

CHRISTMAS



2013

Dear Friend,

Who's that? What's that? What's that one of? I smiled at the refreshing curiosity in my living room décor. Who's this? [pointing to a crucifix]. This time the answer came from himself – "It's Baby Jesus! I love Baby Jesus! I love Christmas. It's Christmas all day, ALL DAY!" Nothing remarkable in that, you may think. Then the familiar rubbing of hands in glee I'm sure we have all grown to love over the years.

It was the first time Elliot had been to my house. Another love of his life was fruit juice, and that is what he had popped in for.

Nothing remarkable about somebody declaring a love for Christmas, you may think, but Elliot, a Down's Syndrome young man (the gleeful rubbing of hands), is of the Jewish Faith and lives in a Community House where of course Christmas is 'not Kosher'!

My thoughts during Advent return to this unique visitor and his love for all things Christmas! The warmth of his love for Baby Jesus filled the room – unforgettable!

Will Elliot have his Christmas Day? Will his love of Baby Jesus melt someone's heart?

This incident also sharpened my memory of the 'COHENS AND KELLYS NIGHT' at the Palace – the Hippodrome – I can't recall which!

Many years ago, 'The Catholic Handicapped Children's Fellowship', as it was then called, organized a Charity Evening in conjunction with the Manchester Jewish Handicapped Children's Society, featuring celebrity performers. It was a momentous occasion (maybe a repeat sometime?). I recall the mesmerism of Dickie Henderson's footwork as he sang and danced. Now you know how long ago that was!

EVENTS SINCE THE EASTER NEWSLETTER

On Tuesday 7th May, 20 members visited the BBC Media City at the Lowry. Wheelchairs were not allowed on this occasion and the number of visitors had to be limited. The visit passed off very happily. The group started with lunch at the Harvester Restaurant on Salford Quays. They were blessed with a warm, dry day, and after lunch they strolled over to Media City and sat by the Blue Peter Garden to enjoy ice-creams. The tour in the Media City building began at 3pm with a warm welcome from the BBC staff. Two young ladies then acted as guides through the buildings, with visits to several studios which were familiar to all from watching TV programmes. The guides were very good at guessing which ones would be most familiar to our group. The tour ended in the weather forecast studio where a hilarious time was had, everybody having photographs taken acting as weather forecasters in front of the maps.

Thursday 6th June: A new venture jointly with other Fellowship Groups was Afternoon Tea at the Irish World Heritage Centre. It was a great success. Tea and cakes was followed by dancing to a CD player. The weather was gorgeous and many people sat on the terrace.

Sunday 16th June. The North Manchester Group were the hosts for the annual outing/sports day at St Matthew RC High School, a very well appointed venue. Everyone enjoyed it, especially Alison Bryceland who won the first prize in the raffle, a Teddy nearly as big as herself.

The Diocesan Annual Holiday Sunday 30th June to Friday 5th July 2013: The Langdales Hotel, St Annes-on-Sea, which has in previous years proved to be a perfect place for the holiday, was again chosen this year. Eleven South Manchester beneficiaries (the same number as last year) went on it with nine others (including two carers) from South Manchester. Miss Maureen Fitzgibbon deserves our thanks not only for making and coordinating all the activities but also for coping with unexpected difficulties.

A Canal Cruise on Tuesday 17th September at the Bridgewater Marina, Worsley, organised by Maureen Fitzgibbon, was exciting considerable interest. To Maureen's disgust, the providers of the outing cancelled the contact at short notice on the grounds of a commitment to Manchester United. Thank you and commiserations, Maureen.



THE SATURDAY CLUB



DATES: End of Autumn Session 30th November 2013
Start of Spring Session 18th January 2014

The new table tennis table was successfully brought into use. The pool table continues to be popular and skittles provide another activity.

Many members enjoy colouring drawings in their own different ways. Their art work is displayed at prayer time. Other members are happy to watch the activities of others

Musical instruments accompany videos and singing at prayer time.

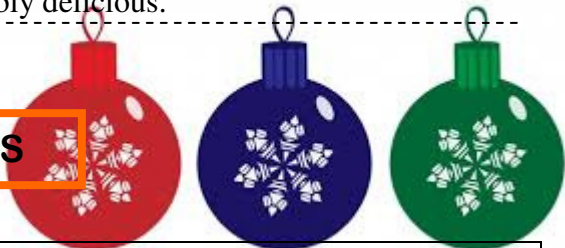
Videos and slides showing themes appropriate to the season are projected on screen and

Birthdays are celebrated in song, a cake with the name and age of the beneficiary is projected on screen, and birthday cards are signed by all present.

Birthday cakes provided by Pauline Zagaroli are popular and invariably delicious.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



CALENDAR			
Saturday	14 th December 2013	Christmas Party	St Cuthbert's Church Hall
Friday	10 th January 2014	New Year Party	Irish World Heritage Centre
Saturday	18 th January 2014	Saturday Club starts	St Cuthbert's Church Hall
Sunday	March 2014	Diocesan AGM	To be advised

Please fill in the reply slip for all the events you wish to attend or tell John (0161 928 2411; 07909 920 739; john@cathfell.co.uk).



CHRISTMAS PARTY

2.00 pm to 5.30 pm Saturday 14th of December 2013

St Cuthbert's Church Hall, 3 Palatine Road, Withington, M20 3LH

Musical accompaniment by **Brian Keogh-Peters**.

Santa Claus coming again with 'his little helpers'.

Delicious Christmas fare provided by Pauline Zagaroli.



Members of the L'Arche Manchester Community and Salford Group members will be joining us.

Ring & Ride transport on request, pick-up from 12.45 pm.

PLEASE REPLY BEFORE 6 PM MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER.



SALFORD DIOCESE FELLOWSHIP NEW YEAR PARTY AND DISCO

7.30 to 11.00 pm Friday 10th January 2014

Irish World Heritage Centre, Cheetham Hill, M8 8UF

Tickets £4

Refreshments available

Bar



SALFORD DIOCESE FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date in 2014 and venue to be advised..



PLEASE PRAY:

For Mrs Flo. Pugh who has died since the last Newsletter and her family:

FOR OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS

**St Cuthbert' Parish
The KSC
L'Arche**

**FOR THOSE WHOSE
ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR FROM
APRIL TO DECEMBER**

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK
OR HOUSEBOUND:**

**Bob Shepherd
Lexie Blacklock
Mary McCardle
Frances Morris
Helen Larkin
Helen O'Hara and Family
Anne Lavin**

**Mr Séan Deay
Mr D Fitzgibbon
Mr Aidan Keeley
Mrs Monica Wiszniewska
Mr Richard Flynn
Mr Peter J Kennedy
Mrs Maureen Burke
Mr W Brice
Miss Maureen Nolan
Mrs Winifred Shepherd
Mrs Mary Bryceland
Mr Ben Arnold
Mr Anthony Dreniw
Mr Thomas Beirne
Mrs Nora Groarke**

**Miss Wendy McWilliams
Mr Harry Cavanagh
Mr John Power
Mr Leonard Walker
Mrs Peggy Lowry
Mrs Cecilia Power
Mrs Maud Deay
Miss Susan Parr
Mrs Eileen Ball
Mr Jack Fitzmaurice
Mr Bill Stanton
Mr Charlie O'Neill
Miss Agnes Power
Mrs Joyce Devine**

And for all those vulnerable unborn babies that they may be born like the Christmas Babe.

Wishing you all the Blessings of Christmas



Aileen Power

St Jude, pray for us and for all who honour thee and invoke thine aid