



The College of
St Barnabas

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St Barnabas Bulletin - New Year 2017

Keeping it under wraps!

Thanks to the generous support of many individual donors, PCCs and Trust funds, work began in September on the next phase of our development plan.



Like much of the rest of the building, the main chapel has disappeared beneath a maze of scaffolding and blue protective netting (*left*) and is soon to be covered with a protective 'tin roof'. This is because the project involves re-roofing the whole of the central block, including the chapel and kitchens, as well as the eastern section of the main College building. Our 'green' credentials will also be enhanced as huge amounts of insulation and many new windows are installed.

"These parts of the College are over 100 years old," commented College Bursar, Paul Wilkin. "It is a tribute to the original builders that they have lasted so well, but the time has come for a thorough restoration. As well as refurbishing the kitchens and chapel, we are upgrading seven rooms occupied by some of our oldest residents. Now they will be able to enjoy the view of the Quadrangle through new, thermally efficient windows. The corridors they walk through will be heated with warm air from other parts of the building and the new roof will ensure we are weather-tight for many years to come."

All of us at the College say "thank you" to the many generous supporters who have made this project possible. We simply could not have done it without you.

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy

The Registered Manager of the Nursing Wing

Mrs Suzan Jack

By Cliff Caswell



When Suzan Jack first arrived to work at the College after emigrating from Uganda nearly two decades ago, her first impression was of an immediate welcome.

“I remember looking at the College and the way the building is set out,” Suzan recalls. “I felt like it was welcoming me with open arms. It is an impression I still have – this community is such a tranquil and welcoming place.”

Her journey here has been a spiritual as well as a physical one. Having arrived in the UK, leaving behind friends and family in Africa, she took on agency domestic work in London before hearing about a vacancy at the College.

Raised in a Christian family, it did not take her long to accept the invitation to continue her journey of faith here. After becoming a permanent member of the care staff, she was first promoted to become a team leader and then assistant care manager, while also training to be a counsellor. She was given her present role last year.

“Being here has always felt like ministry,” Suzan admits. “For me, my role at the College of St Barnabas is a vocation. Everyone here supports you in what you are doing and I have the impression my life is being mapped out for me.

“For example, I vividly remember when one priest came to live at the College and I was sent to meet him at the station. To my surprise, he immediately asked if I wanted to be married one day! When I said I did, we paused on the bridge over the railway line and he prayed for me there and then. Afterwards, I did go on to meet my husband at the College and have happy memories of the blessing that priest gave me for the future.”

As a senior member of the College’s management, Suzan now co-ordinates the work of two dozen staff. As well as looking after the residents who live in the nursing wing she is also responsible for ensuring the well-being of those in the College’s sheltered flats.

“My aim is to achieve the very best for the whole community here. All the residents have made amazing contributions to Church and society and we owe this to them,” she says.

“The staff are very committed. They come from all over the world and it speaks volumes that such a wide range of people choose to work at the College. But although we have this international approach, everyone has the single aim of caring.”

Now well settled in Surrey and living just a short distance away from the College, Suzan says her life with the residents continues to bring her great pleasure and satisfaction.

“Some residents here have joked that we are in God’s waiting lounge,” she smiles. “But I always reply that, even if that is how they feel, let us make it a first class experience!”

Characters from the College:

Canon Michael Moore

By Cliff Caswell

For Canon Michael Moore, a fascination with languages was the foundation of a ministry serving both the Archbishop of Canterbury and Her Majesty The Queen.

When he was called up for National Service in the 1950s, Fr Michael asked to study Russian with the Royal Navy and was sent to the Joint Services School for Linguists in Bodmin. While there he confided in his friends in the Christian Fellowship. “I had struggled with the sense of vocation in my teens, but just after Easter in 1955 I told them I felt able to answer the calling and go forward by the grace of God.”

Having become fluent in Russian, he went on to read German and Russian at Oxford. During his studies, it was a meeting with a Hungarian pastor in Austria that would be another ‘conversion moment’. “This man was really a gift from God for me,” he says. “I learned more about pastoral ministry from him than anybody else.”

After training at Wells Theological College, Fr Michael was ordained in St Paul’s Cathedral in 1962 and served as a Curate in Bethnal Green. It was while he was there that he suggested to Bishop Robert Stopford of London that he might offer to use his languages in the service of the Church. “Archbishop Michael Ramsey wanted to strengthen ecumenical ties with our Orthodox partners and needed a representative in Constantinople, now Istanbul, as well as the Romanian capital Bucharest.”

Offered the job in Romania he also took on further roles including Chaplain to the British Embassy, as well as fulfilling ecumenical responsibilities in other eastern European countries, including Bulgaria and what was then Yugoslavia.

This experience was put to good use when he returned to the UK in 1967, first to the post of Assistant General Secretary of the Church of England Council on Foreign Relations, and then as the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Chaplain for Foreign Relations. It was during this time that he was made a, Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

In 1982 he was appointed Chaplain to The Queen at Hampton Court Palace. “I found my interest in church music deepening while working in the Chapel Royal. There were also visits from school parties, sometimes 300 or 400 children a day, and I was delighted to become Chaplain to the Horse Rangers Association – an organisation which enables youngsters to ride and look after the animals. I still have links with them today.”

Fr Michael first came to the College to recuperate after an illness. When he retired he moved here permanently in 1999 and has now lived here the longest of all the residents.

“For a bachelor like me it is a kind of heaven,” he smiles. “I have never been much good in a kitchen, so it is wonderful to have three meals a day served to me. But I feel especially blessed to have such good company in which to live and pray.”



Living in Changing Times

By Mike Herbert, Fundraising Officer

Thank you from us all if you have contributed to this year's Christmas Appeal!

If you haven't got round to it yet, there is still time for you to help our Residents. Please consider giving by monthly Standing Order if you can. This is more important now than ever, because of some changes to the law governing fundraising ...

We have prided ourselves on not bombarding people with appeal letters, telephone calls and emails. We have tried to find out how frequently and by which method you prefer to be contacted. However, a few large charities subcontracted out their fundraising work to others and did not retain enough control over the way these third parties conducted themselves. There has been a lot of negative media coverage of fundraising over the past couple of years because of this. This has resulted in new legislation that applies to *all* charities, even if they have previously adhered to existing laws and codes of conduct.

Sending post, email, telephone and text messages to private, named individuals will have to stop unless they give permission. This means that we have to ask for your written consent to receive communications

from us. And in every subsequent communication, we have to offer you the choice to opt out. We can't assume you are willing to hear from us just because you haven't told us you don't want to. ***The only exception is for people who give by Standing Order.***

A new law means that we won't be able to contact you again unless you give us permission!

This is a huge task, with daunting cost implications. We will be writing to you again in the near future to ask you for your formal consent, but we are very concerned that even some of our most loyal supporters may simply not get round to filling in the consent form, and we won't then be able to keep in touch with them.

In the past we have been able to write to named individuals whom we have identified from information that has been available in the public domain. We are no longer allowed to do that. For us, as a charity with a small team and very low expenditure on fundraising, that is a real blow. Now, the only way we can recruit new individual supporters is by talking to them face-to-face or by sending out letters addressed simply to "The Occupier". This is so impersonal that we think it is unlikely to give good results.

Please help us in the difficult times ahead

There are difficult times ahead as we try to develop new ways to raise the money we need to help our Residents. We have to work within the law and look for new solutions.

Please help us by:

- ◆ promptly completing and returning the consent form once you receive it
- ◆ considering whether you can give by Standing Order
- ◆ encouraging your friends to support us too

Thank you for your help.

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy