



The College of
St Barnabas

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St Barnabas Bulletin - Winter 2020

BUMPER 125th ANNIVERSARY EDITION A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU & A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE COLLEGE

It may be the deep midwinter,
but here at the College we have
something to celebrate!

This year marks the 125th
Anniversary of the foundation of
the College by a former
Missionary, Canon William
Cooper, who had spent most of
his ministry in New Zealand, in
the Australian outback and in the
wilderness of Canada before re-
turning to the UK “a broken

man”.

He came across other former
missionaries, in poverty and poor
health, most notably in the
Brighton workhouse, and
determined to do something to
alleviate their suffering.

His drive, determination and
sheer hard work resulted in the
College you see today and thanks
to his efforts, thousands of Angli-
cans in need have benefitted.

125 years of caring for Anglicans

Characters from the College: The Revd Canon William Cooper

Unfortunately there is no known existing photograph of our founder.

Not only is there no photograph of him, but also his very origins are quite obscure. He is, however, entitled to be referred to as a "Character from the College" as in addition to being the Founder, he was also the College's first Warden and as such lived at the College.

He was born in Ireland, probably Dublin, around 1835, into an Anglo-Irish family that had, it is presumed, strong Church and Military traditions. Upon leaving school he and his younger brother went straight into the army. He was commissioned as Ensign in the 2nd Royal Cheshire Militia on 5th May 1855, but his thoughts were soon turning away from a military career and towards ordination in the Church of Ireland.

He was ordained deacon in Waterford on 23rd December 1860 and soon after becoming a priest offered himself for missionary work. After acceptance by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and an interview with Bishop Perry of Melbourne, he set sail for Australia in April 1864, accompanied by his wife, Anna, who he had married in 1855.

In Australia he held services, visited families, built two churches and a parsonage, and collected enough money for (and laid the foundations of) yet another church. Hussey Macartney, Dean and Archdeacon of Melbourne, wrote:

"I have known the Revd W. H. Cooper for about five years. On his arrival in this colony, in the absence of the Lord Bishop, he undertook, at my request, what everyone regarded as the most arduous and difficult post in the diocese....He is active, zealous, laborious and enterprising, and is capable of gaining great influence over those with whom he comes into contact."

In June 1870, Cooper began yet another strenuous ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand. The considerable dangers involved in this new work are fully revealed by his reports, in one of which he commented:

"The many dangerous rivers were not bridged, and travelling on horseback, which was the only way of getting about the country, was attended by many dangers. I was three times swept off my horse fording the rivers, twice providentially preserved from being drowned."

Eventually he found that he could no longer ride a horse, and his doctor advised him to

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seek a change of climate, so in 1877 he returned to Australia. However, with an ailing wife, and worn out by his own labours, his thoughts naturally turned back to his native land.

At Home once more, Cooper became an SPG deputation preacher and lecturer. But his restless spirit would not let him rest for long in such a humdrum occupation, so in 1883, he gladly volunteered for a special SPG mission to Canada. His tasks included caring for thousands of British emigrants as well as founding the Church Emigration Society.

Cooper had to resign and return to England in 1889, in consequence of his wife's illness. Mrs Cooper died in 1891. Soon after Anna's death he must have met and married his second wife, but date, place and her name is unknown.

In 1892, the newly married couple began the two tasks that were to occupy the next eight years of their lives; the founding of St Luke's Hospital and the Homes of St Barnabas.



The Homes of St. Barnabas, artist's impression, date unknown

By 1894 the St Luke's Hostel and Nursing Home (subsequently St. Luke's Hospital for Clergy) was established governed by a Council. Possibly from as early as 1890 Cooper was thinking that convalescent and retirement homes might eventually be provided in the country. While visiting on the south coast, he and a friend discovered a number of destitute, homeless former missionaries and retired priests, living in workhouses. He determined to do something, and set about the task of founding a new community, of which he was to become the first Warden.

St Luke's Council however, felt they should concentrate on establishing the hostel itself on a firm basis before attempting to extend the scheme to include convalescent and retirement homes.

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There can be little doubt that this decision was the primary cause of Cooper's resignation as secretary in 1895, but clearly, work to establish the Homes of St. Barnabas was already well in hand by this time as Cooper had already made up his mind to go ahead and with a mix of some rich and powerful friends, Freemasons and ordinary Churchgoers, he would create such an institution independently of St Luke's. It was several years before Cooper secured agreement to rent a house in Dormans Park, Surrey, and the first resident was admitted in 1895. As the number of residents increased another house was rented and "The Homes of St Barnabas" were born.

The time had come for a permanent home for the community. Cooper set about raising the funds to realise his vision, and, after substantial contributions were pledged, the present estate of some nine acres was purchased. He chose the site partly because of its mild climate and beautiful surroundings and partly because it is adjacent to Dormans railway station and so within easy reach of London. The foundation stone of the building was laid in July 1900 and the West wing and administrative block were opened the following year. Over time the buildings continued to be developed with the addition of the East wing and an extension to the Chapel.



Circa 1906, still just one Cloister and half of the Central Block have been completed, due to shortage of funds.

After establishing the Homes of St Barnabas, Cooper and his wife sailed once more to Australia where he served for four years. Then, returning to England he was appointed chaplain to the Landsdown Hospital in Bath. There he remained for two years, before finally retiring to "Montpelier", North Street, Worthing. In the spring of 1909, he fell seriously ill and at his own request, was taken to St Luke's Hospital, where he died on 13 April, aged 75 years. His remains were cremated at Golders Green. Mrs Cooper continued to live at "Montpelier" for some years after her husband's death, but her date of death and place of burial is unknown.

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LOOKOUT, WEST MIDLANDS

Here we come!



It has been quite a few years—5, in fact—since we were last able to visit this part of the country, so we were delighted when our good friends at CRE told us the sorely-missed West Midlands event was being reinstated.

In fact we booked our stand immediately because we wanted the opportunity to meet as many of our Midlands supporters— PCCs and individual donors in particular—as possible. And of course we also want to make sure that anyone in that area who could benefit from our services is able to come along, find out more and perhaps discuss next steps with us.

So, please do visit us if you are able. The exhibition takes place on Wednesday 4th March from 10.00 to 17.00 and on Thursday 5th March from 10.00 to 16.30 at the NAEC, Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth CV8 2LZ. We will be on Stand D1 and we very much look forward to seeing you there, if you can make it.



Once again, we are very pleased to be able to offer our supporters complimentary entry tickets to the event. These are only available online, from the CRE website. To obtain your complimentary ticket,

Fr Kevin, Bishop Jo Wells & Mike at CRE National in October

simply visit:

<https://creonline.co.uk/cre-midlands-2020-welcome/>

Click on the “Book Tickets” link on the menu bar at the top right of the welcome page and fill in the booking form. Be sure to enter the code COLSTBARN in the Discount Code box, or you will be charged!

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WHY DO YOU DO IT, MIKE?

Our intrepid Fundraising Manager pulls on his old hiking boots again.

So with trusty boots on and backpack loaded, it's another cross-country walk on behalf of the College. Last time it was a mere 50 miles across the hills and dales of North Yorkshire.

This time, Mike will be walking the 125km of the Wealdway from Gravesend to Eastbourne, across some of the remotest parts of the south-east, with the route picking up the old Roman road from London to Lewes and, by coincidence passing quite close to the College.

So why are you doing it, Mike?

There are several reasons. Firstly, because the College is worth supporting and it needs our help as much now as it ever did in Cooper's day.

Secondly, hopefully to show that everyone can do something or do something extra to help the College. It doesn't have to be a sponsored walk of course. It could be a coffee morning, a garden party, a good old-fashioned sale of works or a charity fashion show, jumping out of an aeroplane, a sponsored silence. The list is limited only by your imagination. So the hope is that in addition to raising some much-needed cash in its own right, this sponsored walk will inspire and motivate others to go that extra mile for the College.

Thirdly, events of this kind grow our supporter base. They give us the opportunity to engage with people who might otherwise not consider helping the College, and as you will already know if you regularly read the Bulletin, growing our supporter base at this time is crucially important but actually quite difficult to do.

Lastly, this particular route fits very well with our 125th anniversary, being roughly 70 miles or 125km from start to finish. We are suggesting that supporters show solidarity with the College by reflecting the 125 idea in their giving, if you can by making every £1.00 you give £1.25 instead, every £10 becomes £12.50 and every £100 becomes £125, every £1,000 becomes £1,250. Not just for sponsorship of this walk, but for every gift you make to the College this year.

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FANCY A GOOD READ?

You may not know it, but our very own Warden, Fr. Kevin Scully is quite an author, having written a range of published and performed works. His latest novel , “The Rest is Silence” is available now, from Waterstone’s bookshops and online from Amazon.



Our resident reviewer, Bishop Godfrey Ashby , tells us “Kevin Scully’s new book touches on experiences that most, if not all of us, have had.”

“There is an evocative account of youth in a small town in New South Wales. Then a disastrous account of a foray into East London, culminating in joining a community that had, literally, scraped him off the street.”

“Then finally the community that had adopted him dwindling to two—consisting of the Abbot, now ‘with the fairies’ and himself .”

+Godfrey continues “ The combination of humour, relevance and pathos strikes chords for most, if not all of us”.

“Recommended reading for all of us. Enjoy!”



+Godfrey Ashby

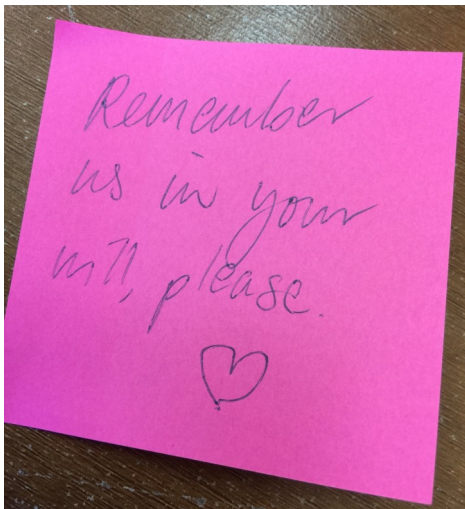
Last Word: Cooper's Legacy

William Cooper was a man of vision and drive, but despite that, and despite having a number of wealthy and influential friends, raising the money to build the College was a real challenge. We know this from our archives, from the regular adverts in the Press appealing for funds from around 1895 to 1910, and from the fact that the College was built in phases and never to be completed. A splendid "artist's impression" of what the finished building would have looked like - and twice the size of the College as we know it—hangs in our fiction library.

By the 1890s, Clerical poverty had become something of a national scandal, yet even in that atmosphere Cooper struggled to raise the cash that was essential if he was to really help those most in need. And precisely because it was such a day-to-day struggle, Cooper was never able to establish a permanent endowment fund for the College, something that would have provided the College with a greater degree of financial security than that which we actually enjoy.

Cooper's vision and drive, the College buildings and the College's ethos make up his legacy. While we cannot fail to be inspired by his idea and by his sheer hard work, the Homes of St Barnabas and then the College inherited the constant need to secure the financial support of individual Anglicans, of Parishes and of other organisations with a Christian ethos.

Cooper's legacy is the gift of care and a 125-year success story in looking after some of the frailest and most vulnerable people in the Anglican community. It is a legacy founded on endeavour and unstinting effort. It is a legacy that asks people to buy into Cooper's vision so that his pioneering work can live on.



College of St. Barnabas, Registered Charity

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Act of Parliament

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