



The College of  
St Barnabas

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## St Barnabas Bulletin - Spring 2019

### Thank you so much!

To everyone who visited us at Manchester's  
Event City in March for CRE North

It was a real pleasure to have the opportunity to meet some of our supporters from the Midlands and the North again. It had been 5 years since we had last set up the College's stand in Manchester, and it was great to renew old acquaintances and to meet up with friends old and new.

Over the course of the 2 day event, Warden Kevin Scully and Fundraising Manager Mike Herbert spoke with almost 100 visitors to the stand, including existing supporters, people looking into the possibility of joining our community in retirement, and many others keen to find out more about our work and how we help retired Anglicans in need.



*Mike on the College's stand at  
CRE North*

If you missed the Manchester event, our next outing is to Big Church Day Out, over the last weekend in May at Wiston near Worthing in West Sussex, should you wish to catch up with us on the road!

A Community of Retired Anglicans uniting in Faith and Care

# Characters from the College:

## Resident X

*Choosing to don a cloak of anonymity, this international priest of mystery, and true character from the College, reflects on:*

### **GOD, MONEY & CHARITY: THE PRIVILEGE OF TITHING**

My first mistake in how to give money to God came early. Although neither my parents nor siblings went to Church, as a child I was sent to Sunday School and given a penny for “the Collection”. I enjoyed the music and proudly put my penny on the plate when it came round. But I did notice that most of the other kids only gave a ha’penny. Only later did I learn that it was wrong to compare my gift to anyone else’s. Your gift is between God and you alone – personal and private.

The second mistake came later when, as an active member of an Anglo-Catholic parish, I gave very generously of my time and talent but ignored the parish scheme of pledges and envelopes. I responded to occasional appeals with cash, but in truth believed what God really wanted was my prayer support and activity, rather than money. Once, when I gave \$100 to send a local child to Summer Camp, it did vaguely occur to me that over the year that worked out at less than \$2 a week.

As a member of a local university I joined a faculty club which operated a tab system. We signed chits for meals and so on, and then received a bill every month. The bill always included a “service charge”. My Parish priest had previously said, somewhat sarcastically, in a sermon that most Anglicans were very good at “tipping” God. On a Sunday following that I put \$20 in the plate. Coincidentally, the next day I received my monthly club bill which included a service charge of \$20. Clearly, **I had just tipped God!**

That realisation made me pay closer attention to giving financial help and I joined a “Stewards in Action” campaign. The Diocese needed to raise \$6,000,000 to meet the cost of parish support. I prepared materials and conducted local leadership meetings where the “parish visitation” method was to be used – this being judged by others to be the most successful way of increasing parish giving. I enjoyed the work but felt the greatest benefit was how it involved parishioners and helped to develop fellowship. Amazingly we surpassed our target, and under the slogan “Together We Can” many parishes applied for the funds to start new outreach and mission. I then attended a course which included Bishop McNaughton (“More blessed to Give”) and so met with Lay people, Clergy, Diocesan staff, and so on. One of

the Lay women attending was a lone parent with three children, living on benefits. It was this single mum, living on social security, who convinced me to tithe. To give 10% of the first fruits of my income to God. I was sceptical, but discovered that I could do it. She insisted again and again that the ancient biblical system still worked today. “You don’t understand” she would interrupt, “We, my family and I have very little money, but we have never wanted for anything”.

After retirement I went to a high-level “Stewardship” conference in England, chaired by a Bishop and attended by international representatives from Anglican churches, professionals, stewardship directors, parish clergy, etc. The Archbishop of York chose “Send A Cow” as the charity the conference would sponsor and the conference itself was excellent – good biblical exegesis, worship and spiritual guidance.



**Resident X ?**

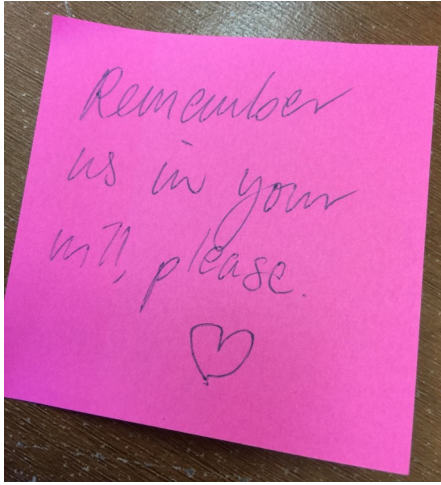
But at the end of proceedings one of the organisers spoke and started fundraising, exclaiming “Don’t forget to give at our final eucharist, we really want to make a good showing, remember your cheque books”.

I wanted to protest but did not know how to. Finally, I angrily decided NOT to give money at the final offertory eucharist. Yet on my way to the meeting on the final day, as I was driving through a small English village, I “received” a sentence in my head. **“Write them a cheque for £1,300”**. “No Lord” I protested “they have ruined the whole thing. They are fundraising, that’s not stewardship” And then I thought **“ Why £1,300? What a strange amount”**.

As it happened, unusually I did have more than £1,300 in my account at that time but I put nothing on the plate. I prayed and thought that if it had been God planting that sentence in my mind I had no choice: obedience was the only possible response. So I went to the conference office and wrote the cheque for £1,300. When I returned home and picked up the accumulated mail I was amazed to find **a cheque made out to me for £130,000!** Nothing like this had ever happened before (nor since!)

I now believe that God can provide for us, God repays our giving, good measure, one hundredfold, pressed down and overflowing. Tithing I believe to be a gift from God to His people, a privilege—”gratitude in the memory of the heart”. Give, and God draws closer to you.

**Where there's a Will, there's a way**



**Help us continue to fashion a way forward in faith and care by leaving the College a gift in your Will**

**Apparently** the traditional High Street is in decline. That is quite sad, even if it is perhaps inevitable in an increasingly digital age. If you are one of the many millions who now shop online, please consider helping us at no extra cost to yourself, by going through **easyfundraising.org.uk** and—if you use Amazon at all—by going to **smile.amazon.co.uk** instead of the regular Amazon site and logging in with your usual Amazon user ID and password. It will not cost you a penny extra. Each site will donate a proportion of your spend to charity. To allocate it to the College, simply search for and nominate College of St. Barnabas on either site.



**Volunteering. Are you up for it?**

You probably know that volunteers are the lifeblood of many charities, but did you know that like many other charities, we struggle to find volunteers who are happy to get

involved in our fundraising efforts. We have a very small fundraising department and need the help of volunteers up and down the length and breadth of the UK to help build and maintain support for the College. Not by standing on a street corner for hours on end rattling a tin, but by organising small, local fundraising activities that benefit the College. Could you, with some help from us, organise a coffee morning or an afternoon tea, for example, to introduce the College to your friends, neighbours and fellow parishioners? If so, we would love to hear from you!

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