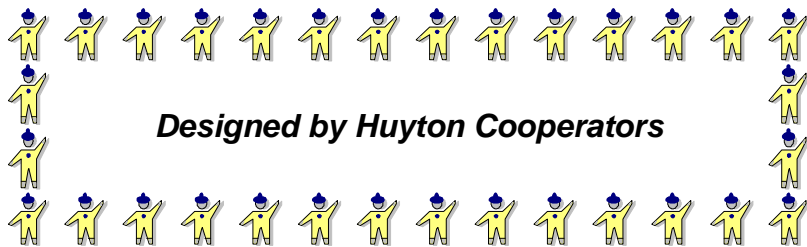




Merry Christmas



Designed by Huyton Cooperators



**SALESIAN COOPERATORS
UK PROVINCE NEWSLETTER
CHRISTMAS 2011**



"Come and See"

Christmas Word Search



G L E T W C R S T O C K I N G
 Y I P I D A E R B R E G N I G
 A C O V T R P Y A E C E F F U
 R E A S L E Q I X O C T A P Z
 E M I R Y H A U D P S A J O N
 S E A P O B E T H L E H E M I
 N R U L O L D O N T F O S P U
 A R L S L E I G H A A S U D O
 M Y N O K L T T O Y S I S H R
 W C E N E M E S I W F E T A N
 O B M K A J L O Z Y E G V M A
 N E R N O L U H M G O T E L M
 S O G I E O Y D N A C X O N E
 V E R B I J O T H U W B K A N
 R E E D N I E R Q C A E E R T



- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bells | 9. Holly | 17. Sleigh |
| 2. Bethlehem | 10. Jesus | 18. Snowman |
| 3. Candy | 11. Manger | 19. Star |
| 4. Carol | 12. Merry | 20. Stocking |
| 5. Christmas | 13. Ornament | 21. Toys |
| 6. Elves | 14. Peace | 22. Tree |
| 7. Gifts | 15. Reindeer | 23. Wisemen |
| 8. Gingerbread | 16. Santa | 24. Yuletide |

Since the meeting, we have started the process to provide a database of Cooperators and are putting in place a Website that we hope will be up and running soon. I thank all those Cooperators who have responded to our appeal to increase their subscriptions. A full business plan will be available following our next meeting in March 2012. I hope that many of you are planning to attend one of the Study days that are coming up in January. I and others from Cornwall will be travelling to Chertsey for 14th January. At all three venues we plan to have a stall illustrating the work of the Cooperators. I hope you in the meantime have many blessings coming your way from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Christmas season.

Paul Barnes
 Provincial Coordinator



COOPERATORS RETREAT 2011



The theme for our Retreat weekend was “God in the Ordinary”. We were really grateful to Fr Michael Cunningham for leading the weekend. We were all enriched by his many wise words. Fr Michael began with the history of where our Faith is rooted. In the Old Testament with the Law and the importance of those roots. Prayer is the way we connect with God and there are a variety of ways we do this. But his input focused on the mysticism of ‘contemplative’ prayer. This type of prayer is non-verbal and gives God the best chance of speaking to us. To do this successfully we need to take ourselves into our own quiet space. It is praying with our hearts and not our heads.

A big thank-you goes to the staff at Kendal who did us proud. They were very welcoming and the food was excellent—thanks to the chef.

The prayer moments and masses were special, all linking into Fr Michael’s theme.

We were fortunate to have the enrollment of Mary Trengrove—from Cornwall.

We had our first draw of the 100 plus club and a few raffles as part of our fund-raising for our central funds. Paul Barnes (Provincial Coordinator) provided an update for all in what the Council has been doing in the last year. People had the opportunity to ask any questions they had.

There were forty cooperators in all at the weekend, it was great socializing with all our friends who we have not met since the last retreat.

June Sharrock (Treasurer)

DELEGATES PAGE



During the last week of October I attended two meetings. The first (Mon – Wed) was for the priests ministering in the eleven Salesian parishes in this Province. The second (Thurs – Sun) brought together the FMA and SDB delegates for the Salesian Family in the North Europe Region.

The PAL encourages Cooperators to be active in their parishes and many of those parishes are Salesian. The first meeting highlighted the characteristics of a Salesian parish. Among other things there should be acceptance, collaboration, concern and a sense of belonging. A Salesian parish accompanies the family with special attention and should foster the maturing of the laity’s vocation – *especially the vocation to be a Salesian Cooperator*. Perhaps more fundamentally, the Salesian parish needs to be a welcoming place where the gospel can be experienced by youngsters.

The international meeting for delegates stressed the value of the branches of the Salesian Family working together. Networking does not involve losing our identities; rather it calls for each person and each group to use what makes them unique for the common cause, which is the salvation of the young. The Salesian Family needs to work together with a shared vision and systematic communication.

The Family in Britain will be doing just that as we prepare for the bicentenary of our Founder’s birth. So try to get to the shared events and talk about these ideas with your fellow Cooperators and others!

Fr. Bernard
Feast of Don Rinaldi.

New Cooperators!

How fitting it was that four people should have been enrolled as Cooperators around such a Salesian occasion as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Frank Goff was enrolled as a member of the Cornish group on Saturday 3rd, then Kelly Murphy and Joanna Nottage made their promise in Rotherhithe on Wednesday 7th and lastly Cathie Anderson enrolled as a Cooperator in Easterhouse on Monday 12th. We thank the Lord for sending these people to our Salesian Family and we pray that they may always be blessed by Mary Immaculate throughout their lives.

COOPERATORS 100 CLUB

Thanks to all who have joined, to date:

40 numbers sold raising £480.00 (£240.00 to be paid back in prize money).

FIRST draw was at the Retreat, winning No. **50**, the Winner was: Ruth Kamalagharan (Streatham Centre)

SECOND draw at the Provincial Council meeting, winning No:**43**, the Winner was: Vera Sefton (Huyton Centre)

If you wish to join please email:
cooperators100plus2011@gmail.com
Or contact: John Hoskins on 07956 297503

Dates to Remember

2012 Eamonn Mc Donald from Cowley is organising in August a Cooperators Pilgrimage to Turin, Rome and other places.

2013 Salesian Family Retreat preached by the Rector Major in Peterborough

SALESIAN STUDY DAYS 2012

D
O
N

One great programme
three Salesian venues

January 14th	Chertsey
January 21st	Bolton
January 28th	Glasgow

B
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S
C
O

Finding God
in the city

Don Bosco in Turin	Fr John Dickson SDB
Sex and the City	Fr Gerry O'Shaughnessy SDB
Faith in the City	Fr Sahaya Selvam SDB

and the city

A Special Message

God sends each person into the World with a special message to deliver.

A special song to sing
A special love to share
A special beauty to show.



No-one else can offer my love, show my beauty,
give my message, sing my song.
These are Entrusted only to me.
This is my calling, my vocation.
Can I say, "The World is a Better Place",
because of my love, and the song I sang?
What a pity to let love die, beauty fade,
Or leave your song unsung.
Start today to answer your calling, sing your song, and hear the
applause and the laughter of Christ.

by Tracy McConnell (Croxteth)

Fr Bernard in Africa

Earlier in the year I was invited to preach the annual retreat to the Salesians in South Africa. As it turned out I preached two retreats and saw most of the Salesian work in that Vice Province. From Swaziland to Cape Town I was most impressed, not only with the variety of the youth work, but also by the really Salesian nature of it all. In Walkerville, a short distance from Johannesburg, and in Lansdown, a suburb of Cape Town, the Salesians are engaged in educating the young to avoid AIDS by adopting the right lifestyle underpinned by gospel values. In the Salesian Institute in Cape Town (which had just celebrated its centenary) the students learn trades and social skills to prepare them for the world of work. In Swaziland, alongside two schools, and a youth centre, there is a cooperative where young women are trained in the manufacture of jewellery and ceramics; and they have their own outlet shop on one of the main tourist routes!

The Salesian name and work is very much alive in southern Africa, but as elsewhere, it couldn't happen if it were not for the lay people who are inspired by Don Bosco's charism.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

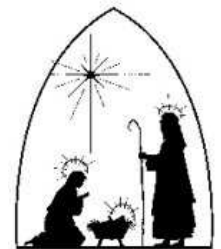
Silent Night is one of the world's most popular Christmas carols. Every year it is sung in many different languages across the world to evoke the spirit of Christmas.

The carol "*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*" was first heard in St Nicholas' Church in Obendorf (Germany) on Christmas Eve 1818. According to tradition, the organ had broken down, so the parish priest, Fr Joseph Mohr and the choir director, Franz Gruber composed this simple poem and tune to sing to a guitar accompaniment.



Since then it has been sung all over the world and in some unexpected places. It is said that on Christmas Day 1918, it was sung in French, English and German by the troops during a Christmas Truce.

The simple words and tune convey the heart of the Christmas message. The eternal God has made himself known by entering time and space in the person of Jesus Christ. The baby in the manger is fully divine but he is born as a real human being. Jesus comes as Saviour to rescue us from the mess of our lives so that we might share the life which Jesus has with his Father. *Now there is something worth singing about!*



CHRIST THE SAVIOUR IS BORN