



## St Barnabas Bulletin - New Year 2013

### One after another!

In December, two Residents of the College celebrated major anniversaries of ordination ... on consecutive days.



On 20th December, Canon Wilfrid Browning (*left*) celebrated a Eucharist of thanksgiving for an astonishing 70 years as a priest.

Fr Wilfrid's wide-ranging ministry took him all over the country, but he is probably best known as the author of *The Oxford Dictionary of the Bible*, and the priest who cared for literally thousands as they offered themselves for ordination at Oxford. "I saw two people every week for twenty years," he smiled, "as they came to me from all the Oxford Colleges as well as parishes in the Diocese." Canon Browning also made the local press while he was serving as a parish priest, when, having fenced as an épéeist for Oxford, he invited a neighbouring priest (also a fencer) to cross swords in a duel!

The next day, Fr Frank Andrew (*right*) gave thanks for 60 years of priesthood. During his time as a distinguished parish priest, Fr Frank supervised the design and building of a new parish church in the diocese of Sheffield, before serving for 14 years in the diocese of Ely. After retiring in 1983, he cared for a parish that had no Vicar, alongside another priest who is now also a Resident of the College.

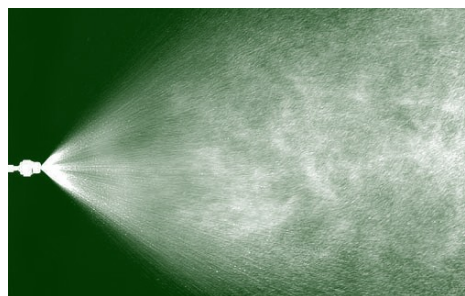


## Caring for retired Anglican Clergy

# You've done it again!

**Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have achieved yet another goal.**

The College is always seeking to improve the lives and security of those who live here. Having upgraded our fire alarm system, it was decided that, to give the best possible protection, we should install a state-of-the-art water-mist fire protection system. The cost would be some £75,000.



“A water-mist system doesn’t sound very romantic,” commented our Director of Fundraising, Lord Michael Herbert, “and yet it will give better protection not only to the people who live and work here, but to the historic buildings as well. We really need to do this.”

So we asked you for help ... and you have given it.

Amazingly, in the course of our latest appeal, *we received all of the £75,000 we need!*

“This project is one of this year’s major targets,” said College Chairman Sir Paul Britton. “To be able to begin work so soon is a wonderful achievement.”

This success is due to the real affection which our supporters have for the College and the ready generosity with which they respond to our needs. We are very grateful to all who have made this possible.

We take this opportunity to say a heartfelt **“Thank you”** from all who live and work here.

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## Some dates for 2013

**Please make an early note of these dates so you can be sure not to miss them:**

14-17 May		See us at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park Exhibition Centre*
14 June	7 pm	Festival Dinner with Guest of Honour Dame Judi Dench Speaker: The Bishop of Wakefield
15 June	2.30 pm	College Open Afternoon, with the East Surrey Morris Men and the Royal Ascot Jazz Trio
6 September	9 am	Charity Golf Day at Chartham Park Golf Club
3-4 October		See us at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Birmingham NEC*
9 November	10 am	Friends’ Autumn Fair
19 December	7.30 pm	Sussex Cantorum Carol Concert

\* Please visit the College website or email [collegeadmin@collegeofstbarnabas.com](mailto:collegeadmin@collegeofstbarnabas.com) to request complimentary tickets to attend either exhibition, or both!



# How do we keep our churches open?

By Vivien Hepworth, Vice-Chairman of the Council

**I became a churchwarden at a church near the College a few months ago.**

It's been a steep learning curve, as every month I learn more about the upkeep of mediaeval buildings. The key rule appears to be that there is always something to do, and just when you've finished getting an electrician to sort out the faulty lights in one part of the church, you discover there is a new fault somewhere else, or an entirely new problem is discovered.

Every time I get really worried about the work piling up, and the cost of it, I reflect on the fact that the church has been standing for centuries and, according to our architect, is in good condition. Hopefully that will remain the case while I am involved in maintaining the fabric!



We are proud of our church, and enjoy reading the comments in our visitors' book from the many people who come to walk around it and enjoy its special features. You can imagine our dismay when we had some young visitors recently who were not so well behaved. What they got up to was small in the overall scheme of things – minor acts of vandalism, certainly compared with what other churches have had to endure – but enough to cause anxiety about what might happen next.

What to do? Members of our ministry team were able to talk to the youngsters, but still the 'visiting' went on. It seemed the church was a useful place to meet. We had no desire to ban them – what kind of example does that give from a Christian community? – but equally we became increasingly concerned as the 'visiting' showed no signs of stopping.

After some anguished deliberation, we decided to close the church when services were not taking place. We hoped that if we kept the church closed for a few weeks, our young visitors might lose interest and we could quietly re-open the church once again. Fingers crossed: so far so good. But it is depressing how many people in the wider Church have had to decide to keep their doors closed as the only means of dealing with the problem. We just hope we won't have to follow suit.

By contrast, of course, this is not a difficulty at the College where the two beautiful chapels are always open for the residents and our visitors. One of the joys of coming to the College is knowing that people are free to come and go for private prayer and meditation at any time, and that the life of prayer here continues without interruption.

I am glad to say that 'normal service' has now been resumed at the local church. During this time we have discovered how much our parishioners, like the College residents, value the opportunity to come for times of personal prayer. We hope that 2013 will not be the year when we have to close our doors because of badly behaved visitors.

# In the bleak midwinter

By Brigid Goddard, Fundraising Volunteer

**Our natural reaction to the short, dull, damp days and longer, dark winter nights seems to be an almost instinctive need to remember, to reflect and to look forward to new beginnings.**

At this special time, the College's fundraising team invites you to look back in a moment or two of quiet contemplation and accept our thanks for the help you have given to the College. We couldn't do it without you.



The College in Winter

We invite you to reflect on how wisely and effectively your gifts have been used to improve the quality of life of our Residents. The help you give enables us to achieve so much more for those who live here than would otherwise be possible, and the grateful prayers and good wishes of the College community are always with you.

And since the most basic truth of fundraising is that people do not give simply because they are not asked, we ask you as you look ahead to the coming year, to take a few moments to consider how you might best help us again.

You might consider giving by monthly standing order, for example, or increasing your existing standing order. You might pledge to donate a certain amount in a year in instalments by cheque. Or you might decide that you will simply continue to support our appeals.

The other way of helping that you might consider is to leave a gift or legacy to the College in your Will. It really is just a common myth that you have to be one of the super-rich or perhaps even a little quirky and eccentric to consider helping a charity in this way. Nothing could be further from the truth. After taking care of family and friends, you would be amazed at what one final gift, no matter how big or small, can do to help.

Only you know what it is right for you to give, and which methods of giving suit you best. But do expect us to ask from time to time so that we can continue to provide those who live here with the care they deserve.

Do expect us to ask, so that the College will be here to provide the same care to today's priests, missionaries, Church workers and other Anglicans, as they become older and in greater need of help, as it has done since it was founded over a century ago.

**However you are able to help us we are always extremely grateful for any donation and for any legacy that is made, as they all help us to continue caring for retired, elderly and often infirm Anglicans. Thank you for whatever you can give.**

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy