



BRF announces new editor for *Quiet Spaces*

Heather Fenton is a priest in the Church in Wales and has run the retreat house, Coleg y Groes, for 25 years. In September 2009 she became editor of *Quiet Spaces*, BRF's prayer and spirituality journal. Rachel Walker, BRF's Marketing Co-ordinator, spoke to Heather and asked her about her life and how she came to be editing *Quiet Spaces*.

How did you get to where you are today?

Early on I realised that God had a special calling for each one of us, and I looked round to see what that might be for me. As I was good at art I decided that perhaps I should go to art school. So this is what I did when I left school, and is how I got into my career in publishing.

Whilst at art school I specialised in lettering and typography. Afterwards I worked for publishers, including Routledge and OUP, initially producing their publicity material but going on to work in their Production Departments.

As I wanted to have a better theological understanding, I began to think and pray about going to theological college. In 1976 I was made redundant and took the opportunity to go to Trinity College in Bristol to study theology. I then went back into publishing for another eight years, and ended up as a Production Manager. It was then that God moved me to rural Wales, and together with some friends we set up the retreat House, Coleg y Groes. This is now in its 25th year, and has been used by God for a great many people during that time.

What is your current role in publishing?

I have helped the Church in Wales with the production of some of their publications. I am currently Editor of the Church of England magazine for Lay Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers) called 'The Reader' and have recently been appointed as the new editor of 'Quiet Spaces'. This latter role brings together my experience in running a retreat house with my long career in publishing. I always think God is good at making the best use of resources!

What have been the main influences on your own spiritual journey?

The evangelical wing of the Anglican church, plus the charismatic movement (Fountain Trust for example), as well as the 'Fisherfolk', and associated community movement which started at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Houston, Texas, and spread to the UK (Cumbrae in Scotland and Post Green in Dorset) in the 60s and 70s, were all very influential for me. Now I am a founder member of quite a small dispersed community 'The Community of Coleg y Groes', associated with the retreat house ministry I have had for the last 24 years. Ten years ago I took an MA in Celtic Christianity, which was very stimulating and a great blessing.

About *Quiet Spaces*

Quiet Spaces, the prayer and spirituality journal from BRF, is an ideal resource for all those who wish to enrich their spiritual and prayer life.

You will want to dip in to *Quiet Spaces* time and again to appreciate the articles, poetry and images - a wealth of material for thought and reflection, which will provide you with inspiration for preaching and planning worship. Space to journal allows you to record your personal observations and inspirations as you travel closer to God.

During 2010, *Quiet Spaces* takes you on a journey, exploring the themes of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. A wide range of contributors from a variety of spiritual traditions explore different aspects of the selected theme.

- Purchase individual copies or subscribe at www.quietspaces.org.uk

