

Gerchede to Greenford 13th May- 16th May, 2010



On the Northala mounds



At St. Mary, Northolt



An excellent chamber orchestra



In Trafalgar Square



Saying goodbyes

Reflection from Ian Kavanagh

I had the opportunity to take into my home two visitors during their brief stay with us from the 13th May to 16th May. They were part of what turned out to be in the end a large party of some fifty people from Gerschede, Essen in Germany for their 8th exchange with our Parish of Greenford Magna, but not all of our guests had visited us here at Holy Cross Church before and was a new experience for many.

My two house guests were Jessica Truszczynski and Christian Klinenberg, whom I did not know at the time would in the days to follow, entertain all those who took part in the activities at Holy Cross Church with their prowess on the flute and piano respectively. They were part of a talented group of musicians who had come to provide us with a most enjoyable selection of music during their short stay.

Music after all does indeed break down barriers between people who speak a different language and who live in a different part of the world. It was especially good to hear and see live music being played, which makes it so much more personal and challenges you in a way that a recording never can.

I have a confession though, I did not know what to expect when I made the initial decision to get involved in this visit. However, even in my own small way, I have found it to be a most rewarding experience and from just a personal point of view gained new friends in Jessica and Christian. I'm sure that our friendship will continue in the years ahead.

I like others at Holy Cross Church I'm sure have fond memories of the experiences we all shared during our guests stay with us and such experiences I feel can only help to bring their small part of Germany and our small part of England much closer together.

