

Faith and Light (England Mid-South)

Registered Charity Number 1063111



The clouds parted and your light came to us, Lord

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Home

What is a Faith and Light Community?

Faith and Light is an International community movement bringing together people with a learning disability, their families, carers and friends, particularly young people. It recognises that everyone has gifts to offer - the ability to welcome others with love and affection and a gift of Celebration. The communities are non residential and meet together regularly to pray, to share and to celebrate together. Friendships are formed and groups link to share outings and pilgrimages. The most important thing is to meet and listen to the man woman or child who is often marginalized in today's society. In this way we get to know each other and nobody is left out.

How did Faith and Light begin?

In 1968 a small group of people met in Europe with Jean Vanier and Marie Helen Mathieu to plan a pilgrimage to Lourdes for people with a learning disability and their families. This was in response to the rejection of a family who had gone to Lourdes as a place of healing and hope Gerard and Camille had two sons, Loic and Thaddee who were very handicapped not being able to walk nor talk. They were told it was impossible for them to join their Diocesan Pilgrimage. What good was it taking them to Lourdes - they would only upset others.

So the family set off by car and traveled to Lourdes independently. They were lonely in Lourdes. In the hotel they were told not to come into the dining room. Their meals were served in their bedroom. They heard people say: "Children like that should be kept at home." It was then that they met Jean Vanier and Marie-Helen Mathieu and told them of their suffering in Lourdes. Then came the gem of an idea to organise a pilgrimage to Lourdes which would be especially for families such as this one. Communities of about 30 people started to prepare for that first pilgrimage in 1971. 12000 people came from all over the world. After the pilgrimage the communities went on meeting and so Faith and Light was born. Since then, Faith and Light pilgrimages have gone to Lourdes in 1971, 1975 (to Rome), 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Faith and Light at St Joseph's Guildford

The Guildford Deanery Faith and Light Group meets at St Joseph's usually on the first Sunday of every month except August, from 3.00 to 5.30 pm. We meet together, pray together, and have tea together. Sometimes we celebrate Mass or go to meet up with other groups in their parish. Everyone, whether abled or disabled, is welcome to come and join us.

Contacts: Jenny 01483 569167 Jane 01483 271102 Dorothy 01252 310743



Good Friday Lourdes 2001



Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday
Catherine from Southampton experiences Reconciliation and Celebration at the Faith and Light National Pilgrimage Lourdes 2001

Guildford Faith and Light Community

2009

Faith and Light

Is an international Christian Association

for people with learning disabilities, their families and friends.

Registered Charity No: 1063111

Venue: St Josephs Church Hall at 3pm
12, Eastgate Gardens
Guildford GU1 4AZ

Meetings:-

1st February

1st March

5th April

Kintbury- From evening of Friday 17th April to after lunch Sunday 19th

No May meeting

14 June Fiesta at St. Joseph's School Cranleigh

5th July

August No meeting

6th September

4th October

1st November

6th December at 3pm Advent Mass at St Edwards's followed by shared tea and carols.
(2.30 for 3pm)

Year 2010 January Party date to be decided