

## **Fr Nicholas (Guest Master) introduces Quarr's Guest House.**

From the earliest days of monastic life in the deserts of Egypt monks have always considered hospitality as a vital part of their life. Did not Jesus say that we must welcome the poor and the stranger? And St. Benedict commands that his monks should welcome all guests as if they were Christ.

There has been a guesthouse at Quarr since 1914. Ten years ago we moved it to a different wing of the Abbey and renovated it. There are ten rooms, three en suite and one with full disabled facilities. We welcome all who wish to come apart to seek the Lord or who need peace and solitude. Guests come to Quarr from a great variety of backgrounds.

Over the last ten years we have had guests from almost every Christian denomination in this country as well as several Buddhists and Muslims. We have also had many who are seeking help or trying to find a meaning to their lives. All are welcome and we seek to show to each the love and peace of Christ.

Although our small guesthouse is not very good for organised retreats we have been experimenting with small group retreats. We have been pleased to welcome Ignatian retreat groups, groups of young people from schools and university chaplaincy groups among others.

We have also opened our guesthouse to women which has been a great enrichment. Normally, women are placed in one of our en suite rooms or in the Coach House flat, which can also accommodate married couples or small families.

We also try and help people who have real problems in their lives but obviously we cannot accept those who need specialist medical help

or those whose problems will disrupt other guests or the peace of the Abbey.

The guesthouse is a way of showing Christ to many people and is one of the ways we can evangelise. But we let the monastery speak for itself. Guests are encouraged to attend as many of the monastic services as they wish but there is no obligation.

Full board is provided and male guests eat in the refectory with the community. There is no fixed charge, but donations are accepted. Nevertheless, no-one should feel they cannot come because of financial problems.

We hope that our guests, by sharing our life for a time, can experience the peace and joy of Christ and deepen their knowledge and love of God.

If anyone wants to come, please e-mail [guestmaster@quarr.org](mailto:guestmaster@quarr.org) or write to the Guestmaster at Quarr Abbey, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4ES.

**If you wish to make a donation to Quarr Abbey please visit our website at [www.quarrabbey.co.uk](http://www.quarrabbey.co.uk) and click on the tab 'support' and 'donations'.**

**Thank you for your help.**

**To contact the Abbey please send an e-mail to [guestmaster@quarr.org](mailto:guestmaster@quarr.org)  
To contact the Friends of Quarr the address is [chair.friends@quarr.org](mailto:chair.friends@quarr.org)**