



St Barnabas Bulletin - Autumn 2016

Summer Celebrations

Celebrations of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday and visits by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Southwark have made this summer unique at the College.

The commemorative events began on 21st April when College Resident Mrs Hope Haggan was invited to light the local beacon to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday (*see right*). Mrs Haggan was chosen as she also celebrates her 90th birthday this year. Braving the cold evening (while standing safely up-wind!) and cheered on by a crowd of well-wishers, Hope lifted a flaming torch high in the air to light the brazier for only the second time in its life. It had previously been lit to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

We continued our commemorations of Her Majesty's birthday in June, when the official celebrations coincided with the College's Patronal Festival. Our events began with Evensong which was followed by a Garden Party for friends and supporters. We were privileged to welcome Archbishop Justin, one of our Patrons, who preached at the service before visiting all those in the Nursing Wing who were unable to be present among the congregation. He then took tea on the lawns and mingled with the crowds in glorious sunshine. See pictures of his visit inside.



Caring for retired Anglican Clergy

Graced by His Grace

The Archbishop of Canterbury at our Patronal Festival



Characters from the College:

Fr George Ridding

By Cliff Caswell

A baptism of fire in front line military service came to underpin of Fr George Ridding's calling to ministry.

As a member of the 15/19 Hussars he fought in the bitter struggle for Europe in the final months of the Second World War. He arrived in Normandy shortly after D-Day in June 1944 and reached Germany shortly before the Nazi leadership surrendered just under a year later. He then found himself redeployed to peacekeeping in Palestine.

When he first visited Bethlehem on Christmas Eve 1945, as a soldier serving with the British Army, the irony of the situation was not lost on him.

“It dawned on me that, at the time of our Lord, the place was guarded by Roman soldiers and then it was guarded by the British,” he recalls. “Later, when I went back during the 1960s, Israeli troops were in charge. I had a great sense of everything changing, and yet nothing having changed.”

After the war, Fr George read modern history at Oxford before being ordained in the Diocese of Exeter. His military service stood him in good stead for the rigours of ministry, which would subsequently take him across the world.

After serving as a curate he headed to India with his wife and three children, spending four years with the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, assisting with education in Bombay. “It was a privilege to go to a place such as India, a country of enormous size, culture and history. It is also somewhere where you see huge variations in poverty and wealth. There were some who had everything, but I remember a family that lived on the pavement near our flat.”

Missionary service would also take him to Malaysia for three years, while his work in the UK included several years as Chaplain to West Buckland School in Barnstaple.

In many respects, Fr George's ministry has now come full circle. One of his sons is a priest looking after nine parishes. “The world he lives in is very different to the one in which I started,” he added, “but like me he loves the work and ministry in which he is involved.”

“I came to the College with my wife in 2012. She died two years ago,” he explains. “Being here really takes the pressure off you in terms of everyday living. All your meals provided and there is care whenever we need it. The College is a wonderful community in which to live.”



Living Legends...

Wing walkers, stuntmen, skydivers, iron men, extreme will-writers ... now it is over to you to think about doing something legendary.

Every year, more and more people like to leave a gift to charity in their Will. These legendary acts of compassion and generosity provide an important boost to causes like ours and are increasingly vital in continuing our work. That's why we're taking part in Remember A Charity In Your Will Week.

This year, we are asking you to think about what legendary words of wisdom or piece of advice you would give to a future generation, and if you would give some thought to the idea of doing something equally legendary by leaving a gift to the College in your Will, once you have taken care of family and friends.

Most of our funds come from the generosity of people like you, either through regular giving throughout the year or in response to our different appeals; but it's a little-known fact that gifts in Wills are becoming more and more important to us as a source of income for our Charity.

Gifts in Wills we received during the past year have helped us to finalise our plans for improving the living and working environments at the College. These include reroofing and refurbishing the Kitchen Block, half of the Central Block, completing our ongoing work on the Chapel and re-flooring and re-equipping the Laundry.

Next year, with the help of these legendary gifts we aim to continue to improve the quality of life of our Residents by ensuring that these major works to the fabric of the College are completed as planned.

That's why, as a member of Remember A Charity, we are taking part in Remember A Charity in your Will Week to help raise awareness of the importance of gifts left in Wills.

It's a common myth that you have to be wealthy to leave a gift in your Will to help us. Nothing could be further from the truth. After taking care of family and friends, you'll be amazed at what one final gift, no matter how big or small, can do.

Whatever the amount, we're extremely grateful for any gifts left to us, as they will help us to continue to care for elderly, infirm and vulnerable Anglican Clergy in need.



12-18 September 2016



Taking care of your loved ones and favourite charities is easier than you think. Just visit www.st-barnabas.org.uk or www.rememberacharity.org.uk for more information, or please speak to your professional advisor about including the College in your Will.

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy