

Dear Companions,

I hope that you are all well and still experiencing and enjoying Easter. We have just learned of the death of Janet Parkins a long term active and valuable Companion. We will miss her and we extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

I have had quite a busy year so far. My time at St John the Baptist Norwich was a very enjoyable and exciting Holy Week and Easter. It is a beautiful parish with many committed parishioners and dedicated and visionary parish priest. I had lovely visits to Walsingham, Norwich Cathedral and Horning where I met up with Fr Ben Bradshaw an old student of the College. One result is that we might have several new visitors with the next year.

I began writing this from Swanwick Conference centre where I was acting as chaplain to the St Hild College who are here for their annual Easter School. This also has been an exciting time – full of new encounters, new ideas, new friendships and opportunities.

There are two other items of news. Encouraged by some Companions after their Branch of CCR folded I have begun an exploration of how we might look to renew the life of CCR in general and in particular to see if we can revive the idea of branches. To this end I have written to a number of clergy (mainly in West Yorkshire). At this stage I am asking for conversations and advice in the hope of trying some pilot programme for the formation of new Branches and resuscitation of lapsed and established Branches. I would welcome correspondence from Branch members and from CCR members who are not attached to any branch or group of CCR.

The other piece of news is – an Auction! I'm not sure whether I am wise or not but like every other institution CR is feeling the effects of the economic atmosphere. We need money to keep the place going, we need to renovate, we need help to continue or works for God's Kingdom. In the past auctions have raised considerable sums and I am willing to give it a try.

Initially I am testing to see whether there or not there is a willingness to donate items. I should know within a few weeks if I can give a date and get the campaign going. As in the past I can't do this by myself. I have always been supported by a loyal band of helpers, willing donors and generous patrons. This time I am restricted by lack of space. And so I am looking for things that are easily stored – Jewellery, medals, coins, toys. No furniture or china (unless they are very special).

Auctioneers do it, CR Fathers here do it

Pensioners and volunteers do it, even noble British peers do it.

So let's do it, let's have a Sale

Blessings,

John Gribben CR