiting Lancaster, Clifton and finally Westminster. It has been a wonderful pilgrimage, the heart of which has been three days of prayer for the Diocese. I am very grateful for the various members of the WA across the country who have supported the visits, both by attending and their assistance. The aim was to promote the message of Our Lady at

Walsingham to "Share my joy at the Annunciation" and to help people

to understand the ancient tradition of England's title as Dowry of Mary, thus increasing the profile of the Shrine.

The period leading up to re-dedication begins on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 when we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. We invite all who wish to take part in St Louis de Montfort's consecration to Our Lady, by using the "33 Days to Morning Glory" which is a modern adaptation by Fr Michael Gaitley MIC. These are being made available through parishes, free of charge, postage only. So have a word with your Parish Priest and ask him to send for them. The period of prayer begins on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and the consecration takes place on the solemnity of the Annunciation 25<sup>th</sup> March. There is then a 3-day triduum of prayer on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March leading to the rededication on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. This may take place at Mass, or at home, and we are inviting schools to make this dedication in school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

***Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary  
A new commitment for a New Evangelisation.***

*The re-dedication is a personal offering of our faith as we take to heart her words "do whatever he tells you".*

*The Angelus Promise is based on the story of the Annunciation, as we seek the intercession of Our Lady to the Son giving us the opportunity to renew our faith, so that we may serve our families, our communities and our country, having taken to heart the words of our Lady at Cana, "Do whatever he tells you" John 2:5*

*R: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary*

*V: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit*

***As God once called Mary, so today he calls me to seek his Word in my life Hail Mary full of Grace...***

*R: Behold the handmaid of the Lord*

*V: Be it done to me according to thy Word*

***Mary's simple yes opened her heart to God's grace and all things become possible. Let my YES, this day take away fear as I embrace God's will, and like Mary, let me treasure and ponder these things in my heart.***

*Hail Mary full of Grace...*

6

*R: And the Word became flesh (Bow or genuflect)*

*V: And dwelt among us*

*Mary's faith filled YES, conceived first in her heart, led to the birth of our Saviour; as I commit myself to my faith filled YES today, I accept my Saviour into my heart bringing his life to my world. Hail Mary full of Grace...*

*R: Pray for us most holy Mother of God*

*V: That we may be made worthy of the promises of God*

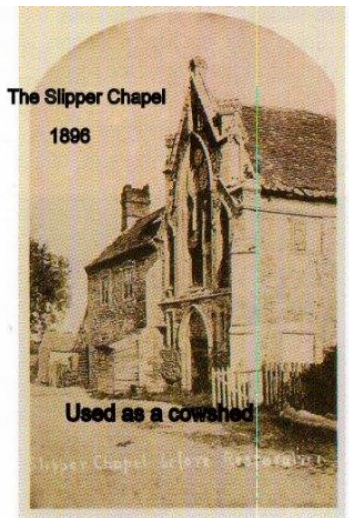
*Let us pray: O Holy Mother of God, pray for us, and assist us as we dedicate ourselves this day. Your yes at the Annunciation brought our Saviour Jesus into the world, and you invite us to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, sharing your joy in announcing that "the Word was made flesh and lived among us." May our yes, this day, open our hearts to serve our sisters and brothers in this your Dowry, that they too may share our joy in the Good News that God walks among us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The first dedication in 1381 was by King Richard II when he sought the prayers and protection of Our Lady of Puy in Westminster Abbey in at time of great political decision and turmoil. In our own time and with the challenges we face as a people, today we to seek Our Lady's intercession for guidance and protection.

Let Our Lady lead us to be generous in our gift of faith and trust in her Son Jesus Christ, as we ponder and treasure the message given to Richeldis in Walsingham to "share my Joy in the Annunciation" that her Son has become our Saviour.

With my blessing and prayers to you all and your families in this Advent season and during the great feast of birth of the child who would become our saviour. A very Happy Christmas!

**Mgr John Armitage**  
**Rector**



*The Slipper Chapel as remembered by*

The Slipper Chapel used as a cowshed.

Perhaps a stable at this time of year?

# THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY - A 2020 Timeline

“A spiritual renewal to help facilitate the New Evangelisation”

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January** On the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, a formal public announcement by the Bishops of England and Wales regarding the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary.

**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February** All Catholics, and anyone else who wants to join in, will be invited to begin a personal 33-day consecration to Jesus through Mary following the method of St Louis de Montfort. This includes an invitation to go to confession. Free books, entitled “33 Days to Morning Glory” will be sent from the Shrine, on request. If you did not get one on the Dowry Tour, e-mail: [shop.walsingham.org.uk/33days-to-morning-glory](mailto:shop.walsingham.org.uk/33days-to-morning-glory)

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March (Feast of the Annunciation)**

All who are following the consecration will consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary on this day.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

A triduum of prayer. All will be invited to recite the Litany of the Saints and Martyrs of England, pray the Rosary and go to confession in preparation for the rededication.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** The **Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary**. This will be done in Walsingham, in Westminster and all Catholic Cathedrals, every parish and in as many homes as possible. Guidelines are in the book “The Angelus Promise”, obtainable from the Shrine.

The **Rededication** will hopefully be the moment when England’s ancient title as the “**Dowry of Mary**” is reclaimed by the Catholics of England. This will herald a renewed understanding of the grace and privilege of the spiritual authority which this ancient title granted England. It will open up to us the many prophecies that promise the Conversion of England. A great evangelical work is before us if we are to witness the conversion of the entire realm! This will be the moment when the final part of the Dedication of King Richard II in 1381 will come to pass. Mary do thou rule in it! *Quare legis Maria!* Mary do thou rule in England!

**“When England goes back to Walsingham,  
Our Lady will come back to England.”**



## A NEW FACE AT THE BASILICA



This is **Fr John Delaney** who has joined Fr James Mary and Fr Gerard Mary, the Greyfriars at the Basilica. He is shown here with the picture/icon of Our Lady of Walsingham which will be touring all the Catholic parishes in the country after the Dowry Tour is completed. Fr John writes: *“I arrived at the shrine on September 25<sup>th</sup> this year. On that day a friend of mine, John Martin, from Middleton, Manchester, came with a large white van to pick me from St Clare’s Church, Blackley, Manchester. Then after loading up with lots of boxes we*

*travelled down south.*

*But you could say that the journey to Walsingham, began many years before, in 1984. I remember finishing my shift in a fast food restaurant and returning home, I stopped in a park, there was a beautiful sunset, but it didn’t make me happy. I had lots of concerns weighing me down. I desired to do something more worthwhile with my life; I wanted a more fulfilling job; I wanted to move out from my parents’ house and find my own place.*

*I sat down on a park bench and I prayed that God would give me a prayer group, just like the one I had attended at University. Amazingly that prayer was answered very quickly. When I went to Mass on Sunday I was surprised to see a small notice in the parish newsletter saying that a prayer group would be starting next Wednesday. I joined the prayer group and attended every week for the next few years. Meeting helped develop my faith in many ways; reading scripture; worshipping God; sharing my experiences with others.*

*Three years after joining the prayer group, I went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. The pilgrimage had a profound effect on my life. I experienced Our Lady in a very real way as the heavenly mother. I found*

*that on my return home I had the gift of praying the Rosary. I also felt that now that my life could be very simple. I learnt that I could entrust myself to Our Lady and hand myself over to her. In praying the Rosary each day I could do this; she would take care of my decisions; if I handed myself over to her. I also felt on that pilgrimage that God was calling me to be a priest.*

*I continued in the prayer group and later joined the Franciscan Friars and was ordained a priest in 2004. I have served in Franciscan Parishes in Oxford, North Wales, Manchester and as a University Chaplain in Preston."*

**Fr John, you are very welcome. Readers –  
do make yourself known to him if you are in Walsingham. dc**

## **AN APOLOGY FROM THE EDITOR**

In the Summer edition (page 28) in the piece about the visit to the Slipper Chapel of the Apostolic Nuncio, H.E. Archbishop Edward Adams, it was stated that this was the first visit of a Nuncio to Walsingham for 20 years. This was incorrect; the text was taken from a report in the East Anglian Catholic Diocesan E-news, who clearly did not know of the work of the Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage Trust.

Fr Mark Woodruff, of the EMPT, has written as follows: *We invited Archbishop Adams to visit with Mgr Brady in March this year to preside at the Principal Catholic Mass at the 2019 Biennial Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage Trust pilgrimage on Wednesday March 20th, after which Mgr Armitage kindly hosted him with Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia of the Orthodox Church and Prebendary Norman Wallwork of the Methodist Church for lunch with the Nuncio. Archbishop Adams then stayed to hear Metropolitan Kallistos' talk, and later in the afternoon Mgr Armitage gave the Nuncio a tour of the Basilica and the Anglican Shrine too, outlining the plans for the new church at the Houghton site as well.*

*We invited the previous Nuncio, Archbishop Sainz Munoz, to preside at the principal Catholic Mass of the 2007 Biennial Pilgrimage, the previous visit of a Nuncio a mere 12 years ago.*

The error was mine – I should have checked the article more carefully, especially as I was present at the 2019 Pilgrimage. Thank you, Fr Mark, for bringing this to my attention. dc

10

## A REQUEST

This is YOUR Newsletter! We would love to have articles, reports, pictures, reminiscences – the sort of thing YOU would like to see here. Send them by whatever means you like – and don't worry about spelling and grammar! dc

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

It may be too late by the time you read this, but in case you have not already bought your Christmas stamps, do make sure you get the beautiful CHRISTIAN stamps produced by the Royal Mail this year. If you have time to contact the Royal Mail and congratulate them, that will be worth doing to ensure that there are Christian stamps available every year. While on the subject, Christian people should send Christian Christmas cards. Finally, you can get stickers reading 'Keep Christ in Christmas' They come in packs of 100, at £2 plus postage from georgemcaleenan@gmail.com Payments by cheque should be made out to **LET THE CHILDREN LIVE!** and sent to George McAleenan at 81 Calder Road, Mossend, Bellshill ML4 2RH. dc



## THE FRANCISCANS AND WALSINGHAM

In part 3 of his article, Fr Gerard Mary considers the present and the future of the Franciscans in Walsingham

**How many friars are now based at Walsingham and what are their mission priorities?**

At this moment in time, there are three Greyfriar priests living in Walsingham: Fr James Mary McInerney, Fr John Delaney and myself. All three of us have been made Shrine Priests, which means that we hear the daily confessions at the Shrine, we celebrate and preach at the daily Shrine Mass, and we are available to talk with pilgrims, to bless religious items and simply to be a presence at the Shrine. As with any other friary

that we might be in, our priority as Conventual Franciscans in Walsingham is to live our consecrated religious life faithfully, devotedly, generously and joyfully. Everything else, our ministry in Walsingham

11

included, will be enriched, made fruitful and made effective if our community and fraternal life is being lived authentically. As Franciscans, we hope that our presence in the village will help to further build up and strengthen the Body of Christ in Walsingham.

**I believe that part of your Franciscan charism is the promotion of ecumenical dialogue. How will that work?**

Walsingham, today, is a remarkable place. It carries with it both the hopes and the joys of the Christian faithful who, once again, can freely come here on pilgrimage, to worship God, and to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary – our Heavenly Queen. However, Walsingham is also a place which has been profoundly marked by the scars of the dreadful violence and near-total destruction that was meted out in the days of the Reformation. The soil of Walsingham has, quite literally, been moistened by the blood of martyrs – those who refused to deny their Catholic Faith. Also to be considered today, are the many people who live in Walsingham who are not here for religious reasons, and who may not even share the Christian Faith. Where, as Franciscans, do we go from here?



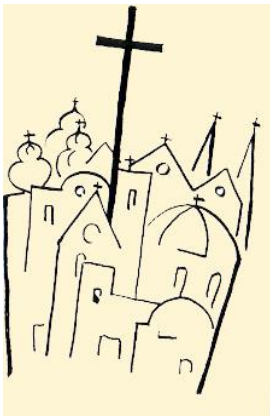
Nicholas Mileham

The first thing to note is that St Francis of Assisi was man defined by his deep love of, and fidelity to, Roman Catholicism. St Francis died in 1226, and ‘The Divine Office of Saint Francis’, (composed by Julian Speyer and others c.1228-1232 AD) has this as the opening line: ‘*Francis, the valiant Catholic, and perfectly apostolic, did instruct us to adhere to the faith of the Roman Church*’. Anyone familiar with Francis’ own writings will know they reverberate with faithfulness to the teachings of the Catholic Church and that they exhort others to treasure, honour and proclaim the Catholic Faith. As followers of St Francis, we too must be joyful heralds of Christ, and we must seek to share with all we meet the treasures of the Catholic Faith, believing, as we do, that Christ has

entrusted to the Catholic Church, 'the fullness of grace and truth' (Catholic Catechism, §819). However, there are many ways in which this can be done, and St Francis has left us a beautiful example of how

12

to be both fully alive and engaged as a Catholic Christians, and yet able to reach out, in love and truth, and with all humility, to anyone we might encounter.



*The walls of separation  
do not reach  
as high as heaven*

The movement toward Christian unity is called 'ecumenical' and authentic ecumenical dialogue is founded on the truth that, through baptism, all Christians are incorporated into Christ and become members of His Mystical Body. As adopted children of God, all Christians enjoy an essential kindredship; while divisions between Christ's faithful means that this remains an imperfect relationship, it is still one which is very

real. The restoration of unity among all Christians was a key principle of the Second Vatican Council. This is because division among Christians openly contradicts the will of Christ, it scandalises the world, and it damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature. *Unitatis Redintegratio* (the Second Vatican Council's decree on Ecumenism) stated that work towards restoring Christian unity is 'a grace and...[a] divine call', meaning that it is a source of holy joy of the Church. Faithful and honest ecumenical initiatives, therefore, are not only desirable among Christians but are necessary, and are, in fact, the responsibility of all the members of Christ's faithful.

In his Encyclical 'On commitment to Ecumenism' (*Ut unum sint*, 1995) the now Pope St John Paul II highlighted that, by working together and undertaking visible acts of ecumenism, the unity of Christ's faithful can be powerfully manifested. This is exactly the type of ecumenical efforts that all those associated with the Catholic Shrine and local Catholic parish in Walsingham, as well as the members of the other Churches and ecclesial communities who live in Walsingham, hope to engage in . While we do not pretend that differences do not exist between what we, as Catholics believe and teach, and what other Christians might

profess, we do not allow these differences to prevent us, where at all possible, from working together to show to the world the love and the

truth, the majesty and the beauty of the Christian Faith, and the power of the intercession of the angels and saints, most especially, Mary, the Beloved Mother of God and of her chaste spouse, St Joseph.

As Franciscans, we hope to be part of the great efforts that have already been made over the years, to encourage all Christians who live in Walsingham, or who visit here as pilgrims, to share in spiritual activities and resources in a manner and to a degree appropriate to their present divided state. While we recognise the serious difficulties which prevent full ecclesial communion, we must never forget that all who have been baptised are now incorporated into Christ, and therefore share in many elements of the Christian life.

As followers of St Francis, we affirm that the Catholic Faith teaches that the Catholic Church has been endowed with the whole of revealed truth and all the means of salvation as a gift which cannot be lost. However, we eagerly hope to be part of efforts which also help to recognise that, among the elements and gifts which belong to the Catholic Church (e.g. the written Word of God, the life of grace, faith, hope and charity etc.), many can exist outside its visible limits. The Churches and ecclesial Communities not in full communion with the Catholic Church have, by no means, therefore, been deprived of significance and value in the mystery of salvation, for the Spirit of Christ has not refrained from using them as means of salvation.

We hope that the Franciscan presence in the Shrine and in the village will help to continue to encourage Catholics, where appropriate, and in accordance with the Church's norms, to join in prayer with Christians of other Churches and ecclesial Communities. This is because such prayers in common are a very effective means of petitioning for the grace of unity, and are a genuine expression of the ties which still bind Catholics to these other Christians. In so many ways, the Franciscans are wonderfully placed to help foster the understanding that shared prayer among Christians is, in itself, a way to spiritual reconciliation. Such prayer should be particularly concerned with the restoration of Christian

unity (i.e. prayer centred on the mystery of the Church and its unity and on baptism as a sacramental bond of unity).

14

The reality and vitality of these ecumenical efforts in Walsingham is a cause of great hope for the future. When such efforts are engaged with, alongside a reverence for the ancient Faith, truly wonderful things are possible. As Franciscan friars, it is our dearest hope that Walsingham will be the place which restores to England her earlier fervour, and to full unity with the Church of Rome. This can only be achieved through the grace of God. However, this grace can be won bountifully through the intercession of the angels and saints in Heaven, through all Christians walking forward together in Faith, Hope and Charity, and by having a place in England whereby all can gather and pray together for the restoration of unity in the Body of Christ. This is why I believe that the Shrine at Walsingham is as relevant today as it has ever been.

## RECENTLY DEPARTED MEMBERS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following members, whose deaths have been notified since the last Newsletter.

If we have missed anyone, please advise us.

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Dr Louis Ashdown-Hill | Mrs Kath Jackson   |
| Miss Nancy Ayley      | Grace Jeganayagam  |
| Mrs W Bradford        | Hilda Lopachinski  |
| Mr C Cassidy          | Margaret Mcauley   |
| Mr Walter Francis     | Mrs Peggy Meraitt  |
| Mrs B Gaze            | Mr Colin B Nutkins |
| Mr M Hastie           | Mrs Ruth Pirio     |
| Mrs Margaret Hewetson | Mary Shemilt       |
| Miss Mary Howell      |                    |

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,  
and may perpetual light shine upon them.  
From the gates of hell deliver their souls, O Lord.

May they rest in peace.

15

## SANCTA VITA SCHOOL

*Doctrina Veritas - Crescente Apud Virtus*

Learning Truth - Growing in Virtue



The Association has received details from Dr Charles O'Donnell concerning a project to establish a new type of small Catholic Secondary School in London and under the patronage of **Our Lady of Walsingham.**

While we do not carry advertisements in the Newsletter, this seemed such a worthwhile project that I am happy to bring it to your attention. The intention is to establish a top quality, financially self-sufficient Secondary School in the Westminster/Brentwood diocesan area, accessible to children eligible for mainstream education, irrespective of family income, acting as a catalyst for change, with a Catholic ethos and praxis.

The challenges of education today mean that families, parishes and schools must find new ways to help each young person to become what God has called them to be - a Saint!

There is a comprehensive website (the website is comprehensive, not the school!) at [sanctavitaschool.org.uk](http://sanctavitaschool.org.uk) and I think you will find it interesting. If you would like to discuss the project in greater detail you can call the Lead Co-ordinator, Dr Charlie O'Donnell on 07903 222 197 and if you are interested but without internet access let me know and I will get details to you.



You may even be in a position to offer help, but in any case please commend the project in your prayers to the unfailing intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham. dc

16



## WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING 2020

24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### BOOKING FORM

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPRING MEETING PRICES

**£120.00 Standard Room; £146.25 En-suite Room**

Price includes evening meal on Friday; B&B, coffee or tea and light lunch on Saturday; Pre-dinner glass of wine; Three-course meal on Saturday evening with glass of wine; B&B and roast lunch on Sunday. (A packed lunch may be ordered from the kitchen in lieu of roast lunch.)

**Please send a £20 non-refundable deposit for each booking. Make cheques payable to the Walsingham Association.**

Please return the form by **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020** at the latest to  
Walsingham Association, Pilgrim Bureau,  
Friday Market Place, Walsingham NR22 6EG

**WHY NOT SEND YOUR BOOKING WITH YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND SAVE THE POSTAGE?**

17

**WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION  
HUNDREDS CLUB**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL 2020**

I wish to **apply for membership** or **renew my membership** (please delete)  
of the **Walsingham Association Hundreds Club**.

|   |
|---|
| TITLE:                                  |
| NAME:                                   |
| ADDRESS:                                |
|   |
| POST CODE:                              |
| E-MAIL ADDRESS:                         |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):                    |
| 100s CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: (If known) |

- Payment may be by Standing Order, Cheque or Postal Order (PO Fee £1.50 on £12, cheques cost the WA 55p to clear.)
- The annual fee for a single number is £12, but you may hold as many numbers as you wish. (For more than one number, simply multiply the amounts by the number of holdings you want. Amend the Standing Order form as required.)
- The Membership Year runs annually from 1st December to the following November.
- Your details are confidential to the WA and will not be shared.

**PAYMENT BY STANDING ORDER:**

|   |
|---|
| YOUR BANK NAME:                                 |
| BANK ADDRESS:                                   |
|   |
| BANK SORT CODE:                                 |
| YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER:                            |
| (Office to complete) QUOTING MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: |

Please pay the sum of £12.00 (twelve pounds) to the Walsingham Association Hundreds Club at Barclays Bank, Fakenham, Account No 10134007 Sort Code 20-30-81 **now**, and then **annually** on December 1st until further notice and debit my account.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to the Pilgrim Bureau, NOT to your bank.**

**PAYMENT BY CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER:**

Cheques or postal orders should be made out to “Walsingham Association Hundreds Club”, be accompanied by this form and sent or handed in to the address below.  
Walsingham Association, Pilgrim Bureau, Friday Market Place, Walsingham, NR22 6EG  
Tel: 01328 800953 Email: [wa@walsingham.org.uk](mailto:wa@walsingham.org.uk)

18

## RYEDALE WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION, CLOSING REPORT

This note serves to summarise the fifteen years that the Ryedale Walsingham Association thrived and grew. Our members and officers from the national Walsingham Association worked together to support the Shrine, to honour Our Blessed Lady, and to encourage the faith.

The Ryedale Walsingham Association was founded in January 2004 by Fr Bill East and Barbara Knight. Working together, they established a group drawn primarily from St Joseph’s, Pickering, but reaching out to Our Lady & St Chad, Kirkbymoorside, St Mary, Helmsley, and beyond. Pilgrims regularly joined us from St Leonard & St Mary, Malton.

The work Barbara Knight did to encourage new members cannot be overestimated. One member at least signed up because she was promised ‘a direct line to Our Lady’. The membership list reached 30 in some years. In 2018, 21 members were listed. We know that many have signed up as individual members of the Walsingham Association now that the branch has closed.

A full programme of events kept us in touch with each other and with the national association each year. We met after Candlemas Mass in February and had a meeting in March to finalise pilgrimage plans. The weekend of the May Day Bank Holiday, and our three



*Barbara leads a Ryedale pilgrimage*

day pilgrimage to Walsingham was the highlight of every year. We had a mini-pilgrimage in the summer, which once took us to St Peter & St Paul’s in Pickering, and twice as far as the shrine of Our Lady of

Doncaster, at St Peter-in-Chains in that town. Each autumn we paid a visit to Our Lady and St Chad, Kirkbymoorside, for Mass, a lovely lunch and a Bring & Buy stall. There was always a further meeting in December.

19

Fr Bill, as our Spiritual Director, spoke at a number of meetings and at other times we had a Bible quiz and once, a talk on candle making. In the last few years, with many developments at the Shrine and Barbara holding national office, our meetings included a very full update on developments at the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham.

This short history tells only a small part of the story of the Ryedale Walsingham Association. Far more important are the many prayers we said together, the Masses we shared, the shared meals and of course, the excitement and wonder of travelling together and arriving at the tiny village where Our Lady herself once appeared.

Our devotion to Our Lady and love for Walsingham will last a lifetime and beyond. Alas, our branch of the Walsingham Association struggled in the last year, with members moving, ageing, dying. But for all of us, fifteen years is no inconsiderable portion of our lives, and the joy we have had together under the banner of the Ryedale Walsingham Association will never diminish. Our thanks to all.

*Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.*

Betty East, Secretary to RWA until May 2018

15 July 2019

## **BLESSED MARIA GABRIELLA SAGHEDDU**

She was born in Sardinia in 1914 and at the age of 20 she entered the Trappist monastery of Grottaferrata. In 1938 she offered her life for the union of the Christian Churches and died of tuberculosis in 1939. The gospel passage for that day was John 10:14-17 ending 'so there will one flock, one shepherd'. She was beatified by John Paul II on January 25, 1983 at the end of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity and declared "Patron of Ecumenism". Her abbess, Mother Maria Pia Gullini had a keen ecumenical awareness. She communicated with Fr Paul Couturier who encouraged her to pray for unity. Fr Paul was a visitor to the Anglican Benedictines at Nashdom in Buckinghamshire who worked for union with Holy See. Monks from Nashdom visited the sisters on a

regular basis and were also present at the Beatification in 1983. Mother Pia encouraged Gabriella in her prayers for unity.

20

In the 1950s the order had outgrown Grottaferrata and acquired land in Vitorchiano to which they moved in 1957. The burial plots were exhumed and it was found that the remains of Gabriella had not deteriorated. Her remains were transferred to a beautiful chapel which was created.



Today the order has 70 sisters with an average age of 50. Over the years they have founded many other sites and ten sisters are about to leave to establish a new foundation in Portugal. They explained that they would have little difficulty in “recruiting” new sisters. The order is very traditional. They rise at 3am and throughout the day to sing the offices and mass. Perhaps this and the prayers of Gabriella are the reason numbers are forthcoming.

Peter Dixon, a former member of the W.A. Executive, had been a novice at Nashdom as well as a Guardian of the Anglican Shrine in Walsingham. He decided before his death in 2018 that his statue of Our Lady of Walsingham should be given to the sisters in Vitorchiano. In November his widow, Sylvia, and I took the statue to Italy and presented this to Mother Rosaria and sisters Gabriella and Kathy. The statue sits in the Scriptorium where the *lectio* is recited. We also took Fr Rear’s book, *Pilgrims and Pilgrimages* and various other booklets from Walsingham.

**May the sisters continue to pray for the reunion of Christians aided by the prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham.**

You can read more about the sisters at  
<https://www.ocso.org/monastery/vitorchiano/>  
and maybe this would encourage you to make

a visit, where you will be warmly welcomed

Cyril Wood

21

## WINNERS!

We are not allowed to publish names but these were the winning numbers.

| NATIONAL DRAW                     |       | 100s CLUB              |     |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> : 3 nights + £100 | 04617 | 1 <sup>st</sup> : £800 | 600 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2 nights + £100 | 11976 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> : £256 | 810 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> : £100            | 14757 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> : £50  | 864 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> : £50             | 01294 | 4 <sup>th</sup> : £25  | 679 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> : £25             | 27900 | 5 <sup>th</sup> : £25  | 569 |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> : £25             | 36209 | 6 <sup>th</sup> : £25  | 832 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> : £25             | 32634 | 7 <sup>th</sup> : £25  | 859 |

## ABBEY GROUNDS ENTRANCE

Tickets to give free access to the Abbey grounds – the site of the original Holy House and the great monastic church built next to it - are available to pilgrims on application to the Bureau in Friday Market. You are urged to make use of this concession. dc

## CHRISTMAS WITH ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

### Lowliness



Why should the heavenly hosts appear to these shepherds? What was it in them which attracted the attention of the Angels and the Lord of Angels? Were these shepherds learned, distinguished, or powerful? Were they especially known for piety and gifts? ... there is no reason to suppose that they were better than the common run of men in their circumstances, simple, and fearing God, but without any great advances in piety, or any very formed habits of religion. Why then were they chosen? for their poverty's sake and obscurity. Almighty God looks with a sort of especial love, or (as we may term it) affection, upon the lowly ... The shepherds, then, were chosen on account of their

lowliness, to be the first to hear of the Lord's nativity, a secret which none of the princes of this world knew ... To men so circumstanced the Angel appeared, to open their minds, and to teach them not to be

22



downcast and in bondage because they were low in the world. He appeared as if to show them that God had chosen the poor in this world to be heirs of His kingdom, and so to do honour to their lot. **“Fear not,”** he said, **“for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”**

## Christmas Joy

The Angel honoured a humble lot by his very appearing to the shepherds; next he taught it to be joyful by his message ... “Fear not,” said the Angel, “for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” ... Such were the words which the blessed Spirits who minister to Christ and His Saints, spoke on that gracious night to the shepherds, to rouse them out of their cold and famished mood into great joy; to teach them that they were objects of God's love as much as the greatest of men on earth; nay more so, for to them first He had imparted the news of what that night was happening ... It is a day of joy: it is good to be joyful—it is wrong to be otherwise ... Let us seek the grace of a cheerful heart, an even temper, sweetness, gentleness, and brightness of mind, as walking in His light, and by His grace. Let us pray Him to give us the spirit of ever-abundant, ever-springing love, which overpowers and sweeps away the vexations of life by its own richness and strength, and which above all things unites us to

Him who is the fountain and the centre of all mercy, lovingkindness, and joy.

23

## NANCY MARGARET BANNER\* AYLEY



*Died on the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

In the last edition, I apologised for prematurely announcing Nancy Ayley's death and said that I had visited her. Well, now I have to announce, correctly this time, that she has died at the age of 98. It was a privilege and a joy to be able to attend her lovely Requiem Mass in the church of St Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford – the church she had attended for much of her long life.

Her nephew and niece gave a splendid eulogy before Mass began. I wish I could include it all here, but in reviewing almost a century of a life lived to the full, it is far too long. I do wish I had known her in her active years, as undoubtedly some of you reading this will have done. Although she never married, she was greatly loved by other relatives of several generations and by many friends.

She was born in Bishop's Stortford in 1921 and attended St Mary's Convent school near to the church. It was run by the Sisters of St Mary of Namur. She quickly became very active in the church, including occasional church organist and 'unofficial chauffeur' to the Order! She trained as a teacher and taught at the Redemptorists' Abbey School in Erdington, returning to Bishop's Stortford in 1966 to care for her father when she took up a post at St Elizabeth's School and Home in Much Hadham. (St Elizabeth's cares for children and adults with epilepsy and complex needs.) She retired three times from her post at St Elizabeth's, finally at age 70!

The Scouting/Guiding movement was another great interest. From



founding a Guide pack in 1942 through pioneering work in Scouting for those with disabilities to becoming Assistant District Commissioner – and continuing active participation in camping well into her 70s!

24

**Nancy's faith was very important to her. She was a Catechist for many years and her devotion to Our Lady continued in her involvement in the Walsingham Association. She organised many parish pilgrimages to Walsingham and after retiring she did volunteer work at the Shrine on a regular basis. For her work for the church, Nancy received the *Bene Merenti* medal, of which she was very proud.**

Anne Milton contributed this: *Thirty years ago and for quite a few years onwards she would come to Walsingham for the weekend with her friend Vi (a mouse compared to Nancy). They would stay at Barry & Dot Yarham's. They manned the WA Hut.*

*She snored, so for Retreats etc. I always put her at the end of a corridor, with if possible an empty room next door. If that was not possible, poor Vi would be next door!*

In later life, Nancy suffered a stroke at age 74 and moved in 2003 to Maryland Care Home next door to the Sisters of Mercy Convent in St Albans. She still enjoyed the open air and would wheel herself out even when the air was very fresh! She outlasted this care home, and also the next one, in Chelsea! Finally, she was cared for at a home in Chingford, which was where I met her. Nancy also continued to travel on pilgrimages to **Banneux** and to Lourdes each summer, making new friends. She last flew to Lourdes at the age of 92.

The remarkable thing about Nancy was that, as well as having lots of energy, she did not moan, kept smiling had a great sense of humour. In later life she was very serene, sitting quietly reading her prayer book or newspaper, and still always smiling.

***Nancy – well done, thou good and faithful servant.  
May you rest in peace and rise in glory.***

\*In case you wondered – as I did - Banner was Nancy's mother's maiden name. Nancy's mother was very proud of her surname and very attached to her family.

***If anyone would like a copy of the full Eulogy, of which this is a summary, or some memoirs of her life which she wrote in 2009, write to me or e-mail me at the Shrine***

## THE DOOR OF ENTRY TO GOD'S DWELLING PLACE IS PRAYER

A Weekend Retreat at the Dowry House, Walsingham

On September 27th I attended a Dowry House weekend retreat led by Fr Matthew Blake ocd. Entitled; "The Door of Entry to God's Dwelling Place is Prayer ", it was based on the book "The Interior Castle" by 16th century Spanish mystic, St Teresa of Avila.



Fr Matt gave five talks. Written at the request of her spiritual director and of the Canon of Toledo, the book compensated

for the loss of Teresa's life story, which had been retained by the Spanish Inquisition. She was 62, and had suffered physical and psychological (but not spiritual) breakdown. She offers neither prayer techniques, nor theories, but sets out her personal experiences. Prayer interested her from an early age, but she found it difficult throughout life.

The prayer journey to the ultimate, seventh room does not make us inward looking; rather Christ shines out drawing us to him. Teresa judges progress in prayer not by spiritual comforts received, but by how someone changes and relates to others. In the first "room," prayer leads to self knowledge. For Teresa, claiming that one cannot pray shows lack of humility and of neighbourly love. Change begins in the second room, leading to the third where we meet a crisis equal to that of the rich young man who seeks eternal life. The fourth, halfway, room brings the spiritual beginnings of love without self interest. The fifth room is

where Teresa believes true Christianity begins. Whereas in the third room we met Christ on *our* terms, here we meet him on *his* terms,

26

saying "Yes," to love of neighbour. The sixth room is one of great joy, but also of pain. God seems to be absent: that "dark night of the soul" experienced by St John of the Cross, St Thérèse of Lisieux and St Teresa of Calcutta. Nevertheless, this leads to Teresa's seventh room, where there is a profound sense of the Trinity.

Although a disalced Carmelite, Teresa led an active life and insists that prayer must fit with one's situation and responsibilities: done amidst the "pots and pans". She sees the greatest act of charity as teaching someone to pray.

During the weekend, we attended the daily offices and meditations of the community in their peaceful chapel. Daily Mass was at mid-day. After two days of rest and spiritual rejuvenation, I left for home, remembering Teresa's words, "*Sola Dios basta*": "God alone suffices".



*Francesca Flynn - Sheffield W.A.*



*The ancient seal of the Walsingham Priory, on which the modern statues of Our Lady of Walsingham are based.*

## RIGHT JUDGEMENT AND LOVE

*Be humble towards God and gentle with your neighbour. Judge and accuse no one but yourself, and ever excuse others. Speak of God always to praise and glorify him, speak of your neighbour only with respect – do not speak of yourself at all, either well or ill.*

*Avoid over-eagerness and strive to model your interior and exterior upon the humble sweetness of the loving Heart of Jesus, doing each of your actions with the same tranquility as if you had but that alone to do. He wishes you to conform your heart to the virtues of his own...*



*Consider often that it is only the humble of heart that can enter into the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, converse with him, love him and be loved by him. Conform yourself as closely as possible to his humility and gentleness in dealing with your neighbour... Love those who humble and contradict you, for they are more useful to your perfection than those who flatter you.*

*St Margaret Mary Alacoque*

## WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION CLOTHING

A large range of good quality garments, all with the Walsingham Association logo, is available by post at very reasonable prices.

**T-SHIRTS £9.50**

**BASEBALL CAPS £7.50**

**V-NECK SWEATERS £23.50**

**FLEECE JACKETS £26.00**

**POLO SHIRTS £13.50**

**SWEATSHIRTS £16.50**

**HOODED JACKETS £16.50**

**Postage & packing included.**

Most items are available in a variety of sizes and colours, and some can be personalised with your name. It's not possible to give all details here, but a detailed and clear order form is available. To place an order or to request an order form please contact

**Peter Martin, 1, Lilac Wood, King's Lynn, PE30 3SW.**

**Telephone 01553 675 784 or 07737 196 440.**

## HOW TO BE PERFECT

If you ask me what you are to do in order to be perfect,  
I say,  
Do not lie in bed beyond the due time of rising;  
give your first thoughts to God;  
make a good visit to the Blessed Sacrament;  
say the Angelus devoutly;  
eat and drink to God's glory;  
say the Rosary well;  
be recollected; keep out bad thoughts;  
make your evening meditation well;  
examine yourself daily;  
go to bed in good time,  
and you are already perfect.



St John Henry Newman

## WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!

The Chair and Executive members are always keen to publicise the Walsingham Association. We know from experience that if we have the chance to visit a parish or a group and talk about Walsingham and the Association it always brings more pilgrims and more members. So many people in this country know more about Lourdes or Fatima than about their own National Shrine. Could you invite someone to your parish? Could you or your Parish Priest arrange a 'Marian Day' with a speaker from the Association? Don't leave it for someone else to do! Now that we have more individual members than group or branch members, you may be the only person in the parish who is a member. Don't let that stop you. We would love to hear from you and discuss possibilities. dc

## AUDIT

As mentioned in past newsletters, the Shrine has undergone substantive changes requested by the Bishops. The most recent change was in November 2018 when the Walsingham Trust was incorporated as a limited company (by guarantee) with charitable objectives. As we work so closely with the Shrine we are bound to be automatically affected by what the Shrine does. Your Executive have been considering this development and how best to respond. As a first step we have concluded that we need to be sure that "our house" is in order. Therefore we will be putting in place an external audit of how we do things particularly our funding, financial arrangements and communications. It may be that the audit will raise other issues but it is not our intention, at this point, to expand the audit. We will of course report/inform you about the results and any consequent recommendations.

## A RAINY WEEK IN NORFOLK!

*The Annual Retreat gets **THE PORTAL** treatment from **Ronald Crane**, Editor of the on-line magazine of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham,*

As a convert to the Catholic Church, and an Ordinariate member, one is shocked that so many Catholics in the UK have never been to Walsingham. Shocked, because one's Catholic Faith formed in the CofE was fanned into a blazing flame at Walsingham, and by Walsingham. Our Lady of Walsingham and our Catholic Faith go hand in hand.



A friend, none other than our Proof Reader, David Chapman, introduced me to the Walsingham Association. I read that the Association had an annual Retreat in the Norfolk village. I thought, "Why not?" and promptly booked up. Father Michael Rear was giving the Retreat, and he took as his theme, St John Henry Newman. Expertly, he took us through Newman's life in a number of addresses which held us all in thrall. Daily Mass and Office completed the programme, and we all stayed at Elmham House. It was, in every sense of the words, "a splendid, holy, inspirational, and challenging" time. **Do be sure to attend the Retreat next year!**

Those present this year came from all walks of life. Fr David Craig converted to Catholicism almost 45 years ago, in 1975. He lives in Stoke and joined the

30

Walsingham Association when he joined the Catholic Church. He told me, "I joined because I'd always gone to Walsingham as an Anglican and I wanted to continue to be associated with Walsingham."

The Chair of the Walsingham Association is Jenny Thomson. She told me an amazing story. "I first came to see Our Lady of Walsingham in 1958. My grandmother decided my twin and I were very lazy and not likely to pass any exams. She knew just the person who would help us. So Our Lady of Walsingham became part of my life and I've been here every year but one since, usually several times a year." She is a Cradle Catholic, and over the years has seen Walsingham develop. She is especially pleased that Fr John Armitage has restored the Franciscan Friars to Walsingham. I asked about the Walsingham Association. She said, "To be a member you have to have a love for Our Lady. Whichever church you go into here, Our Lady is there. Our Lady put her hands out to me and brings me here time after time. We have a lot of members who can't manage to travel from further away, so we have to ensure that they still feel valued; that's why we have the newsletter. We're here to support pilgrims, and to bring pilgrims here, and to support them while they are here. But under everything, is the love of Our Lady: it is the common denominator and that's how it is, and that's how it should remain."

David Chapman has been a member of the Walsingham Association since he became a Roman Catholic, which is exactly 25 years this year. He said, "The Walsingham Association is sort of a supporters club. It has several functions, and one is fundraising. We've just raised £50,000 over two years towards the building of a new place for burning candles at the basilica site. Where we can do things for the benefit of pilgrims, we do. Then another side of this is that we keep people all over the world in contact with Walsingham. One of my functions within the Association is to produce the newsletter which I do three times a year. One of the principal objects of that is to make people who can't get here feel they are part of it and prayed for, and remembered at Walsingham. This is an association of praying people." David mused about the shrine. "Walsingham has suffered greatly because of the lack of continuity. Most other shrines have historical continuity, but Walsingham was virtually destroyed. A thin stream of pilgrims did keep coming, but Walsingham was destroyed and had to be rebuilt. Of course for English people there isn't the excitement in going to rural North Norfolk, rather than to France or Spain, and getting to Walsingham without a car is not easy or cheap. Our split site is a major problem. Sadly, for years many Catholic pilgrimages never got further than the basilica site and the Slipper Chapel. That is now changing, and needs to change more." Despite all the problems, David is still as enthusiastic about

Our Lady of Walsingham as when I first met him over forty years ago.

**She is our patron. We value her intercession,  
so let us also promote her shrine, England's Nazareth.**

31

## THE TAMIL PILGIRMAGES



I wonder how many Walsingham Association members have ever been in Walsingham when one of the great Tamil pilgrimages is taking place. I suspect that, unless you like large crowds of people and very congested roads, you might have

avoided the Tamil 1 & 2 pilgrimages in May and July. These bring many thousands of pilgrims from all over the country, and further afield, to worship at the Shrine, often queueing for an hour or more for a few minutes in the Slipper Chapel. Mainly Catholic, but with many Hindus – who also revere Our Lady – the exuberant devotions of the pilgrimage are very different from the rather restrained celebrations we are used to!

It would be wonderful if the Association had some contacts with the Tamil pilgrims, if some of them would become members and could give us an insight into a different way of honouring Our Lady and celebrating their great love for her in the 'Holy Land of Walsingham'. dc

### I offered a prayer to God.

I asked for strength; God gave me difficulties to make me strong.  
I asked for wisdom; God gave me problems to solve.  
I asked for prosperity; God gave me brawn and brain to work.  
I asked for courage; God gave me dangers to overcome.  
I asked for patience; God placed me where I was forced to wait.  
I asked for love; God gave me troubled people to help.



**I asked for favours; God gave me opportunities.**

**I received nothing I wanted; I received everything I needed.**

**From a homily given by Fr Paul Harris SDS in St Mary's Birchley, Liverpool**