

27.09.2017

St Martha's Convent was a boarding school from 1924 until the late 1960's. The grounds included tennis courts, recreation space as well as fruit and vegetables. The topmost part of the grounds includes a cemetery which has been used from 1924 and is still in use now.

Our grounds are used by Our Lady of Lourdes School:

- One class of children plus staff from Our Lady of Lourdes School visit the grounds each Friday during term time for quiet prayer and the rosary. 32 individuals and 32 x 40 visits - 1,280 visits annually.
- The whole of Our Lady of Lourdes School visit during May for an afternoon. 200 individuals 200 visits.
- The convent rooms and grounds are also used for teachers' meetings within the school day. Minimum 4 different teachers, approximately twice per term. 4 individuals and 24 visits.
- Our grounds are also used by the school for their firework displays.

Our grounds (as well as rooms) are used for various contemplation groups. This year we have had:

- Poetry in prayer 10 people for 1 week each. 10 individuals and 10 visits
- Art group 10 people for 1 week each. 10 individuals and 10 visits
- 8 day preached retreat for 23. 23 individuals and 23 visits.

Various religious groups from various denominations visit, for example this year we have had:

- 12 men considering the priesthood. 12 individuals for 3 days. 12 visits
- 12 women considering the religious life 12 individuals, 12 visits
- 8 Anglicans for 1 day of reflection thrice yearly. 8 individuals 24 visits
- 10 Methodist priests for 3 days. 10 individuals and 10 visits
- 8 Catholic priests for 3 separate days 8 individuals 24 visits
- Friends of St Martha 15 individuals on 9 separate days throughout the year. 15 individuals 135 visits
- Nuns (not resident Sisters) to learn English 2 individuals for up to 3 months each. 2 individuals and 2 visits

Local residents

- Parishioners for services 12 individuals minimum 52 weeks a year there are several services per week but only considering 1. Tea and coffee outside weather permitting 12 individuals and 624 visits
- Any grounds and chapel are always open for individual prayer and contemplation.
- Groups of various faiths attend blessing of the graves annually. 20 individuals and 20 visits.
- Past pupils are always welcomed we have had at least 4 visit this year already.

Guests

- We have guests for 40 weeks of the year which doesn't include the various residential groups already mentioned. Each week we have a minimum of 10 people per week, 400 individuals 400 visits.

#### Wildlife

- Our grounds are a haven for wildlife, our gardener who works twice weekly grows a variety of flowers and vegetables to attract birds and insects. Our pond is small but our frogs love it. Counting our gardener as only 2 visits per year
- A local beekeeper has 2/3 hives on our old tennis courts and visits regularly to check on them. Counting the beekeeper as only 3 visits per year.
- Volunteer fruit pickers 20 individuals 20 visits.

A very conservative estimate 800 individuals and 2,800 visits. Anyone staying for any amount of time for any length of time is only counted once. For example Nuns here learning English for 3 months are only counted as one visit but if they came for one month departed and returned later that would count as 2 visits. However the school class of 32 arrive and depart repeatedly so their visits are counted for each arrival/departure.

Sister Cecile St Martha's Convent