



Guild of Saint Jude

2025 Members' Magazine

Issue 12



Welcome

by Matthew Betts

We are now in the seventieth anniversary year since the Shrine of Saint Jude was founded on 28 October 1955 and still in the special church jubilee as Pilgrims of Hope. This celebratory year is a precursor to many more celebrations coming up in 2026, as we will be celebrating one hundred years since the Carmelites returned to Britain after the Reformation.

This important moment back in 1926 eventually led to the founding of one shrine (Saint Jude) and the re-founding and return of the Carmelites to another (and much older) shrine at Aylesford Priory. We have a lot to be grateful for.

Celebrations for the one hundred years will be occurring throughout 2026 and are being led by the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (working closely with the Shrine), please look out for notices.

In this celebratory magazine, we have an excellent article from Fr. Richard Green, O.Carm, on Hope is in the word of the Lord. We also have a fascinating reflection from Br. Matthew Janvier, O.Carm on renewed hope. We then take a look back seventy years to reflect on how a simple picture of Saint Jude led to the foundation of our special shrine. Finally, we hear from Christine who writes about the wreaths she creates each year.

I can't conclude this welcome to the magazine without saying: thank you. Thank you for being the best. Although this magazine is coming out after the Feast, it was written and edited before - and as I write this, I know many of you will come and say hello during that time. We always enjoy meeting members.

Your support is very special and you are truly the best. Thank you.

Competition Time

It's competition time! Our question is:

Name one of the artists involved in the Shrine in the 1950s

Send your answer, plus your name and address to: guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or to our PO Box address: Guild of Saint Jude, Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, FAVERSHAM, Kent, ME13 3BZ

We will pick out three winners who will receive a special prize. Good luck!

Competition closes on 30 November 2025.

Hope is in the word of the Lord

by Fr. Richard Green, O.Carm

“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever” (Isaiah 40.8)

The difference between hope and blind optimism is that hope is something that is based on a solid foundation. Things that are short-lived, ephemeral or unreliable don't make a good basis for hope. But if we place our trust in something enduring, solid and unshakeable, then that becomes a real, firmly grounded hope.

The word of the Lord is one of those things that is worthy of our trust. What do I mean by 'the word of the Lord'? When we read the Old Testament, we often come upon that phrase, referring to a specific thing that God says to a prophet. In 1 Kings 19, for example, Elijah spends the night in a cave on the mountain, and it is the word of the Lord that comes to him and asks "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

In the New Testament, the phrase "the word of the Lord" is used quite often in the Acts of the Apostles. Here it refers to the gospel message that the apostles were preaching, the good news about Jesus.

And today we often talk about the "word of the Lord", (or "the word of God") and refer to the Bible. After the readings at Mass, the reader proclaims "The Word of the Lord",

and we reply, "Thanks be to God". By doing this, we mean more than an acceptance that this passage we have just heard is an extract from the Bible. By that response, we acknowledge that through the experience of listening to that text, God is communicating with us here and now, in our own lives. There is something within each reading we hear at Mass that can be helpful for us. It might directly connect to a situation in our own lives. There might be something about the words or actions of the people spoken of that is inspirational to us (or even a warning to us!). It might connect with our emotions in some way, connecting what is happening within us to our understanding of God. Or there might simply be information within it that fills out our understanding of who God is, and how God acts in the world.

There is something particular about the Bible that marks it out as being different to other books. Even the latest parts of the Bible were written many centuries ago, but unlike anything else that was written then, it continues to be read. It is still a book that many, many people see as containing something central to their lives. After all this time, it continues to illuminate people, to show them their way in life. Or to be more precise, God continues to act in people's lives, through their hearing or reading of God's word.

The Gospel According to **MATTHEW**

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers

3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by the women of Shimon, and Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Ammon, and Ammon begot

man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for so will He save the people from their sins."

This hearing and reading is something that can be transformative in our lives, because it is a place where we encounter God. Any authentic meeting with God will leave us changed somehow. It will involve growth as a person and a better understanding of who God is, who we are and how we connect to the people around us who we meet every day. But most of all, it will leave us with a greater love.

Over the centuries since Jesus's death and resurrection, the church has grown and developed and changed in many ways. But underneath all of this is that encounter with God in the words that we find in the Bible. The history of the church is a history of Jesus's followers encountering God and being changed by that encounter. As Catholics, we know that we don't do this on our own, but as a community of people being transformed in this way. We know that we are always coming to God, and receiving God's love in many

different ways. Whichever way we think about, fundamentally it is God's love that lies at the heart of it, transforming us. And that is what provides the solid foundation for our hope.

Fr. Richard was ordained priest by Bishop Paul Hendricks on 6 July 2025 at Aylesford Priory. He is currently based in the north east in the new Carmelite community.



How a simple picture led to the foundation of the Shrine

by Matthew Betts

Why was the Shrine of Saint Jude founded in 1955? Did Saint Jude visit Faversham back in New Testament times? The quick answer is no, but the reason for its foundation is still fascinating.

It all started with the development of the work of the Carmelites who returned to England (after the Reformation) nearly one hundred years ago in 1926.

After being invited to run the Catholic parishes of Sittingbourne and Faversham by the then Bishop of Southwark, the Carmelites began to make their presence felt. By 1938, the Carmelite Press was founded to print materials for various clients, who by their donations, would support the work of the Carmelite friars. The Press printed a newsletter called 'Carmelite News' (which we still produce four times a year) and kept supporters appraised of the developments in Faversham and beyond.

'Carmelite News' thus became an important communications link between the Order and its supporters. In many ways, all other communications including this one ('Guild Magazine') are all descended from those first ones.

This work of 'Carmelite News' and the Carmelite Press was supervised by Fr. Elias Lynch, O.Carm. By the early 1950s

Fr. Elias received an increasing number of requests from readers for prayer cards of Saint Jude. Having distributed such a card, donations to "The Shrine of Saint Jude" and requests for prayers started flooding in. Such a shrine did not exist, but perceiving the need, Fr. Elias quickly developed a place of prayer and devotion to the Apostle Jude alongside the parish church in Faversham.

Fr. Elias, recorded his reflections on it all at the time:

"I did not know much about the devotion to Saint Jude when I started producing religious pictures. They were the usually accepted ones - the Sacred Heart, the Immaculate Conception and so on - in black and white, not very good, nothing original. In fact, we were rather ashamed of them. Printing is a peculiar job. You produce a whole page of print and then you feel you ought to lighten it up a little bit. So, you put in a picture. We had rotten paper during the war. Anyway, we produced black and white pictures of the saints, in connection with the Novenas we sent out during the year.

"Once you start producing religious pictures, people get the idea that you are unlimited in your range. They think that you can supply any religious picture they like to name. Our great trouble was Saint Jude; the Apostle and

Martyr. People used to write to us and say, "Have you got a picture of Saint Jude?" Now, that poses a difficulty. He, or she, is a well meaning religious person. If you haven't got a picture of Saint Jude, you have to write back and say "No". That means a personal letter and costs 3d. It involves personal correspondence. In the end, we decided that the only way out was to print a large number of pictures of Jude and send them out to everybody. I found an old German picture of Jude, and I reproduced a quarter of a million pictures of Saint Jude and his club, with prayers in honour of Jude, and sent them out broadcast to all who called on us."

"I got more than a surprise. I was caught in a tidal wave. People started sending in masses of thanksgiving to Saint Jude; donations to the Shrine of Saint Jude - which didn't exist; petitions to the Shrine of Saint Jude - which didn't exist."

"Start dealing with a movement like that and you have got something on your hands. The upshot of it was that we decided to create a Shrine of Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr. The trouble was to build it; to put something there that would be recognisable as a Shrine of Saint Jude. The war ended. We got building plans and started work. After two years - it is there."

Fr. Elias founded the Shrine for two more reasons: first, because he was responding to the needs of the post-

war generation who were looking for hope, and secondly because the Carmelite charism is so deeply rooted in the Word of God. Both of these reasons are still realities in 2025, and pilgrims find the Shrine to be a place of prayer, peace, and hope. Over the years, it has been called "a jewel" and also "a common meeting ground between Anglicans and Catholics". All are welcome.

On 28 October 1955, the Bishop of Southwark Cyril Cowderoy, assisted by the Prior General of the Carmelite Order, the Prior of Aylesford, and many other priests and religious, dedicated the Shrine of Saint Jude.

Matthew Betts is the development manager at the Shrine.



A renewed hope

by Br. Matthew Janvier, O.Carm

As the jubilee of hope continues, I become more and more concerned that I will not have anything new to say. Or that I will end up repeating myself, relying upon the same passages of scripture or stories to say what I want to say. But then I stop and realise that this 'standing still' in my understanding of what a jubilee of hope is quite the opposite of the movement of a pilgrim of hope, a pilgrimage into hope. What is needed then is a recommitment if you like – a renewal of hope.

Maybe the old saying 'it is what you make of it' has become too entrenched in my thoughts. Perhaps instead, I should think 'it will be what I allow God to make of it in me'. Not all things are possible for me on my own, but nothing is impossible for God. Who would I rather trust in, in who would I rather place my hope? And with this in mind, I have come to a few short conclusions about hope, and my relationship with it.

Hope always and only ever looks to the future – our future in the life of God.

Hope has God as its source and has God as its ultimate fulfilment – it is good.

Hope is not easy – it asks much of us. But never too much that it is impossible.

Hope, poured into our hearts

by God, calls us from within, drawing us towards God.

Admittedly, these are not my own thoughts, but those of Saint Thomas Aquinas and his explanation of the virtue of hope. Yet still, I find his explanation illuminates moments of my life, especially my Carmelite life, so that I can see how God has called me, challenged me, inspired me, and sustained me. But maybe most importantly, and to take all of this out of the past tense... how God is calling me, is challenging me, is inspiring me, and is and always will sustain me.

Three years ago, on 3 September, I took a step out in hope into religious life as a friar in the Order. I remember distinctly the Gospel for that day as it was the feast of St. Gregory the Great. It was a passage from Matthew's Gospel (Matt 16:13-19), where Jesus asks his disciples who the Son of Man is? He then turns to Peter directly and asks, 'but who do you say I am?'. It is quite a piercing question, but at the same time a comforting one. Jesus asks Peter directly; he desires the individual. Not just one more disciple hidden in the crowd. I was not just another friar in the province, or in the Order, but an individual whose hope in God's goodness and love had driven me to this point. And so, with joy, I professed my vows of obedience, poverty and chastity for three years.

Our vocation, whether it is as a mother, father, to religious life, married life or single life, is rooted in God. It is God who calls us out into this understanding of who God has created us to be and what God hopes for us to become. A mistake may be to think that we have to wait around to see what God's plan for us is. But our very being is God's plan, our simple turning to God is what God desires for our lives.

Through the person of Christ, each of us is asked individually in prayer and through others "who do you say I am?". Because of this, I believe we can do nothing but flourish. But that does not mean it is always easy! A plant for example which is planted in the perfect conditions still has to weather a harsh winter every now and again! But we do not hope in what is impossible, only in what God makes possible in our lives.

Now those three years have passed, and so I am faced with the same question as before, "Matthew, who do you say I am?". Again, I find it to be a question of either remaining stagnant in hope or driving forwards. Pressing on, as Saint Paul would say, 'to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me' (Philippians 3:12). In the context of religious life, that meant taking the decision to renew my vows of obedience, poverty and chastity according to the Carmelite Rule, renewing my commitment to God and to my brothers. Because for

me, my profession as a Carmelite friar allows me to live in hope.

A renewal of vows which looks to the future – our future in the life of God

A vocation which has God as its source and is fully realised in God – it is good

A life which is not always easy – it asks much of us. But never too much that it is impossible.

A love, poured into our hearts by God, calling us from within, drawing us into God.

But this renewal of vows does not mean that I can rest, become stagnant again in my hope in Christ. Jesus' question to Peter becomes a daily question which we must all consider, in whatever way we live of Christian lives. But I am confident that if St Peter's answer is our own, then we will live in hope. Or as Elijah would exclaim before the God of his hope – 'With zeal, we are zealous for the Lord God of Hosts' (1 Kings 19:10).

Br. Matthew Janvier is based in the Carmelite Community in Reading.



Churches Visitor and Tourist Association

At the start of October, the Shrine of Saint Jude was proud to host the annual Churches Visitor & Tourism Association conference on the theme of Pilgrimage.

On Friday, we were able to reflect with Rosie Bradshaw on the icon she created of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This was followed by a tour of Faversham by Matt Betts including the Shrine, Our Lady of Mount Carmel church, the Almshouses chapel and Saint Mary of Charity parish church. Matt discussed how Faversham has a fascinating history which includes kings, pilgrimage, gunpowder and beer!

On Saturday, we then met at the Welcome Centre and enjoyed several fascinating presenters. The day started with a presentation from Mr Andrew

Kelly on how to attract pilgrims to your church, whilst outlining his own work in the creation of a pilgrimage route. This was followed by an interesting introduction to pilgrimage to Lourdes from Brendan Roche. Attendees were then invited on a virtual pilgrimage of London by Dr. Matt Valler. Dr. Matt was able to show we should all search for an extra meaning to life's pilgrimage.

This was followed by a talk from Dr. John Beal who presented on medieval pilgrimage. Next up, Mr Torin Brown discussed the contemporary motivation for pilgrimage.

The talks concluded with Bishop Paul Hendricks, auxiliary bishop in Southwark, who talked about the motivation to go on pilgrimage.



CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
21 - 28 August 2026

In 1858, Our Lady asked Saint Bernadette to tell the priests to "bring people here". Since 1901, the Catholic Association Pilgrimage has been bringing pilgrims to Our Lady's Shrine to answer that request.

We welcome anyone interested in visiting the beautiful shrine - our next pilgrimage is taking place on 21 - 28 August 2026.

Find out more:
www.catholicassociation.co.uk



Wreaths for Saint Jude

by Mrs Christine Nicholson

My name is Christine. I make wreaths and grave pots for Christmas. The end of the November is the time to go out collecting greenery. I get most of it from my garden. Each wreath is different, there are never two which are identical. Once the green is on, I like to finish decorating using baubles and ribbon that I source from charity shops or from friends. The time available is a short period, it usually fills about three weeks, and although it's fun, it is quite tiring. I am not getting any younger (74).

Sometimes my family will be available to help but I manage to assemble and deliver as well as allowing people I've known as customers for years to come to the house to collect. I also make Christmas "grave pots". These are very popular, some friends take nine at once. They are always generous about cost as they know the proceeds go to the Shrine of Saint Jude and the Carmelites.

In the past I learnt about floristry working in the floristry business but some of the skills are self-taught. I love Christmas and floristry so wreath making ticks both boxes.

Although my roots are in the Ribble Valley (in Lancashire), I spent some years in Bracknell and during the time in the 80's we visited the shrine and much later when touring in

retirement.

My mother introduced me to Saint Jude, she had a deep devotion to him and passed that on to me. If ever in doubt or despondency was a problem, she would always recommend Saint Jude. My father also had a deep belief in Saint Jude too. One morning he told us that he had actually seen an apparition of Saint Jude during one night.

I would hope that we as Christians can spread the joy and hope of Jesus' love by living in this way, seeing Christ in our neighbours and treating all people with unbiased love. Giving hope to those in despair and spreading goodness and kindness to any one in need. I also hope that Saint Jude approves of my wreath making at Christmas and that he commends my work to God and that I can make a profit to send to the shrine. I hope my reward will be in heaven and I look forward to meeting him for a chat.



Archives

As part of our celebrations for seventy years, we have started to scan in all the archive 'Carmelite News' to allow people a chance to read them. You will find many interesting anecdotes from the likes of Fr. Elias and Fr. David, plus many more. Eighty years or so of a newsletter from Faversham is truly a treasure trove of interest. You can download and view these on our website: **www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/latest-newsletter**

Saint Jude Everywhere

We need your help once more for our initiative 'Saint Jude Everywhere'.

This December, can you stroll twelve miles wherever you are for our 'Saint Jude Everywhere' sponsored walk? Walk the twelve miles over one day, over a week, or over the month of December. Whatever you like!

If you would like to join us, please sign up via shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or call 01795 539 214 and we can send you a sponsored walk form. Alternatively, you can collect sponsorship and then add your donation via:

<https://tinyurl.com/JudeEverywhere>

If you can't join us, but would like to support this initiative, please simply donate via the link above or send your donation to our address. THANK YOU.

Prayer Corner

Please pray for the souls of the Guild of Saint Jude members who have died since October 2024:

Mrs Y. Alban
Mrs M. Barter
Ms B. Bohanna
Mr D. Burland
Mr T. Cairns
Mrs A. Casson
Mrs M. Cull
Mrs M. Culshaw
Mrs U. Davis
Mrs C. Feaheny
Mr J. Flynn
Miss J. Francis
Mrs B. Gaede
Mrs R. Gilbert
Mr R. Glister
Mrs I. Gonsalves
Mr J. Griffin
Mrs B. Haran
Mrs W. Hibbert
Mrs M. Kerrigan
Mrs J. Lyons
Miss A. Massey
Mrs Morgan
Mr L. Mozdzierz
Mrs M. Navaratnam
Ms E. O'Connor
Mrs M. O'Sullivan
Mr M. O'Sullivan
Ms M. Robinson
Miss N. Saverimuttu
Ms G. Szwelicka
Mrs B. Taylor
Mrs C. Wignall
Mrs G. Yhip

And all those past members who have died and are known to God...May they all Rest in Peace and rise in glory.

Let us pray...

Guide and strengthen me, Holy Spirit, in trying to accomplish the mission of life you have assigned me. You haven't made it easy, but when I think of the trials of your martyrs, I stop complaining. I want to honour you, do some good for a lot of people, and then rest with you for a long time. Amen.

Lord Jesus, perfect model of all that a Christian should be like. Be with me always, at home, at work, at play. Amen.

Both prayers are included in the latest edition of 'Popular Prayers' which can be purchased from the Shrine.

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 for more information.



tinyurl.com/JudeBlueSky



<https://tinyurl.com/JudeFB>

The Guild Magazine is the annual magazine for the Guild of Saint Jude based at the National Shrine of Saint Jude, Faversham. If you would like to recommend a family member/friend to join, they need to send their details to:

✉ Guild of Saint Jude, Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, FAVERSHAM, Kent, ME13 3BZ

☎ 01795 539 214

✉ guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk

🌐 www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



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