



The College of
St Barnabas

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St Barnabas Bulletin - New Year 2019

A Happy New Year to all our readers!

Congratulations and best wishes to

Canon Keith Gibson, 70 years and still going!



A Community of Retired Anglicans uniting in Faith and Care

College Resident 70 years a Priest

'What's so special about forty?' Canon Keith Gibson asked of a bishop who suggested he mark the anniversary of his ordination. 'There may not be a 50,' the bishop replied.

Thirty years on Father Gibson's doubts have been vindicated, with him celebrating the Eucharist to mark the **70th** anniversary of his priesting.

Fr Gibson raised the possibility of the celebration when a fellow resident of the College of St Barnabas, Fr Roger Bould, had marked 60 years' priestly ministry in September.

Three months later, on December 19, in a chapel specially adapted to his mobility needs, Fr Gibson put on a chasuble and pushed his walker in to preside at the Eucharist according to the rite of the Episcopal Church as used in the British Virgin Islands. His daughter Joy was with him and read the first lesson. Canon Gibson officially retired in 1992 after serving in South Elmsall, Moorthope then abroad in Guyana, St Kitts and the Virgin Islands.

In the course of his ministry, Fr Gibson has baptised **1845** children and adults, presented **974** for Confirmation, solemnised **369** marriages, and conducted **417** funerals.

Keith and his wife, Alma, moved to the College in May 2013. Alma sadly died in 2017. One of the hymns at the service was Alma's favourite.

Fr Gibson turned 96 on Christmas Day and his other daughter, Angela, came from the United States to be with him. The Revd Kevin Scully, Warden of the College of St Barnabas, said, 'Fr Keith was meticulous in his preparation for the service. 'It was a surprise and honour to be asked to preach – given that he has been alive 70 years longer since I was ordained!' 'The celebration was filled with joy, as was that for his birthday on Christmas Day,' Fr Scully said.

Local MP visits College

‘That’s the first time I have ever been taken to task for not door knocking during an election campaign,’ East Surrey MP Sam Gyimah said on a visit to St Barnabas College. Mr Gyimah— pictured below with Kevin Scully—was greeted on arrival at the College by a constituent who was keen to speak with him about a number of issues.

The MP came to the College at the invitation of Warden, The Revd Kevin Scully, to meet residents, speak with members of the Council and catch up on with the achievements and challenges facing the community of retired Anglicans.

He was taken a tour by the Warden of the College facilities, including the Nursing Wing which has a plaque, unveiled by the MP, commemorating the refurbishment of four rooms in 2011.



He also met residents during a busy afternoon of activities – the Extend exercise class and the Art Group, whose work hangs in various parts of the College.

Mr Gyimah said he was delighted to catch up with developments during a meeting with the Council Chairman, Sir Paul Britton and the Warden.

‘There is a lot of life and activity here,’ he said.

‘And people take their politics seriously.

‘People sometimes try to avoid MPs when they are doorknocking.

Today was a nice change., ‘ Mr Gyimah said.

Mr Gyimah, who is the former Minister for Universities and Science, went on to meet other constituents at his weekly surgery in Lingfield.

An apology, and an explanation.

We apologise for the fact that some of you received two very similar appeal letters from us in early December, in some cases even by the same post. We have looked into this and it appears that our mailing house released an unapproved version alongside the final approved letter.

Our Fundraising Manager, Mike Herbert, would like to reassure you that although this looks as if we are being careless or wasteful, this is in fact a mistake on the part of our supplier that took place without our knowledge and which is entirely at their expense.

Thank you for your understanding.

Help us keep costs down

Please remember that gifts made by regular standing order take less time and incur lower bank charges to process. Please give by regular standing order, if you possibly can.

It's not just for Christmas... Are you an online shopper?

If so, please consider helping us by using "Easyfundraising". Simply register as a user at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ and link your details to the College's listing on that site.

Then, when you want to search for or buy a product, go to the shops you want through the easyfundraising portal. Shopping through the portal may need one or two more clicks than going directly to a store site, but each purchase generates a donation from the retailer **at no extra cost to you.**

