

HEALING WAYS

The Order of St Luke

Summer 2012



Almighty God, who inspired your servant St Luke the physician to set out in gospel the love and healing power of your Son: make obvious in Your Church the same love and power for the healing of our bodies and souls; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

My Dear Friends

There are many lessons of life to be seen from our windows. At the moment on Hare Island to the south of the house we have a herd of Konik. They are a breed of Polish primitive horse which is semi-feral. There were on the verge of extinction, but have been successfully bred back. The Konik pony 'echo' the type of wild horses that may have been living in the land before the early humans eradicated them. Koniks have proved to be ideally adapted to year-round grazing on grassland and wetland habitats and they have been used by several conservation organisations to help manage nature reserves both in Britain and Europe. Our local herd has 8 or 9 foals, and is a delight to watch. Initially we saw them on the shore, but a few days later they were on Bird Island, a little island just to the east, only occupied by birds, because water often covers its surface.

The first time I saw them on Bird Island I was anxious to find their owner, as some of the foals were very small. I didn't need to worry, because as the tide rose, one of the bigger ones literally rounded them up and led them over the stones to Hare Island. A week or so later they had become blasé about their adventures and the tide caught them. There did seem to be some consternation in the group, then one of the bigger ones circled the herd drawing them together, took the lead and plunged into the water. I watched in amazement as they fell into line and swam in tight formation back to home on Hare Island. The herd had a clear leader, and when they fell into line together all was well.

We often desire the far off fields which seem greener, despite danger and uncertainty. Scripture tells us that wherever we go God is with us. We need to turn to him and acknowledge his care and protection over our lives at all times. I think that there might also be something here about being contented and grateful for what we have and not striving for more.

Wishing you every blessing
Pat Mollan

Warden's Reflections

What a wonderful time we had at our Conference held at High Leigh at the end of April. The journey there was in terrible weather and the rain persisted for most of the week end; but it did not dampen our spirits. The Conference Centre is in its own grounds, which reflect the status that the original grand house once held. It is owned by the same people that run Swanwick, in Derbyshire, so we experienced the same high standards of care. Friday afternoon and evening was taken at a leisurely pace with welcoming the twenty two members, and, after opening worship, we signed up for the workshops that we wished to attend over the course of the weekend before we enjoyed the first of our excellent meals. The evening was taken up with the Annual General Meeting and the election of Officers. We said our heart felt thank you to Yvonne Davies and John Low who have stood down as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and who have served the Order so well. We welcomed the Reverend Jim Birch as the Associate Warden of Scotland, Doctor Olu Olojuga as Minutes Secretary, Mr Brian Hopkins as Treasurer and Mr Clive Wood as Membership Secretary. The evening concluded with the Epilogue led by Loraine Ash.

Following morning prayers led by Mrs Brenda Aston and a hearty English breakfast, the theme for Conference 'Meeting the Need', was set for us by our Main speaker, the Reverend Helen Wordsworth, who is the United Kingdom Co-ordinator for 'Parish Nursing'. She shared with us the origins of Parish Nursing, which was founded in America, and how qualified Nurses are trained to work with Churches as means of meeting the needs of the local community. As Christians 'Parish Nursing' believes that God cares for everyone, whether or not they come to church, in a way that includes their physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing. The nurses have a professional background in healthcare and also a faith; bringing the two together they hope to help the church to make these connections into their community. They do not work independently of the National Health Service. They liaise with General

