



## Small Pilgrim Places Network NEWSLETTER May 2021

**Greetings to you all, as we still face uncertainties and anxieties while at the same time there is a more positive mood in the air about what it may be possible to do in the coming months.**

### **Special note for Places:**

Although we have not produced a directory or leaflets for over a year, we are keeping the website up to date.

Please check your website entry and let us know of any changes. We can put up temporary opening times (or that a place is closed for the time being) as long as you remember to let us know when this changes!

A new Directory as such will probably not be produced until next year which makes it all the more important to keep the website up to date.

### **Where do we go from here?**

This question hasn't gone away, but we do feel that things are moving.

Thank you to all those who responded to the Moving Forward newsletter. The feedback has been really helpful and the Core Group will bring the comments and proposals to the membership for the National Gathering in October (see below).

### **SPPs - 20 years on**

The book to mark this anniversary is now ready to go to publication.

It tells something of the story of SPPs, and gives examples of Places and the vision behind the concept. Thank you to all who have contributed, and especially to Terry Faulk for putting it all together - no mean feat!

We will be sending a copy to every member in the next month or so, and there will be some spare if you would like to have extra or give them as a gift. Details will go out when the book is distributed.



Right: The Church and Labyrinth at Kettlewell, a new place in 2021.



Left: Llandecwyn in North Wales, the first Small Pilgrim Place.



Right: Agneash Chapel on the Isle of Man, another new SPP this year.

### **National Gathering 2021**

This will be by Zoom, probably on **Saturday 23rd October**. We hope this will enable more people to be able to be involved, and will include those who may still be anxious about travelling long distances.

We appreciate that a number may not be able to access Zoom, but we will be giving you another opportunity to contribute before the meeting.

The Core Group is working on all the Moving Forward feedback from you, and in

September will circulate information on the key areas we want to focus on, asking members to think about these, to come to the meeting with ideas, and also opt for which chat room they would like to participate in. This will also give those who cannot be at the meeting the chance to contribute to the discussion.

We hope that this will all help to build up the Network so that members and Places can really share resources and ideas and support each other.

## News from the Network

### Welcome to new members:

Hilary Bee (Totnes); Martin Blacher (Plymouth); Jayne Clark (Plymouth); Caroline Culley (Chippenham); Chris Rogers (Devon); Tom Selmes (Thirsk); Alison Seyler (Macclesfield); Susan Swire (Kettlewell); Alexandra Ukhalsa (Kent)

It is really encouraging to see new members joining who obviously share the vision of the Network, and we welcome them and hope to meet them in person one day.

### Facebook:

Firstly, huge thanks to Ali Green for her daily postings during Lent and Easter with snapshots of her Pilgrim journeys around the Small Pilgrim Places Network. She is a hard act to follow!

Sylvia Hope posted this piece on reading Hannah Jane Parkinson's piece "The joy of small things" in The Guardian on 3rd April:

"I have marvelled at grand domes and minarets, but found most peace in a tiny chapel." I have been enjoying Jane's columns. This one really celebrates SPPlaces' ideas of hospitality....

"There is something quite wonderful about no community being too small to have its own place of peace. I would advise you to seek one out, for this quiet, singular pleasure; but I am not going to. Instead, I am going to wish for you to meet one by chance, when and where you least expect it, and discover, serendipitously, the joy of a small thing."

(Her book, "The joy of small things" awaits publication. This lovely "small thing" was a surprise, on a Durham County April spring wander!)



## NOTICEBOARD

Please remember update us with **changes in your contact details.**

Please do get in touch if you have comments, contributions or suggestions to make for our newsletters, Facebook Page, or the website. A good Network is one that has information and ideas circulating in all directions.

### Membership matters

Thanks to everyone who has returned their Data Protection form, this helps in compiling information that can be circulated enabling us to link people up across the Network.

The subscription year begins on 1st March and **we would encourage everyone to take out a Standing Order** to make life easier for all of us. (Please ask for a form)

Subscription reminders will be going to those who have not yet paid for 2021 (and some for 2020). We appreciate that the last year has disrupted routines, finances and much else besides, so if there is any difficulty about payment - particularly for Places - please do get in touch with us as we can look at each situation sympathetically.



The capacity for silence - a deep, creative awareness of one's inner truth - is what distinguishes us as human -

*Sister Wendy Becket, "The Art of Lent".*

Churchyard bench, Llanfihangel y Traethau, Ynys, Gwynedd

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