



THE dictionary definition of oasis is: '(1) fertile spot in a desert where water is found or (2) an area of calm in the midst of turbulence.' Well, our Tuesday afternoon session fits the bill perfectly!

Plenty of water to make tea or coffee, plus the added delight of cake, and a place to draw aside from the hum drum of life where friendly faces are in abundance.

Perhaps you like to play board games, do jigsaw puzzles, make cards, do quizzes, look at old photos, buy items from the mini-stall or just plain reminisce - then our Tuesday afternoons from 2-4 pm are just for you. Your ideas are very welcome too.



MENU

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Tea/coffee | 20p |
| Tea/coffee & biscuits | 30p |
| Tea/coffee and cake | 50p |



Do join us to meet new people in our area.

For what we are about to receive . . .

A YOUNG minister sat down to dinner and was about to say grace. He looked at the casserole dish that his thrifty wife had prepared from the fridge leftovers.

"I don't know" he said dubiously, "but it seems to me that I've given thanks for all this stuff before."

Prayer Focus



LORD GOD, Thank you for the world's beauty: for the light of the sun, the wind on our face, the colour of the flowers. Thank you for life's gracious things: for friendship's help, kinship's strength and love's wonder. Help us to overcome every temptation, and make our lives like a light which guides to goodness. This we pray in Jesus Name. Amen *William Barclay*

Let us thank God . . .

that there are more Westminster MPs who identify themselves as committed Christians than for many years. Let us praise God that along with others in politics they are promoting policies and initiatives to challenge injustice, immorality, greed and benefit the most vulnerable in society.

Let us pray for . . .

- Opportunities to share the Gospel
- God's Spirit to move among the people in Freemantle
- God's protection against the forces of evil

*also for friends and neighbours
who live and work in:*

- 4th English Road and Imperial Ave
- 11th Foundry Lane School
- 18th Testwood Road and Millbrook Rd
- 25th Marchwood Rd and Beech Rd

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
'WATCH & PRAY'**

Mondays
5th and 19th March
5.30-6.15pm

 3 Testwood Road

HOME GROUP

We will be looking at the passages in greater depth from the previous Sunday Morning Service. Held at Pearl's home.

All welcome. See Pearl or Rona if you would like to come.

Text for 2012 is



**NEVER STOP
PRAYING**

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Time Out at

THE FRIARY OF ST. FRANCIS



THE church Leadership - Linda, Pearl, Rona, Les and Anita - took time out over the February half term and spent a couple of nights together on the edge of the Dorset downs with magnificent views across the Blackmore Vale, the countryside of Thomas Hardy's novels, not far from Dorchester.

There have been Franciscan brothers living at Hilside in a collection of what were once farm buildings since 1921, providing refuge for the homeless, the experience of community, and a place for prayer, reflection and renewal.

Today there is a particular emphasis on living and promoting the Franciscan values of care for creation, working for peace and justice, and seeking respectful dialogue with people of other faiths.



Rona reflects on her retreat:

Snowdrops everywhere ... banks of them ... our prelude as we drove through Dorset to Hilside. Our 'home' was a delight, a lovely thatched cottage with all mod cons, and surrounded with woods and meadows ... and more snowdrops!

For me it was a time for just being me ... no responsibilities, no phone calls, no postman, no appointments ... just beautiful chapels to be with God, both indoors and out, with fellowship or solitude, relaxation or walks. And all with the added bonus of meals supplied.

Philippians 4:19 says: 'My God shall supply all your needs' ... He did.



Relaxing in the lounge



'Catch Les!' – all very silly!



Pearl with 'Olive' the resident cat



'Underneath the arches' well, almost . . .



Anita, tucking into Lasagne .. honestly, you can't take her anywhere!

. . . and a time to be

The daily rhythm of the community is:

- 7.30am Morning Prayers
- 8.00am Breakfast - in silence
- 12 noon Midday prayers and Communion
- 1.00pm Dinner
- 4.00pm Afternoon tea
- 6.00pm Evening prayers
- 7.00pm Supper - in silence on Thursdays
- 8.30pm Night prayers



We were free to join in as much or as little as we wanted. Anita chose to go to all the services and get a feel for the rhythm of worship around which the community revolves.