



## What Do You Do?

*-brother Mark*

**A**S OUR CHRISTMAS FEAST APPROACHES WE ARE invited into the deep and profound 'good news' of our God who refuses to be distant, choosing to be present in a way we can see and emulate as a human person: Jesus of Nazareth.

This feast offers a platform from which we can formulate a response to a frequently asked question: What do you do?

Reflecting on our Benedictine monastic life in the light of our Christmas celebration we recognize that all of our daily tasks and practices are aspects of a more profound work: that of living out together the lifelong communal discipline of giving flesh to (incarnating) what Jesus announced as the Kingdom or Reign of God.

Abbot/brother Leo Rudloff, in the earliest years of our community's existence, perhaps flowing from his experience at the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, reflected on the monastery as an 'Embassy of God'. This comparison became a seed of the community's understanding of its life and mission as a witness to the Reign of God proclaimed and described by Jesus in the Gospels.

During the more than 60 years of our existence as a monastic community the brothers have engaged in many different works in order to express our values and to maintain the community life, our hospitality and outreach. The basic view of the monastic life at Weston has been focused on embodying the communal nature of Jesus' teaching; reaching out to the world in a unified way, and welcoming others to share in our life and prayer in varied ways. The Word made flesh! ■