



7th November 2007

**December 1st
celebrations...
See back page**

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Leadership and Community: A life of Nazareth? National General Meeting, October 27 2007

Despite the short notice, seventeen people attended the General Meeting and several others sent their apologies. Thank you to those Londoners who offered hospitality during the weekend, even though it was not taken up this time. We were very glad to be at a new venue for us: L'Arche Lambeth in West Norwood. We prayed in their chapel, ate lunch around their large table, bought some of their craft work, made use of their excellent toilet facilities and met in their comfortable upstairs meeting room. It was soon after the tragic death of the last of their founders, Brian Matthews, and his photograph in the chapel reminded us to pray for Brian, a skilled weaver, and this hospitable, international community saddened by his death. Please keep them in your prayers too.



Brian Matthews

What did we discuss?

Louise has written minutes of the meeting (see page 4) but to give you an overview...

Reports:

- ❖ From Simon, our treasurer (see the minutes and Simon's written report, page 3);
- ❖ From Michael on the International Bulletin (see the minutes);
- ❖ From Pam, reviewing the years of Keith's & Pam's responsibility.
 - ❖ Pam's presentation may be found online at: <http://www.jesuscaritas.info/jcd/node/2129>
 - ❖ Pam also highlighted issues deserving of attention, arising from the experience of recent years (see 'Issues' - page 2).

We did not have time for the planned 'review of life' and instead spent ten minutes together in silence before sharing some of our reactions to the reports.

- ❖ After a short break, Keith presented Keith & Pam's proposals for the future organisation of our national 'Foucauld Community'.
 - ❖ See pages 6-7 for details of the roles
 - ❖ and page 8 for the diagrams Keith used to explain both the tasks that need to be done and the roles that could be established to deal with them.

The proposals mean that we now need to appoint two responsables: one for two years and one for four years and to establish a *working* group, with members with specific roles and responsibilities, co-ordinated by the responsables. As you will see from the minutes, Keith & Pam's suggestions were accepted and several members volunteered to join the working group. Louise Russell said that she would be available to act as one of the responsables [or as secretary] from April 2008 when her work responsibilities reduce. Keith & Pam's mandate as National Responsibles is now over and the Working Group will take things forward.

YOU CAN HELP

- ❖ We need at least one other person willing to become a **National Responsible**;
- ❖ more people willing to take responsibility on the **Working Group**;
- ❖ and people around the country willing to take on a '**regional responsibility**' in their area.

It is an exciting time to become involved, with our determination to work more closely together across the different 'Foucauld families' in Britain. If you want to help – or want to propose someone else (with their agreement) – **tell Keith & Pam** (address above) **before December 1st** – and, if you can – join the **first Working Group meeting** at 12 noon, during the London (Brixton) celebration on December 1st. In any case, **let us know what you think of these future plans – share your suggestions for the future.**

ISSUES

- ❖ Our name - COMMUNITY rather than Fraternity
- ❖ How may we support each other across Foucauld family?
- ❖ How may we best work together for the future?
- ❖ Do we need a Foucauld archive in Britain?
- If so: Where? How? What?

Brother Charles' Beatification

- ❖ How to 'promote and service' the added interest?
- ❖ Roman Catholic membership encouraged / increased by Beatification - how to promote Anglican and other Church interest / membership in order to retain and expand our ecumenical character - one of Britain's 'special gifts'

The value of 'tours':

- ❖ People were met and gathered together during tour
- ❖ Value of 'tours' and visiting
- ❖ Value of 'presence' at other gatherings

Issues raised:

- ❖ How to develop the friendships begun?
- ❖ How to enable these activities?
- ❖ How to 'respond & service' resultant enquiries?
- ❖ How may we welcome both young people and elders?

Membership

- ❖ We are few
- ❖ Need for support and development of new and established groups
- ❖ Need for support of lone members
- ❖ Need for regional development and contact in various ways
- ❖ Need for cheap, accessible venues
- ❖ Could establish an email mailing list - reduce cost and work involved in mailing

'Still to do'

- ❖ Small self-catering 'Nazareth' days / residential meetings in different areas to bring individuals in the region together
- ❖ More resources including a 'welcome pack' for new members
- ❖ Establish an archive
- ❖ More visiting / 'touring' around the country meeting people - communicating 'Arusha' and other enthusiasm
- ❖ Developing links and solidarity with neighbouring countries and around the world

- ❖ We need translators
- ❖ Memorial book needs care and updating
- ❖ 2008 events to be organised including national weekend and maybe GB-Flemish meeting in Britain.
- ❖ Development - of promotional resources - and of the structure/organisation to cope with any 'success'
- ❖ A pilgrimage to Algeria

Leadership & responsibility

- ❖ Lay Community's international and local structure
- ❖ Foucauld family acting together in Britain
- ❖ Approaching death, there's life and the possibility of growth - a "harvest that needs labourers"
- ❖ Leadership - vision and focus
- ❖ Establish priorities
- ❖ Shared responsibility - to relieve burden of administration, publications, events, communication, etc.
- ❖ Mutual friendship and support of and by individuals and groups
- ❖ Outreach by the community
- ❖ International friendship and support by the community

European Leaders' Meeting 2007

- ❖ Identify priorities & challenges - we said:
 - ❖ Develop and support the membership
 - ❖ Encourage unity among people by promoting friendship across barriers
- ❖ And that we encourage reflection on:
 - ❖ The common challenges identified in Arusha statement
 - ❖ And a local challenge: Lifestyle in the wealthy world - in favour of justice for the poorest and the good of the planet for everyone - Brother Charles' example.

Issues:

- ❖ How to promote review and response to priorities and challenges?
- ❖ Lack of individual sense of responsibility and response to these
- ❖ Communicating a vision for the community to make its own
- ❖ Observers, as well as delegates, could come - next time
- ❖ Ideas on meeting leadership needs through sharing other countries' experience
- ❖ International friendship and solidarity

International / Britain

- ❖ Tension for the responsables – in terms of needs, communications, time
- ❖ Development and support needed in Britain
- ❖ Regular communication from international leaders and community - needs response
- ❖ Arusha themes very relevant to British context
- ❖ International reality of Foucauld family in friendship and solidarity – it's what Brother Charles wanted

- ❖ Reflects British multiracial, multicultural reality
- ❖ Multiracial Foucauld community in Britain is probably unique to Europe – Ecumenical community almost so.
- ❖ Openness to Interfaith friendship
- ❖ Not just a 'prayer group' - We're an international community 'missioned' to create friendship across all kinds of barriers

Treasurer's report for 2007

From Simon, our Treasurer:

Dear Friends,

Thanks, once again, to your support, we will end the year with a positive balance of around £1,600.

£1,000 of that, however, consists of a legacy from Hannah Gilmartin, which, from the consensus at the General Meeting in October, is likely to be put towards a special project rather than to cover day-to-day costs.

To give you an idea of these, I can do no better than to cite some of the latest expenses submitted by Keith and Pam Ware, the national responsables. The main item was their attendance at the European responsables' meeting in Belgium in August (£238.99), followed by the photocopying and mailing of the newsletter in October (£180.81).

Those two items alone come to over £400, which means that, setting aside Hannah's legacy, we need at least to maintain the current level of income.

Around £750 of that comes in the form of regular payments, either monthly or quarterly, from three people.

Knowing in advance what income to expect is obviously an advantage to a treasurer. I would therefore like to encourage more of you to arrange with your bank to make a regular payment into fraternity funds (account details below).

For those who decide not to, December 1st, the anniversary of Blessed Charles's death, is a useful reminder that we rely on your generosity to maintain a minimum service, through the national team, to his followers in this country.

At the General Meeting, I mentioned that I have now been treasurer for six years, and that, while the job is not onerous, thanks to your generosity and the efficient accounts presented by Keith and Pam, it would probably be better if I stepped down; there is a danger in any organization of remaining in a job indefinitely out of inertia. This, and other matters, will be taken up by the working group which is handling the transition between the Wares and their successors.

With very best wishes,

Simon Scott Plummer

Making a donation

Cheques, made out to **Lay Fraternities of Charles de Foucauld**, should be sent to:

Simon Scott Plummer,
34, Kidbrooke Gardens,
London SE3 0PD.

Direct payments can be made to the **Lay Fraternities of Charles de Foucauld** HSBC account:
sort code 40-02-04;
account no. 81446401.

Information Sheet

Thank you to the many people who returned the yellow Information Sheet included with the last mailing. It's not too late! Please send it to Keith & Pam (address top of front page) if you have not already done so.

Report of the Meeting

Louise writes:

We began with prayer, a litany based on the 'Way of Unity', (page 9) to remind us of our vocation.

Keith & Pam said that due to the difficulties they had had in finding a suitable venue and then the mailing coinciding with the postal strike, members have had only short notice of the General Meeting. Thus we may need to consider how to involve the whole membership in planning and organising for the future following the deliberations of this meeting.

Reports

Treasurer (Simon Scott Plumber)

Balance in the account is approximately £1,600 – due to £1000 gift from Hannah Gilmartin's estate with the remaining coming from three persons who regularly give contributions throughout the year. Another source of income was from Kathy Carroll's coffee morning in Enfield last year. Haloge suggested having a secret bag at meetings to increase income.

Michael Doe said that the Fraternity is not a registered charity and consequently does not have a membership fee, relying instead on voluntary contributions from members. Simon will report on finances prior to December 1st (see page 3). Each year at the December 1st celebration, there is a reminder of finances so often donations are made after that celebration.

Simon said that he was happy to continue as treasurer even though he has done this for several years but asked if anyone else is interested in doing the work. No one volunteered at this time. It was suggested that another person should be authorised to sign cheques but after discussion, decision was deferred on this until a later time. Pam said that the European funds were healthy despite the International team's expenses being large due to travel. Last year's donation to the International funds was £500 – it is being traced as it was not recorded in the European accounts as received. Pam and all present thanked Simon for all his work on the finances over the years.

International Bulletin (Michael Doe)

There are two issues a year with subscriptions in English, French and Spanish – cost is £7 per year for both issues including postage. The international news is placed in the context of the Foucauld spirituality. There are 25 subscribers in the UK & Ireland. Courtesy copies are sent to the Little Brothers and Little Sisters. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the Bulletin should send £7 to Michael and there is financial assistance for anyone wanting a subscription but unable to afford the cost. Cheques should be made to "*Lay Fraternities of Charles de Foucauld - International Bulletin*". Pam and all present thanked Michael for all his work on the Bulletin over the years.

National Representatives (Pam & Keith Ware)

Pam presented a review of the last four years. See "Issues" (page 2) for the main points for reflection arising out of that review.

It was suggested that the word "fraternities" be replaced by "communities". This has been done by Germany. Simon suggested that "communities" be singular as we are one family.

Address list

Haloge suggested that there be a national list of names and addresses of members of the community. Pam said that permission of members would need to be sought in order to publish details.

Our Agenda:

1. Arrivals
2. Introduction & Prayer - Way of Unity litany
3. - - Lunch - -
4. Reports
 - Treasurer
 - International Bulletin
 - National responsables
5. Review of Life
6. - - Break - - Tea/biscuits
- -
7. Proposals: Leadership & Working Group Roles
8. Discussion
9. Decision: What next?
10. 2008 Events

International Bulletin – Subscribe now

Michael Doe writes:

"Please remind those who receive International Bulletins that some of them are due to re-subscribe or to cancel please."

Subscription: £7 p.a.

Cheques should be made to "*Lay Fraternities of Charles de Foucauld - International Bulletin*".

For copies and payment, contact Michael:

☎ Tel: 01268 758 370,

✉ Email: mtdoe@tesco.net.uk

📍 457 High Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5AF

Events

Kathy Carroll said that the Enfield Desert Day has been a good way of introducing others to the Foucauld spirituality. All agreed that weekends have been very valuable.

Development

There was discussion of the pros & cons of youth fraternities but agreement that it is more a “befriending” of others at this stage.

How to enhance the ecumenical relationship within groups was discussed and also how to have contact with Muslims without any specific recommendations.

National Responsibles

Pam & Keith said that they have been National Responsibles (NRs) for four years and that their mandate as responsibles has ended. They recommended that two NRs be appointed for a period of four years with a change of one responsible every two years in order to enable a continuity of experience and to make the prospect of becoming a NR less daunting. (To enable this we now need to appoint one NR for two years and one for four years). Simon asked about the process of discerning successors and asked Pam & Keith if they had anyone to suggest. LS Cathy asked if Louise would consider being one of the responsibles. Louise said that she would be available in April '08 due to reduction of hours at work [or would be willing to act as Secretary if others could take on the NR role.].

Working group established

Keith proposed the establishment of a working group with specific responsibilities. The following persons agreed to:

- ❖ Louise – one of the responsibles [or secretary];
- ❖ Simon – treasurer (but willing to stand down);
- ❖ Pam – Jesus Caritas website,
- ❖ Keith – to help new responsibles;
- ❖ LS Cathy – resource material / outreach,
- ❖ Sue – librarian, including archive and Memorial Book;
- ❖ Kathy – events (e.g. retreat/desert days); and as a contact in her region (Enfield)
- ❖ Agnes – email list & contact data base;
- ❖ Tracey – translator;
- ❖ Elizabeth – contact with Africa and other countries.
- ❖ Outside the meeting, Loretta (North East England) and David (South London) have offered to act as a regional contact



A shared lunch

**The working group will first meet
on Dec 1st at 12:00 pm in Corpus Christi church hall.**

Suggestions for the future

Louise suggested some activities for the community

- ❖ more desert days;
- ❖ focusing on small groups or pairs of individuals which could involve more people while minimising cost and organisation;
- ❖ one-to-one contact between members either by phone, email, or letter;
- ❖ offering of hospitality to other members for use of a spare room for times of retreat or hermitage;
- ❖ mention of sick members in the Newsletter so that others can remember them in prayer;
- ❖ an annual Mass or liturgy in November to remember deceased members.

Flemish Visit

Michael said that the Flemish are expecting to come to England for an event next year – Pam said a possible venue could be the Northeast.

International Links

Elizabeth suggested contact with Malta.

Suggestions and other items are to be discussed by the working group on Dec 1st.

All present thanked Pam & Keith for their work and commitment as responsibles during the past four years.

Proposals from Keith & Pam

1. Appoint two NATIONAL RESPONSIBLES at any one time.
2. Adjust the timing of the mandate for the above National Responsible to allow an overlap.
3. Set up a WORKING GROUP to administer and organise the Fraternity

NATIONAL RESPONSIBLES (NRs)

- ❖ Two NRs to be in post any one time.
- ❖ Both chosen by the community members
- ❖ Each Responsible to serve a term of 4 years after which they will be replaced.
- ❖ Elections for replacement NRs every 2 years to allow overlap.
- ❖ NRs will coordinate the work of the Working Group

WORKING GROUP

- ❖ Will be set up by the National Responsibles in consultation with the whole community.
- ❖ Should consist of approximately 12 people, some with defined roles and others in a more general capacity.
- ❖ Those with defined roles to be supported by all the group.
- ❖ Main focus not as a discussion group but on developing, planning and carrying out necessary tasks.
- ❖ Will meet on a regular basis and maintain records of minutes and agendas.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

There are many smaller and larger tasks involved and many possibilities for development if enough 'hands make the work light'. The main areas include:

- ❖ Stimulate development of groups and individuals within a regional structure. Focus on developing particular regions.
- ❖ Improve the administration by maintaining suitable contact details.
- ❖ Stewardship of financial resources.
- ❖ Arrange the publication of newsletters and other material.
- ❖ Develop and maintain archive material.
- ❖ Organise meetings, seek out venues and prepare material.
- ❖ Utilise the Internet for networking and publications.
- ❖ Maintain suitable links with International and European groups.



Some roles could be filled by more than one person...

Possible Roles

Regional(s)

- ❖ To stimulate the development of members and groups in targeted regions of Britain.
- ❖ To seek out suitable venues for meetings, retreats and conferences in the targeted region.
- ❖ To be responsible for the administration, registration and bookings of residential meetings in the region.
- ❖ To maintain links with regional groups and individuals by regular contact, visits and meetings.
- ❖ To support the community life of the region by fostering links between individuals and groups.
- ❖ Targeted regions to be decided by the Working Group.

Librarian

- ❖ To encourage the British community to make material available for archiving purposes.
- ❖ To be responsible for developing and maintaining an archive of British 'Foucauld' materials, books, and electronic media.
- ❖ To develop the use of a variety of materials that can be made available to the community.
- ❖ To keep our Memorial book up to date.

Secretary

- ❖ To prepare and maintain an accurate British 'Foucauld' contact list with details of interested individuals, and groups.
- ❖ To support the Working Group by preparing and distributing agendas, minutes, and other material when required.
- ❖ To be responsible for the distribution of the regular Newsletter using the contact list information.
- ❖ To distribute material to individuals and groups when requested.
- ❖ To maintain an electronic mailing list and other methods of distribution using Internet technology
- ❖ To assist the Working Group by carrying out a variety of administrative tasks.

Administrator

- ❖ Assist the Secretary in carrying out administrative functions on behalf of the Working Group
- ❖ To seek out suitable venues for meetings, retreats and conferences.
- ❖ To be responsible for the administration, registration and bookings of residential meetings.
- ❖ To assist the Working Group in the preparation of material for distribution.

Treasurer

- ❖ To be responsible for generating income for the British Foucauld community through appropriate fund-raising activities.
- ❖ To maintain oversight of any expenditure and authorising payments as required.
- ❖ To keep accurate financial records and required documentation.
- ❖ To report regularly to the Working Group on financial matters.
- ❖ To prepare an annual financial report for distribution to the membership.



If you could help with any of these roles – tell Pam & Keith

Editor

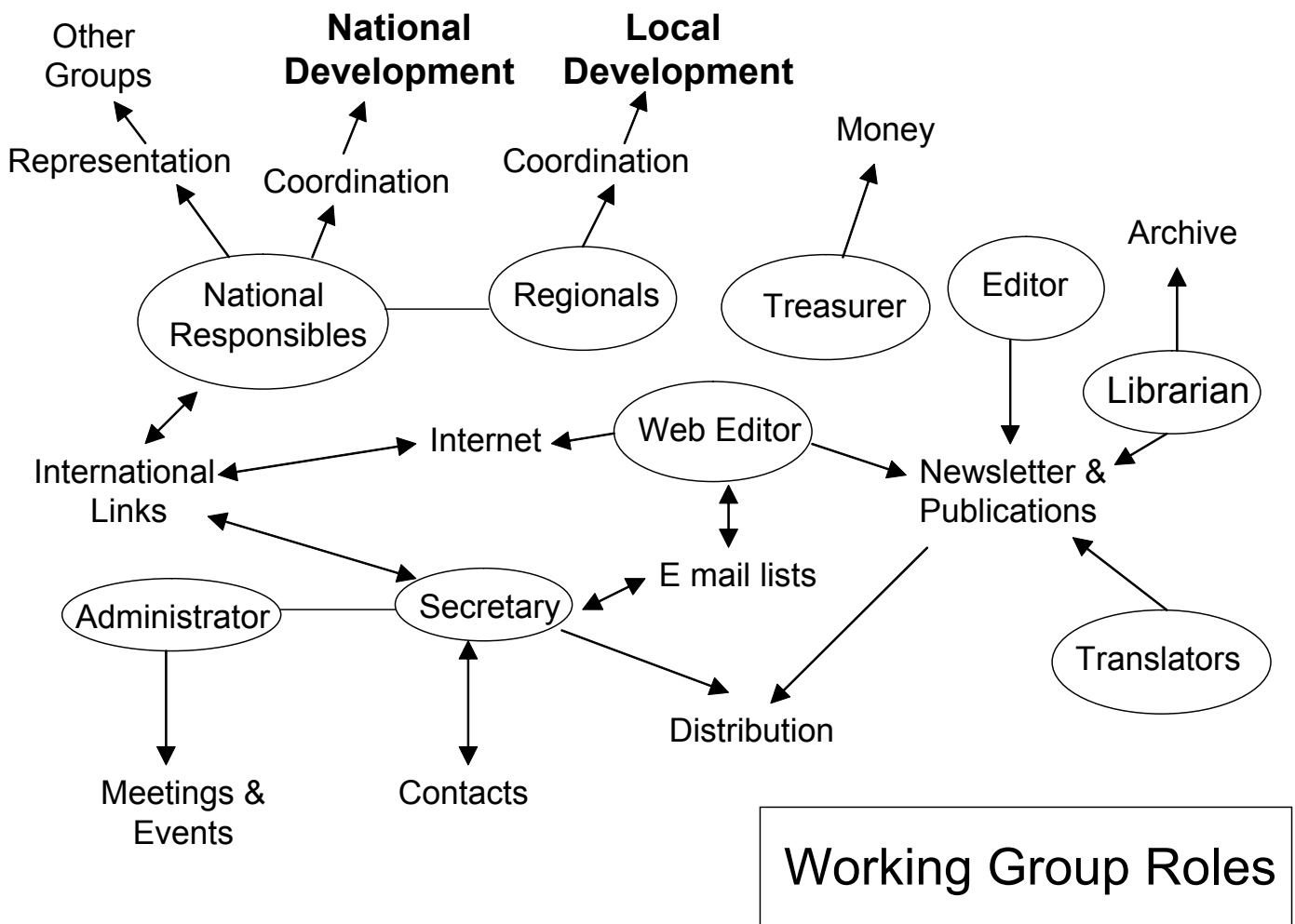
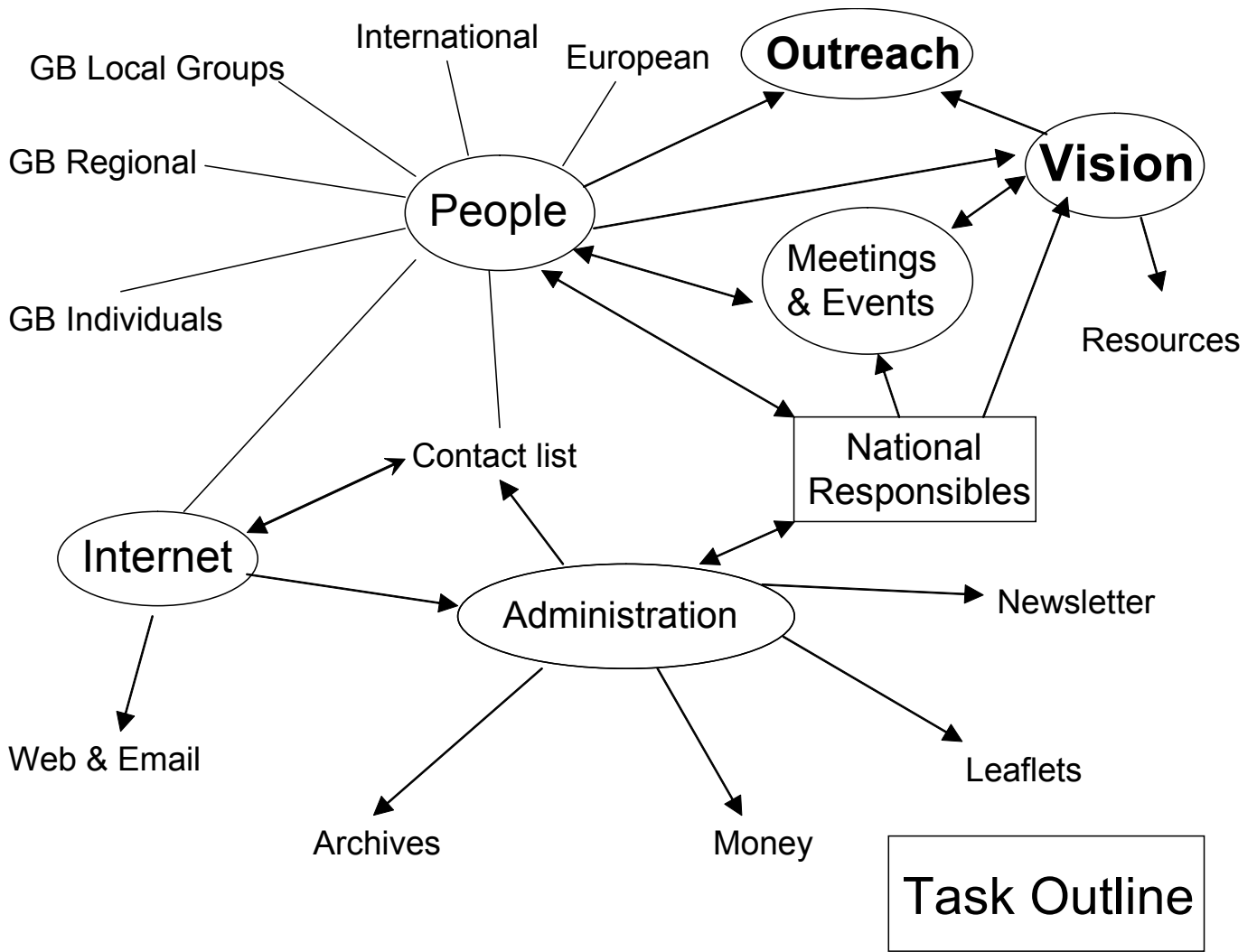
- ❖ To assist the Working Group in preparing a regular Newsletter and other publications for distribution.
- ❖ To commission and prepare content for inclusion in the Newsletter and other publications.
- ❖ To oversee the type-setting and mailing of the Newsletter and other distributed material.
- ❖ To assist the Working Group with the editing and proof reading of a variety of materials.
- ❖ To foster and promote the distribution of the Newsletter in electronic form where appropriate.

Translator(s)

- ❖ To assist the Working Group in translating documents and other material to and from English (French and Spanish are most needed).
- ❖ To assist the Secretary, Administrator and Editor with translations when required.
- ❖ To support the Working Group in dealing with foreign language material and speech.

Web Editor

- ❖ To provide technical support to the Working Group in setting up and maintaining a British 'Foucauld' Web Site.
- ❖ To foster, promote and coordinate the use of Internet technologies within the British Foucauld community
- ❖ To work with the Editor and others to prepare and modify suitable materials for submission to the British and other Web Sites.
- ❖ To set up and provide technical support for the use of electronic mailing lists by the Working Group.
- ❖ To liaise and work with other parts of the spiritual family in the use of internet technology.



PRAYER: A WAY OF UNITY

You may like to use this prayer on your own or with others. We used a short Taizé chant as the response to each petition, but any prayer to the Holy Spirit may be used.

God calls us together in a way of unity:
Women and men
People of all ethnic origins
People of all social classes
People with different states of life.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

We are inspired by the example of Charles de Foucauld. May we help each other to follow Jesus and to live the Gospel.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

Grateful for its origin in the Roman Catholic Church, may our Foucauld family and our hearts be open to all those who are drawn by the message of Brother Charles.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we be faithful to the inspiration of Brother Charles and seek to live the hidden life of Nazareth.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we search constantly for the incarnate Son of God who became the "carpenter's son" and welcome him into our lives.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

Enable us to "cry the gospel" with our lives.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we welcome those who are poor, who are the living presence of Christ in the midst of the world, in friendship and solidarity.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we search for communion and universal friendship with all the Churches, religions and people of the world.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we model our lives on the example of Jesus Christ.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we adore Jesus and receive him in the Eucharist, the real presence of God amongst us.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we welcome Jesus in his Word, especially in the Gospel.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we search for Jesus in personal prayer, in retreat, in desert days and in self-abandonment.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we meet Jesus, in loving him and serving him in all people.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we live in solidarity with the poor.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...



May we live a simple life as an alternative to the consumer society.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we share the sorrows of the poor, the hopes of the poor, the conflicts of the poor, in the search for true freedom.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we recognise in all people, in our neighbours, in those most abandoned who are in need of material, spiritual or moral support, a brother and a sister to love.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we embrace our life together.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we grow in mutual understanding and affection for each other. May we be sensitive to each others' need, whatever it may be.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

Give us a true conversion of heart, particularly through the review of life. May we scrutinise our personal and public lives in accordance with the demands of the Gospel.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

Make us capable of a true sharing with others. May we renounce our privileges in order to seek a more communal management of material goods.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we neither be "dumb dogs nor sleeping watchers" but take a clear position when human rights are threatened by any form of oppression. May we respond to Brother Charles' plea: "It is Jesus in this situation."

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we respect the freedom of others and not try to impose on them an obligation to concur with or act on our position.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May Brother Charles always be a source of renewal for ourselves and for all who are inspired by his example.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May we grow in knowledge of Charles de Foucauld's life, his writings and his spirituality.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May the example of Brother Charles help us to remain faithful to our vocation.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

May the example of Brother Charles help us to meet today's demands of the Gospel in our lives.

Ah....Veni Creator Spiritus...

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EVENTS

London - Enfield

December 1st Mass at Enfield

Malcolm writes:

“As most of the Enfield Fraternity members regularly attend the 09.30 Saturday morning Mass in Our Lady and St George, London Road, Enfield and to complement the event in central London... we decided to ask Fr Richard, our Parish Priest, if we could once again celebrate Blessed Charles. Fr Richard has kindly agreed so if anyone else would like to join us you are most welcome but please not at the expense of your attendance at the central London Event. The mass will be very similar to last years and if you would like to come and help with the singing please let me know.”

Contact Malcolm on
020 8366 3389 or
maljogn@tiscali.co.uk

December 1st, Walsingham

The Little Sisters of Jesus write:

We will have a Holy Hour in the Church of the Annunciation, Walsingham, from 2.30 to 3.30 pm on Saturday December 1st, followed by refreshments in the Upper Room of the Church.

Fr Michael, the Parish Priest, will celebrate the Mass of Brother Charles in the morning, the usual morning Mass at 9.30am.

There is late night shopping, Fr Christmas, Christmas lights etc. from 5pm which is why we have the Hour earlier than usual as the village will be more or less closed to traffic from then onwards.

Contact the Little Sisters of Jesus: 01328 820 422

London - Brixton



December 1st: Brother Charles' Day

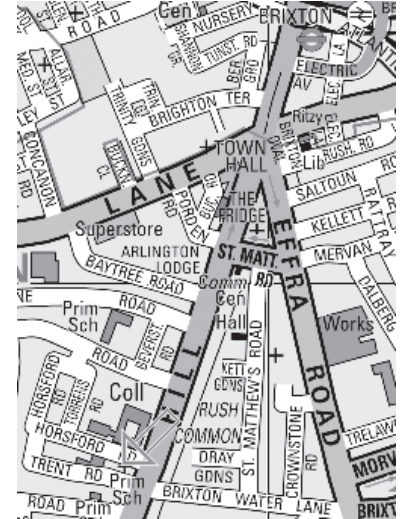
Gather with the friends of Blessed Charles de Foucauld as we celebrate his life on the anniversary of his death



11:30am – 5pm, Saturday 1st December 2007 at Corpus Christi Parish Hall Trent Road, Brixton Hill, London SW2

(Closest tube: Brixton)

11:30 Arrival and refreshments
12:00 Adoration (during
confessions) in the church
13:00 Shared lunch (please bring a
little food/ drink)
followed by a presentation on:



The Life of
Brother René
Voillaume,
founder of the Little
Brothers of Jesus

ALL WELCOME

Further information: contact Pam or Keith: 020 7326 1076