



## St Barnabas Bulletin - Winter 2021/22

# A Happy New Year to all our Readers!

**Happy New Year! Are you ready for a brand new start?**

As a supporter of the College you know that St. Barnabas is a wonderful place to live, a tranquil community of faith, spirituality and fellowship that has Anglican devotion at its heart. And of course you already know, too, that we have more than 125 years' experience of helping and caring for older and elderly people.

But did you also know that St. Barnabas is here for all Anglicans, lay as well as ordained? We would be delighted for more people to come and live here to experience the unique environment that is the College of St. Barnabas and to enjoy and benefit from all that it has to offer. And it may well be that among our supporters there are those for whom the College can at some point be of service in this regard.

Living in a community like ours isn't everyone's cup of tea, of course, and that's precisely why we offer trial visits to prospective residents—so that you can find out a bit more about us and get a better idea of what coming to live at St. Barnabas might actually be like.

So if or when you start thinking about next steps towards retirement or your plans for later life and the options open to you, why not find out more about living at the College of St. Barnabas and what we have to offer?

For more information, or for an informal chat contact our Chaplain by email to [chaplain@collegeofstbarnabas.com](mailto:chaplain@collegeofstbarnabas.com) or by calling on 01342 870260.

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# My Journey to St. Barnabas:

**Tony Proctor, one of our longest-standing trustees, tells how he became involved**



**In 1978 we took our three sons on holiday to a flat in Thurlestone, South Devon.**

One sunny morning we decided to go to Bantham beach a few miles away and having parked our car we walked towards and over the sand dunes to the large expanse of sandy beach with the River Avon to the west side, cutting through the sand. We dropped our bags, picnic and cricket bat near the edge of the dunes. Beyond there was a family with two young boys. It was not long

before the five young boys were playing together. My wife Trish and I went across to meet the parents – Peter and Yvonne Lusty from East Grinstead. We have been friends ever since.

Peter was a Trustee at St Barnabas and in June 2007 he and Yvonne invited us to the Patronal Festival dinner at the College. It was a splendid occasion in a large marquee with circular tables of ten guests to each table. Our table included the Reverend Howard Such and his wife Lin who had come from Sheffield and would soon be moving to the College for Howard to take up his appointment as Warden. My first impression of the College reminded me of my school days at the Methodist Kingswood School, Bath. It was a dry and warm summer evening for the festival dinner with all the fine food prepared by the College chefs and young staff. The jolly Bursar, Paul Wilkin, auctioned a number of special events. It was a happy evening.

In 2010 Peter Lusty mentioned during a supper together that he would like Trish or myself to consider joining the Council at St Barnabas as a Trustee. I was starting to move to retirement and reducing my days working in the family run estate agency business that my father established in 1946. I had also retired from the village primary school as a governor. By contrast, Trish had a full and busy life so it was decided that I should put my name forward to become a Trustee at the College.

My first meeting was in April 2012. The chairman was Dr Dundas Moore. However, after the first half hour Dundas stepped down as chairman and Sir Paul Britton moved to the end of the long table and was unanimously elected as the new chairman. Not only was this my first meeting but also his first meeting. I sat there in amazement as Sir Paul moved down the agenda enlisting comments from the chairmen, and chairladies, of sub-committees and discussing their reports. He had a remarkable understanding of the College and the accounts which were

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spread over many pages. By contrast, I knew little about the College except it was a dignified and caring home for about sixty retired Anglican priests. Slowly over the last ten years I have absorbed the history and ethos of the College and at last I understand the accounts.

During the last decade I have met many interesting residents, staff and Trustees at the College. The highlight of most years has been the annual Trustee visit to meet, talk and listen to three residents. These meetings have been fascinating as they have recalled their lives in so many parts of this country and in distant countries abroad. So many residents have had colourful lives and careers fulfilling their calling from God. I realise my life has been very parochial having worked for fifty years from the same office near Bromley.

“It has been a privilege to be a Trustee for nearly a decade. The next few years will be interesting”

Having spent my working life amidst surveyors and estate agents, I have taken much interest in the improvements and maintenance of the buildings at the College. In 2014 I walked around the gardens at the College and was slightly shocked to see some boarded-up windows to the South elevation of the Warden`s Lodge.

Apparently the original glass was coming away from the lead surrounds. At that time Trish and I were about to move to a smaller house in Crockham Hill and this presented us the opportunity to finance new double-glazed windows for the Lodge.

For many of us the last two years have been the most difficult period in our lives. However, I am very aware and appreciative for the care, planning and protection that was supervised by the former Bursar and his staff, Suzan Jack and the nurses and carers and the many other staff at the College during the pandemic. Compared to many other retirement homes the College did well as so much care was taken.

In the village where I have lived for over fifty years I have seen people living on their own and often only seeing Tim the postman from one day to the next. By contrast I see the College offering a community full of friendship, faith and a safe environment giving peace of mind.

We shall have to continue living a careful life for some years until the world is vaccinated. It has been a privilege to be a Trustee for nearly a decade.

The next few years will be interesting. I look forward to supporting the new Chaplain, Chairman of Trustees, and Chief Executive.

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# Money to burn!

## If only!

There are approximately £9 billion worth of paper £20 and £15 billion worth of paper £50 notes still in circulation. As they are returned to the Bank of England, these are being replaced with the new polymer £20 notes featuring J.M.W. Turner, and polymer £50 notes featuring Alan Turing. After 30 September 2022, the paper £20 and £50 notes will no longer have legal tender status.

So if you have a stash of these old £20 and £50 notes at home, or just one or two, and you are at a loss what to do with them, why not bundle them up, pay them into your bank account and then transfer the amount or send a cheque to us? Just a thought...

## New-look website!

Our website is having a bit of a revamp. Have a look at [www.st-barnabas.org.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.org.uk) and please do let us know what you think!

## And finally...

**If you haven't yet made a contribution to our Christmas Appeal please do so now if you possibly can. We really do need your help.**

Wherever we may be in the constantly-changing world of COVID - mid-pandemic, pre-endemic, variant-blitzed, surgically-masked, double-jabbed, triple-cooked –the coronavirus continues to cause the College serious difficulties that we need your help to overcome.

To make it easier for you to help, we've set up an appeal page on Justgiving called "when the clapping stops". Please visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/when-the-clapping-stops](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/when-the-clapping-stops) to make a donation and show your support.

Thank you

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