

## 1980's

In November 1980 Dom Edmund moved to the mews premises at Turvey. Some young men wanted to join him, and he had sent them to the monastery of Le Bec in Normandy for their noviciate. He was quite astonished to discover that land in Turvey had once belonged to that same monastery!

During 1980 the Abbey was in the hands of the builders, and some of the sisters travelled regularly from Cockfosters to work at the Abbey, mainly doing demolition work—ideas as to what was suitable clothing for work underwent a transformation, gone were the white collars that were worn with black overalls!



**A work group from Cockfosters outside 'The Bungalow' at the Abbey 1980**



In the summer of 1981 the sisters' community moved into their new home. Ideas flourished, some of them were put into practice, the liturgy evolved, vegetables were grown, goats provided milk.

People began to realise where the Benedictine Nuns of Cockfosters had disappeared to—several times the sisters were asked if they knew the community of nuns at Cockfosters!

Soon individuals and groups began to ask about staying at Turvey, and the guest and retreat work began.

The school remained at Cockfosters, and continues to the present day as 'Vita et Pax Preparatory School'



Some members of the sisters' community were concerned that they were actually a priory, not an abbey, but the name 'Turvey Abbey' was to stay—surely to the relief of everyone who had failed to find the community in the telephone book where it was listed as 'Regina Pacis Priory'.

In 1984 M Lucia celebrated her golden jubilee here in All Saints church. By then Dom Edmund was already suffering from the cancer that would cause his death on Holy Saturday, 1985. This was a great blow for the embryonic monastery of Christ our Saviour, but a few months later Dom Gregory moved from Cockfosters and became superior of the monastery.

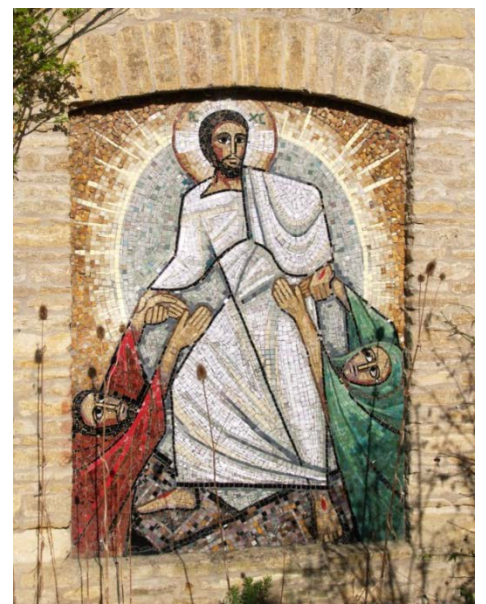


**Dom Edmund's funeral, the procession to All Saints Church**

Building work continued here, there and everywhere throughout the 1980's . . .

In 1985 the monks moved across the courtyard to their new monastery building. Sr Regina created a design in mosaic of the 'Anastasis' icon, a Byzantine fresco at Istanbul depicting Christ our Saviour rescuing Adam and Eve from the 'world of the dead'.

In 1983 the sisters' much-need work studio was completed and the equipment was moved from the 'hall', which then became the main chapel. It was to remain as chapel until 1991. With its red flock wallpaper and wooden ceiling, lighting was a problem.





In 1988 the remaining sisters at Ravenswood Priory, Strood, Kent, came to live at Turvey. 'The Bungalow', was renamed 'Ravenswood House' and Sr Regina created a mosaic in a former doorway showing the story of St Benedict being fed by a raven from the 'Dialogues' of St Gregory the Great.

