

Tres Dias Winter Newsletter

Dear 4th Day Community, Happy New Year to you all. Just as some of you may be thinking of New Year Resolutions I would like to take you back to a Christmas carol that you may have been singing a few weeks ago. There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

Below is the explanation. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree

Was Jesus Christ

Two turtle doves

Were the Old and New Testaments

Three French hens

Stood for faith, hope and love

The four calling birds

Were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The five gold rings

Recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament

The six geese a-laying

Stood for the six days of creation

Seven swans a swimming

Represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit

The eight maids a milking

Were the eight beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing

Were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control

The ten Lords a leaping

Were the Ten Commandments

The eleven pipers piping

Stood for the eleven faithful disciples

The twelve drummers drumming

Symbolises the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

I will never think of the carol in the same way.

Elena and David Petto
New Year Celebration

Our New Year celebration, this year, will be held on the 4th February at the Chapel in the Valley at 12:00 for 12:30.

Please note that this is an RSVP only event since seating and catering could be a problem. Please respond by 18th January, at the latest, to Barbara Wells (01929 554587) or Angela Lewis (01202 386703) to book your places.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it.

Please find response slip at the end of this Newsletter.

Weekend Reports:

Womens#10 Weekend at Moorlands Bible College 8th to 11th September 2005.

We had a wonderful weekend with 16 fantastic participants and a team that I can only thank the Lord for. They were brilliant and so supportive and hard working from the training right through to the last moment of the weekend.

Thank you all.

The Lord really blessed us in so many areas it is difficult to share with you the feeling of the weekend. If I have to pick the special time for me it would be the lovely moving serenade when our menfolk sang to us and serenaded us through the gardens by candlelight and then the service of celebration and light, when we just felt so empowered by the Holy Spirit, words are not enough to describe the closeness at that special service.

This is a letter of thanks to so many people. Thank you to the 4th day community who came to the closing. Thank you to all the men who came and sang to us. Thanks you for all your prayers for this weekend. They were answered beyond measure!

De Colores Pat Pickering Lay Rector

Men's #10 Weekend at Honiton, 6th to 9th October 2005

Looking back at my Tres Dias experiences, I can only say that each builds on and exceeds the experience of the last. I will never forget my own weekend, but the joy I experienced was as nothing compared to the joy and privilege of serving on team for the following one. Imagine then the experience of being Lay Rector for number 10!

With a relatively short timeframe into which all the preparations had to fit, I must pay tribute to all my team who worked so hard. Gentlemen, thank you from the very bottom of my heart for your commitment to the weekend and your definitely God-given abilities to tolerate my lack of organisation! From the start, we acknowledged that we couldn't do this on our own (not that there would be any point) and God was, of course, faithful in the preparations and during the three days themselves. My thanks must also go to our wives who tolerated much during the lead-up to the beginning of October.

The weekend passed all too quickly, with a depth of fellowship, honesty and sharing that I have never experienced before. I find it impossible to point to a single "most special" moment, but the serenade, and the Service of Light that followed were real blessings. Thank you to the ladies who came all the way to

Devon to sing to us. I can honestly say that there wasn't a dry eye in the dining room that evening.

A final "thank you" to all those who lifted up the weekend, the participants and the team in prayer. We knew we were being prayed for because the prayers were being answered.

De Colores, Andy Binnington, Lay Rector.

Future Weekends

Womens Tres Dias #11

Once again, St Rita's in Honiton prepares to welcome Tres Dias South West. Plans are well underway for the weekend 2nd – 5th March 2006. The team is in place and we ask for your prayerful support as we move towards the training days on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January.

We are holding two Palanca days , one on January 14th at Moureen Else's home in Swanage and one more yet to be confirmed. Please come and join the fun of preparation.

Team names confirmed so far are: Lay Rector: Jan Corrie, Chief Auxiliary: Elizabeth Adey, Spiritual Directors: Steph Fallows and Barbara Schneider (USA): Stella Banks, Rachel Binnington, Gill Casey, Frances Griffin, Jan Kerntiff, Victoria Kilkenny, Joss Laver, Anne Legge, Marcie Oliver (USA), Pauline Pipet, Barbara Wells

Please uphold this weekend in your prayers and pray for guidance in sponsorship of participants. We already have 4 confirmed pilgrims – let's keep listening and responding and work together as a 4th day Community.

De Colores!

Jan Corrie

Mens Tres Dias #11

This spring our Men's weekend will be held at Moorlands Bible College beginning on the 30th March The Men's team is gradually coming together. Training is planned for 11th February and again early in March. Please pray for this weekend. It will be the first Spring Men's Tres Dias for a long time.

Sponsorship

If you were grateful for your weekend and for the person who sponsored you. Don't forget you can encourage others in the same way. Don't put it off, ask God to direct you to that special person that He wants to bless. Whether you are on team or not, your role within the Tres Dias community is to seek out those on whom God has set His heart and His will.

Application forms for the forthcoming weekends can be obtained from the Booking Secretary (Rachel Binnington Tel 01202 600052)

We really need to get behind the forthcoming weekends both for ladies and the men. We can all make a difference, and be part of the weekend whether we are on the team, praying for the weekend sponsoring a participant or making some wonderful Palanca.

Westcott 2005

This was a special time when 17 of our community spent a weekend on the farm. Although there was no special agenda for the weekend, we all had a fantastic time of fellowship. Some spent time at the local Donkey Sanctuary and visited the market in Honiton, others just chilled out as the mood took them. Mealtimes were really good and gave everyone a chance to get to know one another just that little bit better. The ladies spent a great evening making palanca for the Men's weekend, some of which inspired the weekend logo. This was so appreciated by the men who received it. It would be great to do this again, perhaps this autumn!

December Secuela

Our community met at Turbury Church for fellowship and Tea. This secuela was something of a departure for our community. Instead of a shared Lunch we had a shared Tea which was preceded by a short business meeting. We need to seek out other secuela venues. Please contact any member of the board if you know of a suitable venue. We have had one or two suggestions already which we will follow up.

Marion Cotterill

I am writing to you to tell you that Marion Cotterill died on Boxing Day. Tom Johns telephoned on Saturday to say that she had spent Christmas day happily with Judith, the oldest of her three daughters and it was unexpected.

Marion was responsible for so much. I met her with Tom at a prison conference early in 1993. Tom, then Assistant Chaplain General to prisons, had just been on Cursillo, sponsored by Marion. At that time Marion was involved in establishing Cursillo in the Lichfield diocese and was the Area Co-ordinator for Prison Fellowship. Tom and Marion sent me on Cursillo in April 1993.

In the summer of 1995, when LOVE IS NOT A LUXURY was finished Marion and I went to see Kairos in Florida and then, with Max Graham, we joined forces to bring Tres Dias to England. The first weekend was in Sheffield exactly 10 years ago - in January 1996. Marion, late in the day took over the job of Lay Rector. Her gentleness, practicality and experience, made her the ideal person and Alison and I both asked her to hold our hands as our turns came to be Lay Rector when we began Tres Dias in the South West.

Marion's funeral will be on Friday at 2.30 in Lichfield Cathedral (where she ran the book shop for a number of years). Tom says he will tell her family how much she means to us. She feels so completely alive to me and it is lovely to think of her being happy with God. Perhaps this sense of her continuing life is part of the forth day family.

Penelope Lee

Newsletter Editorial

You may remember that last January Elena and David Petto agreed to undertake responsibility for the community Newsletters for 2005. Thank you for all that you have done.

Tres Dias Dates 2006

Board Meeting	20 th January
Women's #11 Training	27 th – 28 th January
New Year Celebration RSVP Only	4 th February
Men's #11 Training	11 th February
Board Meeting	17 th February
Women's #11	2 nd – 5 th March
Men's #11	30 th March – 2 nd April
Hilfield Day of Reflection	25 th March
Board Meeting	7 th April
Welcome Secuela	22 nd April
Board Meeting	16 June
AGM	1 st July
Hilfield Day of Reflection	29 th September

Don't forget this is also your newsletter. Please keep the contributions coming. Most welcome would be comments from the new pescadores about their weekend and 4th day journey so far.

Material for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Newsletter Editor by 28th February 2006

c/o Steve and Barbara Wells
29 Miles Avenue
Sandford
Wareham
BH20 7AS

Barbara.wells@talktalk.net or steve.wells@talktalk.net

Stop Press

February 4th 2006 at 7:30 pm A concert in aid of mouth cancer and Longside School. To be held at St. Ives C of E Church Ringwood, for more information contact Denise Gill on (01202 871630).

New Year Celebration Return Slip

I / we will be coming to the Tres Dias New Year Celebration on the 4th February.

Name.....

Address.....

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Number attending.....