



# COMMUNITY OF THE RESURRECTION IMPACT REPORT **2025/2026**

We live together as brothers in Christ, rooted in the Anglican tradition and formed in the monastic round of prayer, worship and ministry. We welcome others to come, see, learn and share.

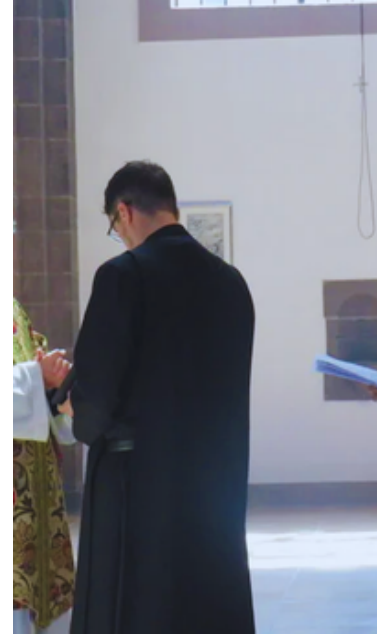
# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

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As summer draws to a close and autumn is just around the corner, our new financial year is also just beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

We'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to thank each and every one of our donors for your support in this past year. Every donation, no matter how small, is received with humble gratitude, and it helps to make everything we do here possible. Thank you and may God bless you for your support.



# OUR MISSION

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The charity's objects as recorded in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- **The advancement of religion.**
- **The advancement of religious education.**
- **The advancement of other charitable purposes beneficial to the Community.**

The charity is established to act as an association of Christians who desire to follow the Gospel life after the pattern of those recorded in the Acts of the Apostles of whom it is said:

***They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' teaching and in the Fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers and in the company of those who believed were of the heart and one soul, and no-one said that any of these things which he possessed was his aim, but they have everything in common.***

The Community follows the Benedictine tradition of monastic life as the foundation of its mission.

# OUR STRATEGY

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Today, the Community fulfils its charitable objectives and its Benedictine obligations by:

- A vocation to theological and priestly formation in the College of the Resurrection (through support for the Frere Educational Trust).
- Providing a Christian foundation as host for the site partners of St Hild's College and Church Army.
- The ministry of hospitality in welcoming and caring for guests to their own spiritual profit with caring and attentive service, inviting them to come and to participate in the prayer life of the house.
- The wider ministry of Oblates, Companions and the Society of the Resurrection. We currently have approximately 275 people as part of our wider community in these groups and we are setting up regional Associations to strengthen their communal life away from the House.
- Engagement with God is at the heart of the Community's life, helping people to grow in faith and be confident in that faith, sustained by a daily round of prayer and worship – a constant praying presence proclaiming the gospel anew to each generation.

# OUR SITE AT MIRFIELD

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Our site at Mirfield helps us to fulfil our mission by providing the following facilities:

- **The House of the Resurrection** where the Brethren of the Community of the Resurrection live
- **The Retreat House**, an integral part of the House where retreatants are welcomed to live and pray alongside the Community
- **The Church of the Resurrection**, a Grade II listed building, which is the heart of the Community's communal life and offers a unique place of worship and pilgrimage
- **The Bed and Breakfast House** and **The Hermitage**, which provide separate accommodation for guests who may be either retreatants or visiting the area for work, holidays or to attend events locally
- **The College of the Resurrection**, a theological college offering a variety of courses but primarily aimed at the formation of candidates for ordination in the Church of England. The College is unique because it is the only theological college in the Anglican Communion that shares its life with a monastic community and is rooted in our monastic tradition
- We host **St Hild's College**, which offers training for future ministers, undergraduate and postgraduate courses and a variety of online courses

- We host **Church Army's** selection and training programmes for future evangelists
- Two **Libraries**, one in the College and one in the House, specialising in theological and ecclesiastical subjects, as well as a small collection for retreatants and a well-used archive. We offer facilities in the College library to a wide variety of registered readers and organise a programme of events annually
- A **Bookshop** selling religious books (especially those written by Brethren) and books of general interest as well as gifts, greetings cards and Monastery produce including jams, honey and apple juice all produced on site



**Your support helps to make all of this possible!**

## **Our Rhythm of Worship and Work**

Our life together is centred around the four daily offices of Mattins, Midday Office and Mass, Evensong and Compline.

Brethren also hold responsibilities for the life of the House, working with our staff to welcome guests and visitors and holding offices such as Prior and Custos. We are led by our Superior, Fr Oswin Gartside.

Brethren also lead individuals and groups on retreat, provide teaching and educational chaplaincy for St Hild's and teaching and spiritual guidance for The College of the Resurrection. We also undertake ministry locally and work in ecumenical relations, pastoral and social care.

Brethren research, write and publish books, pamphlets, prayers and meditations

We care for our elderly and sick Brethren in the House.



**Br Jude makes his vows 2025**

## Our Work Throughout The World

We have longstanding links with the **Romanian Orthodox Church** which has sent priests, monks and students to worship, pray and study with us at Mirfield.

We maintain strong connections with religious communities in Europe and the wider world including a covenanted relationship lasting for more than 50 years with **The Community of St Matthias in Trier** and the **Huysburg, Germany**.

The Community is formally affiliated to the **Congregation of the Annunciation**, a congregation of Benedictine communities throughout the world.

The Community continues support for churches and charities in **South Africa** and **Zimbabwe**.



**St Matthias' Abbey**

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 2025 - 2026

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This year has been a time of prayer, reflection and planning for the future, while continuing the life and mission of the House. Strengthening our financial resilience and addressing significant limitations in our buildings remain key priorities as we seek to grow our impact.

## **Education and Formation**

The College of the Resurrection, through the Frere Educational Trust, remains central to our educational mission. We support its work through teaching, spiritual direction, governance, administration, property and financial support, as well as accommodation for staff and students.

We have continued to develop partnerships with St Hild College, providing office space, nine residential teaching weekends, teaching evenings and a retreat for first-year students. We also established a new partnership with Church Army, providing office facilities and residential teaching weekends.

We continue to work with organisations including the Yorkshire Theological Education Partnership, the Church of England's national ministry team, Leeds Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministry Training Pathway and the University of Durham.

## Growing in Faith

Our church services continue to be livestreamed daily. Brethren preach, lead retreats and provide pastoral ministry across the UK and overseas, as well as offering spiritual direction and the sacrament of reconciliation. Approximately **200 people** received these sacraments this year.

We welcomed around six people exploring a vocation to religious life, supported the Shepherds Law Hermitage and provided pastoral support to religious communities in the UK and abroad.

We also welcomed visits from schools and uniformed organisations.

## Hospitality

Hospitality remains at the heart of our Benedictine mission: “all guests are to be welcomed as Christ.”

This year we welcomed more than **7,500 people** through our Ministry of Hospitality, including over **30 organisations** using our facilities for prayer, retreat, study and reflection.

Our Retreat House welcomed almost **4,000 people** through retreats and study days led by Brethren and visiting speakers. Our Bed and Breakfast House and Hermitage also welcomed visitors from the wider community.

Our annual Festival Day and Family Fun Day brought together parishes, Companions, guests and local families, with proceeds from the Family Fun Day supporting a local charity.

## **Wider Mission and International Links**

We continue our long-standing links with South Africa and support the work of Tariro UK in Zimbabwe, providing Trustee and fundraising support. We also provide a Trustee for the Biko-Bowcott Trust and support the dioceses of the Western Cape through teaching, preaching, visits and retreats.

Restricted funds continue to support work with young people and Anglican sisterhoods in Zimbabwe.

## **Library, Archives and Publications**

We appointed a professional Assistant Librarian to support the care, cataloguing and accessibility of our collections. Our library currently serves around 100 registered readers, including College and St Hild students and external researchers. More than 100 visitors received library tours, supported by 20 dedicated volunteers.

We continued publishing works by Brethren and members of our wider community, including George Guiver's All Christians are Monks, alongside our Quarterly Review magazine.



## Volunteers

Volunteers remain vital to our mission, supporting the Library, Companions, Grounds, Shop and Publications.

This year, volunteers contributed more than 3,250 hours to the life and work of the Community. We are deeply grateful for their commitment and support.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our foundations, developing our buildings and resources, and continuing our mission of education, prayer, welcome and service.



# OUR FUTURE PLANS

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We began by saying that this year has been a year of thinking, prayer and planning for the future. Through this process, it has become obvious to us that our buildings are holding us back from fulfilling our mission to welcome all guests for their spiritual profit and to benefit from our monastic rhythm of life.

It is paradoxical that the more demand there is for what we offer, the greater the risk that there is that our ministry of hospitality becomes detrimental to the very peace and tranquillity and the way of life that guests come to share. Added to this is the fact that our buildings are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain, and our heating system is outdated, expensive and not environmentally friendly.

2026 marks the centenary of the opening of the Retreat House in 1926 and we have therefore decided to mark this significant milestone by embarking on a major programme of renovation and updating for our House. This will require a significant fundraising campaign in continuation of our existing CR Future campaign. We have applied for planning consent for the redevelopment in and we hope to commence the works in early 2028, for completion during 2029.

## **Highlights of the renovations will include:**

- Upgrading the Retreat House to provide en-suite facilities for all rooms, acknowledging that while we aim to provide simple, homely accommodation in the monastic tradition, nevertheless (particularly since Covid-19) our guests do not expect to share bathroom facilities, and, in some cases, this may be a barrier to welcoming them as we would wish
- Redesigning the guest entrance to be more open and welcoming
- Improving the entrance, car parking and vehicle circulation on site
- Providing fully accessible rooms for disabled guests
- Renewing the heating and hot water systems to be eco-efficient: zoned and with the building insulated throughout
- Renewing and, where necessary, replacing original windows which no longer open and close and improving their thermal efficiency to save energy
- Renovating the Brethren's monastic enclosure to include rewiring and replumbing; replacing outdated services and facilities which are past their economic life
- Improving facilities for the care of elderly brethren

Taken together these plans represent a substantial confidence for the years to come in the significance of the work God does through this monastic site. We look forward to updating you on the progress of our plans in our regular newsletters and on our website.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT IN HELPING TO MAKE  
ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE**

**WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL**

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