

I first met Sr Goedele in 1971 when our eldest daughter Jane started at Vita et Pax School, where she had a very happy start to her school life in Sr Goedele's capable hands. In 1974 I started teaching at the school, & for the next six years, she & I worked alongside each other & became good friends as well as colleagues. I learned to value her quiet wisdom & humour & appreciate the interest she took in all my family as they grew up. I know she kept photos of many of the celebratory family occasions which I had shared with her & often remembered details that I had forgotten.

Shortly after the community moved to Turvey, we moved to Yorkshire, near Ampleforth, & once she had persuaded me of the wonders of email, we kept in touch regularly. I visited Turvey several times & stayed in the guest house while I was completing my Masters dissertation on double monasticism - she was a mine of information about the Olivetan congregation & so much more. Memorably we joined the community & friends for her 80th birthday & her Golden Jubilee.

Ten years ago we moved south to Cambridge which meant that I was able to visit her more frequently to bring her up to date with family news & often discuss Tablet articles & the state of the Church in today's world, her interests were wide-ranging. Two hours just flew by as we talked about old times & people we had both known, she had remained connected with so many. The pandemic put a stop to that & I later learned that she had stopped using her computer about the same time, so we had no contact in the last year or two, but I felt sure she was still praying for us all. When I was leaving after a visit, she would stand in the doorway of the Abbey in the late afternoon sunshine to wave me off - that memory of a very dear friend will always stay with me.

May she rest in peace

Patricia Morgan