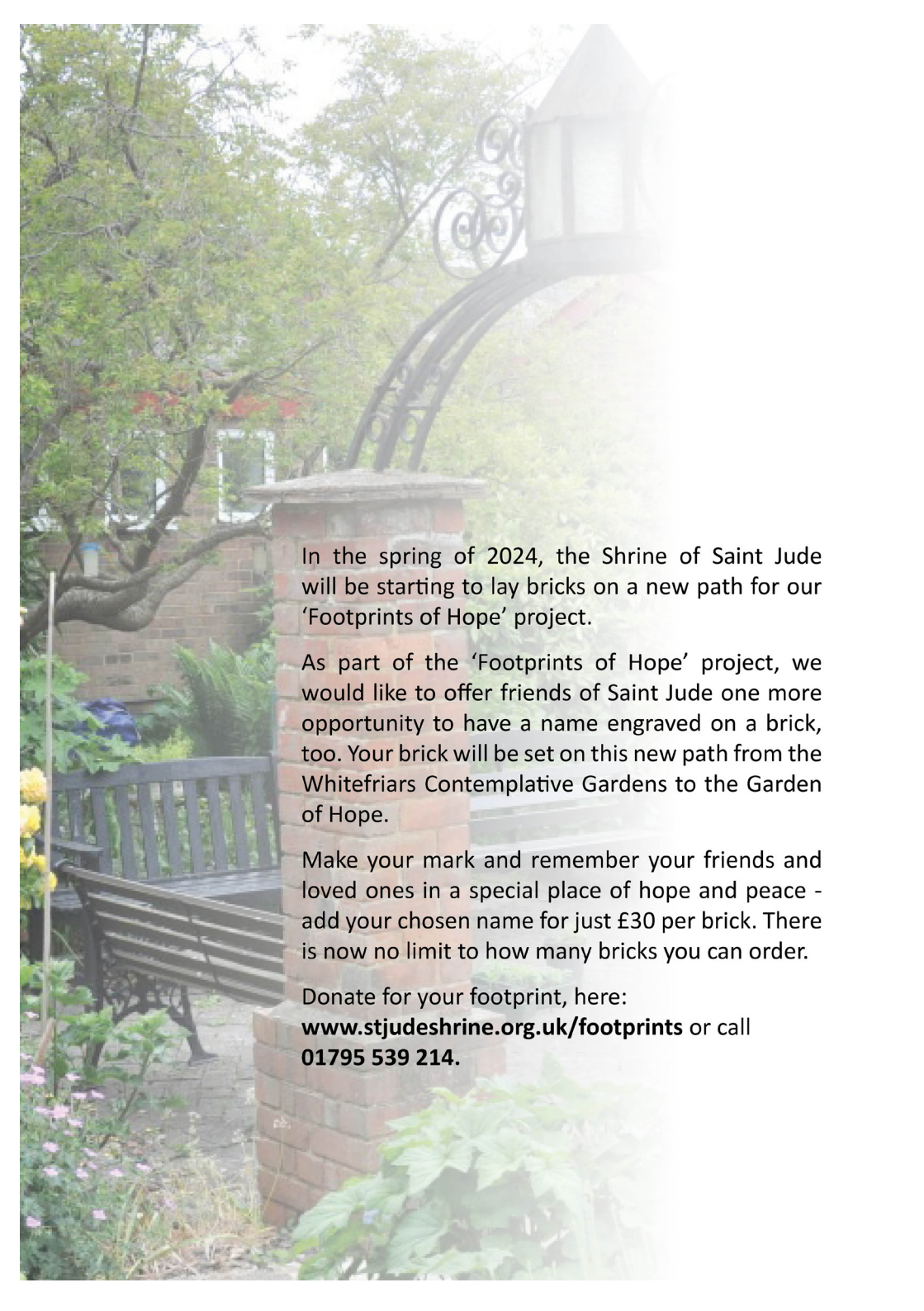


# SAINT JUDE FOCUS

[www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk)



**News from the Shrine of Saint Jude - December 2023/January 2024**



In the spring of 2024, the Shrine of Saint Jude will be starting to lay bricks on a new path for our 'Footprints of Hope' project.

As part of the 'Footprints of Hope' project, we would like to offer friends of Saint Jude one more opportunity to have a name engraved on a brick, too. Your brick will be set on this new path from the Whitefriars Contemplative Gardens to the Garden of Hope.

Make your mark and remember your friends and loved ones in a special place of hope and peace - add your chosen name for just £30 per brick. There is now no limit to how many bricks you can order.

Donate for your footprint, here:  
**[www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/footprints](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/footprints)** or call  
**01795 539 214.**



# WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE of *Saint Jude Focus* - updating the friends of Saint Jude on what is happening here. We had a wonderful Feast of Saint Jude over the weekend of 28 - 29 October 2023. Thank you to all those who came and joined us in prayer - either in person or from afar.

As we near the end of 2023, we have only a few more events coming up, but we are particularly excited that we have our new fundraiser in December: 'Jude Everywhere' - please join us walking 12 miles if you can (see later in this edition for more details).

Looking forward to spring 2024, our 'Footprints of Hope' will start to be built. There is still time to donate for these, or alternatively, you can sponsor some extra special ones for our deceased 'Ambassadors of Hope'.

Thank you for your continued support of the Shrine and the Carmelite Order.

*Matt*

# FOOTPRINTS

**NEXT YEAR, A NEW PATH WILL** finally be laid out for our 'Footprints of Hope' project - there's still time to add a brick. Please see advert (opposite).

Many thousands of individuals have been involved with the Shrine since its foundation: from friars and staff, past and present, to supporters of Saint Jude and the Carmelite Order, to the people of Faversham – all of whom have come here with an abundance of experiences, memories and hope.

Therefore, we also want to honour those deceased friars and volunteers who have in the past worked tirelessly for the Shrine: past ambassadors.

We have chosen nineteen names – various friars, artists and volunteers. Can you help by sponsoring one of these 'Footprints of Hope'? If you can help, please donate via our website, below or call 01795 539 214. Thank you.

[www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/ambassadors-shrine](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/ambassadors-shrine)



## Apostle of Hope

**JUDE IS THE 'GO-TO'** apostle and saint for so many people. But who was he and why is he the Apostle of Hope?

Jude is known as Judas and is differentiated from the traitor (of the same name) by descriptions such as “not Iscariot”, “son of James”, or “the Zealot”. He is also usually taken to be the Thaddeus in the lists of Apostles given by Matthew and Mark. Jude has only one recorded spoken verse in the Gospel of John when, at the Last Supper, he asks: “Lord, why is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not the

world?” Though he only has this one recorded moment, it doesn't mean he wasn't important to the Christian story. As Fr. Richard Copsey wrote in a recent reflection, “[*Saint Jude*] is not a passive bystander, [because] he was selected by Jesus as an apostle so must have had a special role.” Jude was being prepared by Jesus to spread the Good News after his death and resurrection.

After the crucifixion, Jerusalem would have returned to how it always was – busy and full of activity once more. Some would not have even heard

about the tragedy that had occurred at Calvary. Though we don't read his name again, we know that Jude was one of the Apostles hiding and fearing for their lives. The darkness of grief they felt would have been made all the darker by feeling that they also had failed during the trial of Jesus. They had, of course, hoped and believed that if they followed Jesus, he would have founded his kingdom – but now it had ended like this with his death. Now there was no hope.

But then things changed.



Shrine of Saint Jude

“...the love of God is poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit...”



Jesus and his disciples

The promises and reassurances of Jesus, which the Apostles had misunderstood, were now about to be fulfilled.

Several women who had witnessed the crucifixion and had helped with his burial had made a promise to themselves: on Sunday (the earliest opportunity), they would anoint and prepare Jesus' body with spices. These spices were used to offset any odour that resulted from decomposition. The fact that they agreed to do this, means that they had no expectation of the immediate resurrection of Jesus from the dead. On the way there, they had asked each other how they were

going to roll away the heavy stone – and were unsure until they arrived and found the stone had been rolled back already. Inside, they saw a young man dressed in white. He said: “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look inside is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” Utterly frightened, Mary Magdalen and the other women headed to speak to the eleven.

Now everything changes in the story of Jesus' followers. Peter and John go out to look – and the body has indeed gone. They return to the other nine apostles and Mary to let them know. Over the next forty days, the truth of the Resurrection is revealed by Jesus himself. He visits the apostles and many other disciples several times. John tells us that Jesus appeared many more times than what is recorded in his Gospel, but the best guess is around ten or twelve times. There were probably more times, because even Saint Paul mentions another time not recorded in the New Testament.

The Resurrection is, of course, more than just some appearances – it is the start of a new era of God’s eternal purpose. Now finally, the Apostles can all enjoy the hope of the resurrection. They are transformed and go out to spread the Good News assisted by the Holy Spirit. They now lived on hope, hope that with the living Christ they would become more like Him in showing love to others. Hope too that when death came, they would find a still more magnificent life in another place with Jesus. Jude goes out with Simon to spread the Good News of Hope across Asia Minor, and the other Apostles do likewise across Europe, Africa and Asia.

This hope spread by the Apostles is just as important as ever because life is pretty difficult for many of us right now.

Back in 1955, when Carmelite friar, Fr. Elias Lynch founded the Shrine of Saint

Jude, it was in many ways a response to the needs of the post-war generation looking for hope, and Saint Jude made extra sense, because the Carmelite charism is so deeply rooted in the Gospels. These initial reasons are still realities in 2023: we need a place of prayer, peace and hope – knowing that, to God, nothing is hopeless.

Jude is said to have travelled across the east spreading the Good News, welcoming people to become Christians and share in this message of hope. At the Shrine of Saint Jude (and all Carmelite communities) everyone is welcome. Sometimes it is easy to imagine Saint Jude welcoming each of us to come and discover the magnificent hope and love of God at the shrine. We too need to be messengers of hope, telling everyone about God and the hope that is brought by faith in the Resurrection: making sure too that we are welcoming to all.

In 1955, Jude was very much the forgotten Apostle, which is why people always turn to him when they feel forgotten. However, thanks to the foresight of the Carmelites in England, sixty-eight years ago, Jude is no longer the forgotten Apostle in these isles.

When we think of Jude, it is a good way of reminding ourselves that no-one is forgotten by God.

God is our Hope, Jesus is our saviour, and Saint Jude is our friend who reminds us of all of this.

He is truly the Apostle of Hope. Saint Jude, pray for us.

*by Matthew Betts*

This reflection was originally written for the Carmelite British Province in October 2023.

*May mercy, peace, and love be  
yours in abundance*



# #stjudeeverywhere

[www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk)

**CAN YOU HELP US** with our new sponsored walk: 'St. Jude Everywhere'?

During December, we want to celebrate our favourite Apostle and see if you or someone you know could walk twelve miles wherever they are for the new 'St. Jude Everywhere' sponsored walk? Walk the twelve miles in one day, over a week, or over the month of December. Whatever you like!

By joining us for 'St. Jude Everywhere', you will help us to raise donations for the work of the Shrine and

the Carmelites across the UK and around the world.

If you would like to walk 12 miles wherever you are, you can sign up via [shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk](mailto:shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk), call 01795 539 214 and we can send you a sponsored walk form, or download it from our website.

Alternatively, you can raise the money and then add your donation via our online site:

<https://carmelite.enthuse.com/JudeEverywhere>

If you use social media, please use the hashtag

#stjudeeverywhere and please send us any photos of your walk so we can share.

**If you are not able to join, but would like to support the walkers, please donate via the link above or send your donation to our address, using the form overleaf. THANK YOU.**



[tinyurl.com/JudeEverywhere](http://tinyurl.com/JudeEverywhere)


# Remembering the Shrine and the Carmelites in your Will

Your legacy will help the Carmelite Charitable Trust and the Shrine of Saint Jude to ensure that the work and ministry of the province and the Shrine will continue for many generations to come.

It is thanks to so many of the legacies of the past that we have been able to continue our work, building God's Kingdom on earth even when your earthly life is over.

Please call 01795 539 214, scan the QR Code, or visit [www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk) for more information.



 <https://tinyurl.com/JudeFB>

 [twitter.com/saintjudeshrine](https://twitter.com/saintjudeshrine)



 Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, Faversham, ME13 3BZ

 01795 539 214

 [newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk)

 [www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk)

Donate online: <https://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/donate>

Online shop: <https://tinyurl.com/SaintJudeShop>



Please recycle or pass this communication on to a friend after you have finished reading it - thank you.



Registered Charity: No. 1061342

Front cover, pages 1, 5, 7, 8 © used with permission from istockphoto.com - all other photos © Carmelite Charitable Trust. istockphoto.com have all been purchased and are used with permission. Focus has been written, designed and edited by Mr. Matthew Betts. The Focus is correct at the time of printing. Contact the editor on: [newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk).