

One of our members had a letter published in the May edition of Open House, a Scottish religious magazine, responding to an article about the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in Scotland.

She lives in the Leeds Diocese: one of the first dioceses to restore the Permanent Diaconate. As only 7 Deacons have been appointed this century she doesn't see this as a solution to the "shortage" of priests. She made the point, speaking as a member of CWO, that she knows women who currently cannot test their vocations to the diaconate or priesthood.

She concluded by saying that whether readers agree with women priests or not, we should all be concerned that parish communities are closing or clustering and that there is no apparent consistent serious energy being spent on empowering and training lay women and men to run non-hierarchical, non clerical, eucharistic and pastoral parish communities based on love and collaboration and therefore there may not be a life-giving RC Church in the UK in 30 years' time.

**Official website for the petition re- married and women priests**

(The British equivalent of the Australian website.)

[www.marriedpriests-ew.org](http://www.marriedpriests-ew.org)

It is suggested copies of the petition are run off to collect more signatures. Sunday June 29th is now called 'Petition Sunday' and all signatures have to be in by 1st September. Patrons of this petition include Lord Christopher Patten.

**August 15 – 17 Spirituality and Embodiment**

a women's workshop with Rev Dr Jan Berry

This is one of the many events happening at Holy Rood House in Thirsk, North Yorkshire

[www.holyroodhouse.freeuk.com](http://www.holyroodhouse.freeuk.com)

If you are interested in attending, CWO could help with costs. In return, we would like you to write something for the CWO newsletter about the event.

Contact Pat via the website [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

[www.womenpriests.org](http://www.womenpriests.org)

Please visit our sister site from time to time as there is much of interest to us there.

## **Europe on the Move 1 – 4 May 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference held in Strasbourg**

This movement is coalition of all the reform movements in Europe of which CWO has been a part but never taken an active role. This year I asked Nat Cog if I could attend this Conference on behalf of CWO as I believed this year was a very important as the study day of the conference was on the Council of Europe.

There were over 60 representatives of the various groups from all over Europe, with the exception of Eastern Europe. The latter is a great concern of this movement and certain members are looking to find further connections in within Eastern Europe. I was thrilled to learn that this movement now has participatory NGO status in the council of Europe. This is a great step forward for, as was clearly stated at the meeting, they will speak for the 80% RC voices not represented by the officials of the RC Church, who have a voice. There will be a fuller article in the CWO June Newsletter on this important development.

### **News from Scotland**

CWO is now on the Women in Scotland database at the Glasgow Women's Library.

### **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 have booked a stall at this years festival so come and see us if you're visiting the festival.

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

### **Womenwordspirit annual gather (Includes short AGM)**

Saturday 26th July, 2008

St Andrew's Church, Short Street, Waterloo  
(short walk from Waterloo Station)\* see below

- all women welcome
- 11.00am - 5.30 pm
- £15 waged £10 low/unwaged
- Bring food to share  
(NO heating/cooking facilities available)  
optional supper at local restaurant at 6.30pm

Further information: Veronica Seddon

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020 8979 5902

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0118 986 9346

\* Take the escalator opposite platform 4 in the main Waterloo station