

CWO e-news February 2008 issue 2

This is an edited edition of the e-news. All contacts have been deleted. Please use addresses on contacts page to contact us

This is the second edition (and probably the last time the edition number will be quoted!) We hope to send something out each month.

WOW (Women's Ordination Worldwide)

Steering committee meets 3-6 April at The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS.

All CWO members are invited to share a meal with the WOW steering committee on the evening of Saturday 5 April at the above venue. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to come. (Contacts page)

From a member -

Do CWO members have views and ideas about contacting their Dioceses about women's vocations to the priesthood? I have just sat through yet another sermon inviting men to discuss their vocations and though this Vocations Director was pleasant it remains very painful and excluding to hear about the call "we are not allowed to answer or test out.". Some of us have tried letters to priests to remember women as they prepare their annual vocation sermon. Some of us have written to Bishops. We can have long discussions about what constitutes vocation and this too is part of CWO...but in this instance does any CWO member have any ideas about how we put the idea and respect for women's vocations to the priesthood, to our mainstream church?

Greenbelt 22 - 25 August 2008

Cheltenham Racecourse

Greenbelt gives space to a range of issues, especially those that are given little or no debate at other Christian events.

We are having a stall at this years festival so come and see us there

See <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/> for more details.

In 1970, a Czech woman named Ludmila Javarova, along with a number of other men and women, was secretly ordained by Bishop Felix Davidek to minister in the underground church in Czechoslovakia. Since the Communist regimes fell in the early 1990s, Ludmila has been prohibited from functioning as a priest by the Pope, and she has suffered considerable hardship. In December 2007, a letter to the Pope on her behalf was drafted by a member of WOW on behalf of We Are Church, Germany, and sent to Benedict XVI and to the German Papal Nuncio. An adapted English version was sent to the Pope on behalf of WOW, with copies to the Papal Nuncio in Britain and to various others..

So far, replies have been received from the Nuncio, the Scottish and English cardinals, and the general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Understandably, none of them professes agreement with the letter's request that Ludmila should be rehabilitated.. However, all the response are friendly in tone. Replies are awaited from the National Board of Catholic Women and the President of the Conference of Religious.

One of the founding members of CWO, has received a very prestigious award from her native homeland - Austria. The award is entitled 'Österreiches Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst', 'The Austrian Cross of Honour of Science and Art'. There is no comparable award in Britain but it ranks at number 10 in the possible 42 awards given in Austria.

We are very proud to have such a distinguished member among our ranks.