

The Visit from Gerschede people captured in pictures



The visitors arrived on Thursday 25th May and stayed until the Sunday afternoon. The visit was hailed as a great success by all participants.

Here are a few snapshots which give a flavour of the visit.

We went to Waltham Abbey (pictured) to see the church and town and we had the added bonus of a really good flower festival too.

The day saw rain but our spirits were not dampened in any way.

Some brave souls went to try the Eel and Mash complete with liquor!

Here you see Arno and Waltraud in the company of the Bainbridges and the Kingsbury duo.

Eel sounds odd and feels odd, but it is delicious!



There was a lot of food involved! Kath and Emma provided supper on the Thursday with great support from Violet and others.

On Friday we had a successful venture to the Railway Carvery. We used the function room which provided a bit of group togetherness.

On Saturday Ray Allen and Dave Bird cooked a BBQ with many of our "girls" once again undertaking strong roles in the kitchen.

Ray's patriotic apron doesn't make sense in black and white, but he looks the part, doesn't he!



On the Sunday after the bi-lingual mass, there was an extravaganza of food prepared by a team headed up by Jill Marsh, this was shortly followed by a traditional afternoon tea co-ordinated by Marion and her team.



On the Saturday evening we held a concert in the hall of Edward Betham School with Johnny Johnson as our MC. The concert was homely and heart-felt!

At the end, the parish was presented with a painting by Robert Bull depicting a phalanx of Gerschede people coming up through the air en route to Greenford like a tornado!

In the photograph you can see Johnny, Neil, Rolf and Robert and Callum Marshall who somehow just snook in there!



Sunday morning provided the visit with its appropriate climax- a Parish mass in which the congregation sang in both English and German. Pfarrer Rolf Brandt and Neil spoke each other's languages (or tried to!)

Neil preached a short sermon in English with paper headings in German followed by Rolf who managed very well speaking first in English and then in German.

The Gerschede people joined Holy Cross Choir to sing an anthem with music written by Neil and they sang an anthem specially written for the retirement of former Pfarrer Uli Neuse. The Germans brought their trumpets and played with great panache!

In the afternoon we took a gentle walk through Greenford before our visitors squashed into the minibus, driven selflessly by Ray all week-end and headed off to Luton airport.

