



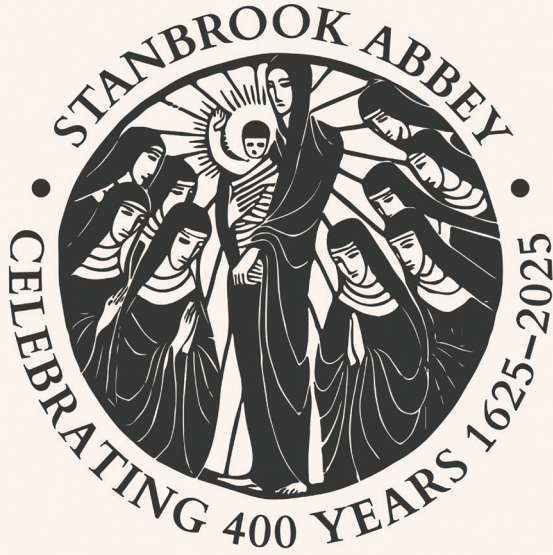
# STANBROOK BENEDICTINES

*Consolamini, consolamini*



NO. 24 ADVENT 2023

2  
0  
2  
4



C  
A  
L  
E  
N  
D  
A  
R



# THE STANBROOK STORY

*400 years of consolation and hope*

**MOTHER ABBESS WRITES...**On 31 December 1623, nine young Englishwomen, exiled and living in Cambrai, Flanders, were clothed in the habit; a year later, on 1 January 1625, they made solemn profession. The year 2024, then, is the 400th of the life of our community; it is a jubilee year, which we wish to celebrate in a spirit of deep thanksgiving – thanking the Lord for all has given us over four centuries. We have come through times of difficulty and challenge; we are continually graced with very evident blessing. We are filled with the joy of eucharistic abundance. The ancient Hebrews marked the beginning of the year of jubilee by the blast of a ram’s horn, *yôbēl*. It was a proclamation: jubilee acknowledges that everything belongs to God, that all we are and have is gift, given through him and for him. The Hebrews in their jubilee year gave thanks for the particular gift of their land, the *holy* land. In our year of jubilee, we thank God for our community and for his faithful love which sustains us and gives us life. We won’t begin the year by blasting a ram’s horn; our celebration will start with the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. Mary, as Our Lady of Consolation, is our patron. Under her care and continuing ‘consolation’ we seek to live as she lives: ‘let it be done to me according to your word.’

We invite you all to share this year of grace with us, to join us in joy and thanksgiving. We wish to thank you for your friendship, communion and support, your encouragement. May Christmas and the coming year 2024 be deeply blessed.

## News

The Feast of St Benedict, 11 July, was an occasion of particularly great joy this year as we celebrated the first profession of Sr Thérèse Murphy.

A longer account may be found on the News and Archive page of our website: [www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk](http://www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk)



FRONT COVER: 2023 Stanbrook Christmas Card  
BACK COVER: 400th Anniversary Tea Towel  
Both items designed and painted by D. Julian Falkus

## New Website

By the time you read this we hope to have launched our new website (same address), designed by Castlegate IT, York. Castlegate has also designed for us two new logos: one, a roundel of our foundresses based on Dame Werburg's original design, is particularly to mark our 400th anniversary. The second, the southern elevation of the abbey church, is the new website logo.

It is almost a quarter of a century since Stanbrook stepped onto the digital platform with its first website, designed by Michael Luke Davis to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for his creativity and technical help, both from his own company of Native, and later in designing our website at Wass, under the aegis of the Multimedia Studio team at Buckfast Abbey.

## The Jubilee Year: Celebrating 400 Years

We are looking forward to celebrating our Jubilee with as many of you as possible. There will be gatherings at Stanbrook throughout 2024: invitations will be issued nearer the dates. On 31 May, Bishop Terence Patrick Draney of Middlesbrough will celebrate Mass here for our families, friends and oblates, so even if you are unable to be with us in person, you will be remembered in a particular way that day. Two new prayers have been composed: each day at Midday Office we shall pray one written especially for the 400th anniversary and we invite you to pray the Jubilee Prayer printed opposite.

## Publications and Artwork

A 36-page booklet, 'The Stanbrook Story: 400 Years of Hope and Consolation' has been prepared. Fully illustrated, it tells the story of our community from its foundation to the present day. Available from the bookshop: £6.50, plus p.& p.

Stanbrook also appears as one of the twelve abbeys featured in *One Psalm, One Abbey*. This lavish production, with outstanding photography by Marie-Line Burguière, includes reflections on the psalms in both English and French. See inside back cover. Please contact the bookshop to order.

If you prefer to read your history on a tea towel, Sr Julian's unique design to mark the fourth centenary of our monastery is for you! See back cover. £11.99 in store; £13.99 to include p.&p. (UK only).

Sr Julian's 2023 Christmas card, featured on the front cover.  
Ref. X23A, 80p each or £3.50 for a pack of 5. Plus p.&p.

The text on the card, *Puer natus est nobis* ('A child is born for us'), comes from Isaiah 9: 6 and is the *Introit* for the Day Mass of Christmas.

The 2024 Stanbrook Calendar has an historical theme this year: 400 years compressed into twelve months! £8.50. £11.00 if posted to an UK address.

All the above available from Stanbrook Abbey Bookshop  
Tel. +44(0)1347 868927; [bookshop@stanbrookabbey.org.uk](mailto:bookshop@stanbrookabbey.org.uk)  
[www.stanbrookabbeybookshop.com](http://www.stanbrookabbeybookshop.com)

## Jubilee Prayer

Lord God,  
You have called us to praise and serve you  
in this community of Our Lady of Consolation,  
and sustained us through times of light and darkness;  
bless this year of Jubilee  
and all who celebrate and pray with us.

Fill us with the wisdom of St Benedict  
who loved Christ above all things  
and loved all people with Christ's love,  
that he may lead us to true peace and everlasting life.

*May the blessed spirit of prayer rest upon us all.*

## Mailing Changes

As mentioned in *Stanbrook Benedictines* No. 23, the Advent numbers for 2024 and 2025 will be slim newsletters. We hope to publish, early in 2025, a bumper edition to include all the 400th events. Meanwhile, please follow the website [www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk](http://www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk) or Facebook pages for news.

This newsletter is designed and compiled at Stanbrook Abbey,  
Wass, York, YO61 4AY; Regd Charity No 1092065.  
Email: [secretary@stanbrookabbey.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stanbrookabbey.org.uk)



18079900454  
Printed on Carbon Captured paper

## The Back Page

### How You Can Help Us

Would you like to be a Friend of Stanbrook Abbey and support our work?  
If you would like to make a donation, receive our regular publication or more information about our life, please provide the following details:

#### Details

Name..... Email .....

Address .....

.....

.....

I would like to make a donation of £ .....

I enclose a cheque for a sum of £ ..... made payable to **Stanbrook Abbey**

Credit/debit card details: Card No ..... Valid From .....

Expiry Date ..... Security No.....

Signature .....

### GIFT AID

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Signature .....

Date of Declaration .....

*Please notify the charity if you:*

- *want to cancel this declaration*
- *change your name or home address*
- *no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains tax.*

THE BOOK

# UN PSAUME, UNE ABBAYE ONE PSALM, ONE ABBEY

**T**o discover an abbey is to penetrate into a sacred space. Here God is served, here He has been served, sometimes for centuries. Even today, consecrated persons who have given everything to Christ seek God inhabiting this patch of earth where they work, pray, and celebrate, love, suffer and encounter Joy.

Twelve monasteries of Europe, belonging to the Benedictine, Cistercian, and Premonstratensian traditions, have been lovingly contemplated by the attentive eye of a photographer wanting to get closer to their identity. Each community has chosen a psalm and meditated on it. The styles are very diverse, very personal, as are the buildings, the colours, the landscapes, and the skies.

The aim of this book is to help the reader approach the mystery to which each monastery gives witness according to its own personality. Here then is a Psalter of images and lives, which reflects the manifold incarnations of the inexhaustible word of the Psalms. There is even more here than a celebration of the beauty of monastic life: it is a hymn to Christ, Lord of time and space, and singer of the Psalms, He who dwells in the hearts of nuns and monks, vigilant and passionate seekers of God.

THE ABBEYS

Quarr Abbey (England), Monastère Notre-Dame de Clémence de La Verne (France), Abbaye du Pesquié (France), Abbaye Notre-Dame de Tournay (France), Stanbrook Abbey (England), St Mary's Abbey (Ireland), Abbaye Notre-Dame d'Orval (Belgium), Abbaye Notre-Dame d'Aiguebelle (France), Abbaye Notre-Dame de Bonneval (France), Taura Mariakloster (Norway), Abbaye Notre-Dame de Randol (France), Abbaye d'Averbode (Belgium).

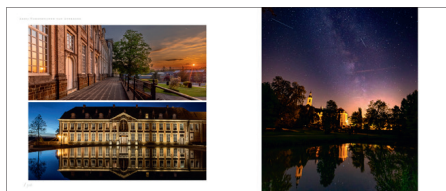


THE AUTHOR



› Marie-Line BURGÜERE was born at Valenciennes on 30th August 1965, of French parents settled in Morocco ("pieds-noirs"). Her travels at a very young age, compounded with her curiosity about life, nature, and people, brought her to the discovery of the world beyond herself.

Her spiritual search led her to follow the interior inspiration which urged her to share, in a very personal way and through every possible artistic medium, her deep love of life.



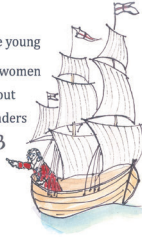
**One psalm, one abbey**  
 • Format : 25 x 21 cm  
 • Number of pages : 312 pages  
 • Cover : hardcover  
 • Retail price Vat included : 40 €





Dame Gertrude More  
1606 - 1633

Nine young  
English women  
set out  
for Flanders  
1623



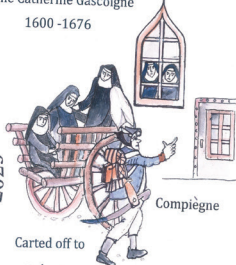
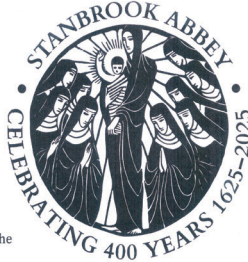
Two of our Foundresses



Dame Catherine Gascoigne  
1600 - 1676



*Liberté...Egalité...Fraternité!* Arrest of the  
Benedictine nuns 1793



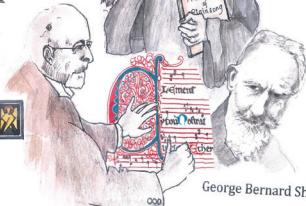
Carted off to  
prison

Compiègne



Stanbrook Hall 1838

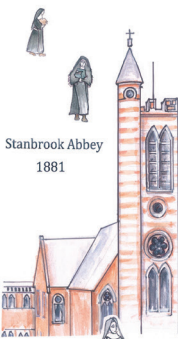
Dame Laurentia  
McLachlan  
1866-1953



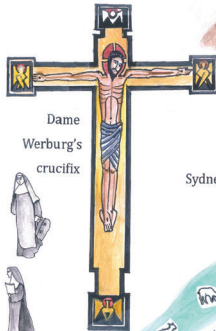
Sydney Cockerell

George Bernard Shaw

The best of friends.



Stanbrook Abbey  
1881



Dame  
Werbung's  
crucifix

Relocation to  
North Yorkshire  
2009



Saint Benedict  
of Nursia  
480 - 548



STANBROOK  
— ABBEY —