



The College of
St Barnabas

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St Barnabas Bulletin - Autumn 2022



**WILL
YOU**

**HELP CARE FOR SOMEONE
WHO NEEDS IT?**

Maturing Together Rejoicing In Christ



The Revd David Ivorson is
a trustee of the College

Shakespeare and the Bible , by David Ivorson.

For any Christian, a key feature of the Rule of Life is daily Bible study. And this is supported by the use of commentaries, both for the academic and for the general reader. However, another way in which one's understanding of the Bible may be enhanced is through the literary imagination. And for this reason I have in recent years devoted much time in exploring the Bible through the eyes of William Shakespeare.

The purpose of my studies is not solely concerned with Shakespeare's work itself, so much as the opportunity to reflect on the Bible from a fresh perspective. Whether or not Shakespeare was a faithful Christian, it is evident that he paid attention in church and also studied the Bible at home. His writings demonstrate extensive Biblical knowledge. From the evidence of his plays, he drew on two English translations. The large format *Bishops' Bible* (1568) was the one that he heard read aloud in church. And the *Geneva Bible* (1560), which was less expensive and was available in a handier format, was suitable for home study. I infer, from certain readings that are unique to *Geneva*, that he must either have had his own copy, or borrowed one.

You may object that only one of his plays (*Measure for Measure*) is explicitly about Christian moral themes. Other readers will point out that *The Merchant of Venice* has much to say about Christian / Hebrew relations (supported by references to the book of Daniel). And whilst the figure of Job hovers over the character of Lear, the parable of the Talents informs the story depicted in *Timon of Athens*. However, my main preoccupation in studying Shakespeare is with the verbal parallels and quotations from the Bible that can be detected in all the plays. I find it quite extraordinary that every play in the canon – even the Roman plays – contains Biblical allusions, quotations, or verbal echoes. Given the preoccupations of his time, it is not surprising that such allusions are particularly rich in the History plays, in which the concept of the Divine Right of Kings is a constant, implicit, feature.

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How can we use the plays for theological reflection? Consider *Richard II* as a case in point. Bolingbroke's interventions in the play are framed by two references to Genesis chapter 4. In the first scene, his plea to avenge the death of Gloucester recalls *'[his] blood, like sacrificing Abel's cries,*

*Even from the tongueless caverns of the earth,
To me, for justice ...'*

But by the closing scene, his attention has switched from the innocent blood of Abel to the offence of his murderous brother, as he dismisses Richard's assassin with the command *'with Cain go wander through the shades of night.'* Therefore we are reminded of the first murder and its profound implications: of the victim's blood calling for vengeance (Genesis 4.10) and of the consequences of sin, represented by the Cain's casting out (Genesis 4.15-16). By contrast, King Richard himself is God-fearing and pious. With him, we are invited to reflect on scripture and consider its implications for one who holds high office. Once deposed, he contrasts his situation with Jesus', recalling Matthew 26.49:

*'Did they not sometime cry "all hail!" to me?
So Judas did to Christ: but he, in twelve,
Found truth in all but one; I, in twelve thousand, none ...'*

And he reflects explicitly on the Gospel, trying to make sense of its perceived contradictions:

*'As thoughts of things divine are intermixed
With scruples, and do set the word itself
Against the word,
As thus: "Come, little ones," and then again,
"It is as hard to come, as for a camel
To thread the postern of a needle's eye" ...'*

This juxtaposition of Mark 10.14 with 10.24-25 presents Richard as being authentically lost and confused, trying to make sense of the Word – and its meaning for him. The comparison he makes reminds us of the need that we all have to reflect theologically: as it were, 'setting the word against the word' – as 'thoughts of things divine are intermixed with scruples.'

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In our last edition you may remember we reported

that one of our amazing team of carers, Jackie Teece, was raising funds for the College by leaping out of an aircraft. Jackie has now safely completed her jump and in doing so has raised more than £10,000 for the College.



This is a massive achievement, so we all say a huge “thank you” to Jackie and to everyone who sponsored her!



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Opera comes to the College



On the 13th August, Rogue Opera performed Bizet's Carmen in the College grounds to an audience of more than 100 supporters, friends, residents and staff who came to enjoy the show, the College grounds, a picnic or a supper of authentic paella washed down with a glass or two of sangria.

For those residents unable to enjoy this performance out in the open air, the opera was also live-streamed to the College Common Room.

This was our first onsite event for a number of years, so many thanks to Rogue Opera for a breathtaking performance that was enjoyed by all, for the support of M&M Print & Mail, Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors and Serval Systems Ltd, and to all those who bought tickets to the event or who otherwise contributed to its success.



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College Open Day

Morris men, jazz trios and miniature rail-

ways have all featured in previous incarnations of our Open Day, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic we haven't been able to put one on since 2019, and this one at fairly short notice.

So there may be some gaps, as we start to find our feet again, but please do bear with us.

This year's Open Day is part of the national Heritage Open Days week-long programme, which is actually an initiative by the National Trust. We are opening up on the **17th September from 10.30am to 4.30pm** and extending a warm welcome to anyone who joins us on the day. Admission is FREE.

At the time of writing we are putting together a range of talks by residents and organising a variety of stands. There will be guided tours of the College and visitors are very welcome to explore our grounds. There is no charge for the tours and talks.

Light refreshments will be available from 10.30 until 4pm.

This is a rare opportunity to visit and find out more about Surrey's "Hidden Gem", so if you are within a reasonable travelling distance and are keen to find out more about our and our residents' stories, please do come along. We would love to see you!

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After more than a decade, a fond farewell to the Christian Resources Exhibition.

Never say never, but this is certainly the last time we will be taking part in CRE for the foreseeable future as we rebrand the College and look at more effective ways of reaching potential residents and supporters, and of meeting their needs.

While 15 , 10 or even 5 years ago, our stand could be relied on to attract over 100 visitors a day, at recent exhibitions that has more than halved. There is no doubt that COVID-19 has had a part to play in that, but the pandemic and its aftermath have also caused us to review what we do and to reflect on how we can better meet the needs of our residents, Friends and supporters in the months and years ahead.



So , for the last time, if you are of a mind to visit CRE at Sandown Park, Esher this October, we are able to offer you FREE tickets. The exhibition is open to the public on the 11th, 12th, and 13th and tickets—normally £8.00 each—are valid for the duration. We are on **Stand F4**, and we would be delighted to see you!

To obtain your complimentary tickets, simply use the following link:

<https://eventdata.uk/Comp/CRENational2022.aspx?TrackingCode=COLSTBARN>

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Will You?

The annual Remember A Charity in Your Will week has come around again, and of course, as you are a supporter of the College, we would like you to give some serious thought to how you can continue your vital support by making a final gift to the College of St. Barnabas in your Will. Leaving gifts in a Will is of course highly personal and can be a sensitive issue, so let's just talk in general terms.

Making a Will isn't as complex as you might think, so once you have taken care of loved ones and friends, why not consider helping the College in this way, to help ensure that your support continues to benefit those most in need?

Gifts in Wills don't have to be huge, and you don't have to be rich or eccentric (or both) to leave a charitable legacy. In fact it is something that more and more people are doing, particularly supporters of smaller charities, where the positive impact of a gift in a Will can be so much greater.

If you are committed to the College in the here-and-now, you can still make a commitment to the College's future, by leaving a charitable legacy to continue to help once you are gone.

Next time you are thinking about writing or amending your Will, please do also consider how you might be able to help the College with a final gift. Please do remember that once you have made proper provision for your family and your loved ones, even modest gifts can make a significant difference to smaller charities like ours.

If you would like to talk about leaving a charitable legacy to the College in your Will, please email Mike, our Fundraising Manager, in complete confidence at mike.herbert@collegeofstbarnabas.com, or call him on 07708 151215

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REMEMBER A CHARITY
IN YOUR WILL