



The College of
St Barnabas

Blackberry Lane
Lingfield
Surrey
RH7 6NJ
☎ 01342 870260
www.st-barnabas.org.uk



St Barnabas Bulletin - New Year 2014

Archbishop becomes a College Patron

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, has honoured the College by becoming one of its Patrons.



The Archbishop has been cautious about agreeing to such requests so it is a particular privilege for us that he has accepted this invitation.

Archbishop Justin's priorities for his role are prayer, mission and reconciliation, and in the relatively early stages of this ministry he has agreed to become a Patron of a small number of organisations whose objects particularly reflect these priorities.

"It is a great privilege for the College that the Archbishop is willing to associate himself with us in this way," commented the Warden, Fr Howard Such. "It is a clear demonstration that he sees us as the community of prayer and reconciliation which we aspire to be. As many of those who live here have been engaged in missionary work of various kinds around the world, it is also a special affirmation of all they have given in the service of the Gospel.

"The Archbishop's support will be warmly welcomed by all our regular and new supporters, and I hope it will encourage both them and those who are considering the possibility of becoming part of this very special community."

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy

Characters from the College: The Revd Isabella Landreth

By Cliff Caswell



The Revd Isabella Landreth has become the first ordained woman to be a Resident of the College.

In an energetic ministry spanning several decades, Mrs Landreth has been involved in both bringing relief to those in extreme poverty thousands of miles away and helping the vulnerable at risk of harm on the fringes of British society. In her early years she was PA to a Chief Executive Officer of the children's charity Barnado's before acknowledging a call to train as a Deaconess. She has also served as a nurse, having trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. She previously did a residential course in psychology, sociology and history of art.

She has spent time in India, where she used her skills in a leprosy clinic and also assisted with the mission of the late Mother Theresa. "I met Mother Theresa and had a very deep respect for the work that she was doing, although her Home for the Dying was completely different from any hospice you would find in the UK," says Isabella.

When she returned to the UK, Isabella spent two years at the Deaconess Community of St Andrew in Westbourne Park and assisted at a local hospital. Around the same time she also helped at a home for vulnerable young women in Birmingham before becoming Assistant Chaplain at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield.

She was ordained Deacon on the Feast of St Matthias in 1987, and for many years worked alongside her late husband Derek. He had become a priest after service with the Army in the Far East during the Second World War. She recalled, "On reflection, this was a real high point in my ministry, working alongside my husband and in a team with him."

When Fr Derek retired, the couple moved to Slindon, near Chichester, where Isabella became a Day Chaplain at the Cathedral and assisted at local Care and Nursing Homes. After he died she moved into the city, and subsequently decided to approach the College.

"I am so grateful to be living now at the College of St Barnabas," she says. "Here I am able to continue the rhythm of life, prayer and worship I have had for many years."

And another first!

The College chapel has seen countless services of many kinds, but as far as anyone knows, never before one of these.

On 7th December, with the kind permission of our Visitor and Diocesan Bishop, one of the young ladies on our staff made her adult commitment to the Christian faith in the sacrament of Confirmation.

Danielle Little (*right*) had already become a regular member of the worshipping congregation at the College and was thrilled when approval was given for her Confirmation to take place here.



The service was conducted by the Sub-Warden of the College, Bishop Alan Chesters, formerly Bishop of Blackburn and now an Assistant Bishop in the Dioceses of Southwark and Chichester.

In an address to inspire everyone in the packed chapel he told her, "It is certainly many a long year, if ever, that someone expressed their desire to follow Christ by being confirmed in this chapel. After all, most people who come here have been confirmed for over half a century! We rejoice that your faith has been nurtured among us and assure you of our prayers.

"Those of us who have tried to be the loving, giving and forgiving person a follower of Jesus should be, know that being a Christian is not easy - the sign of our faith is a Cross. As we all pray and I lay hands on you, God confirms his love for you and his desire that you will live in his way. The Holy Spirit gives you grace - the strength to live as a Christian. It is not a soft option ... but God does not just give you the gift for today; *he is there always for you*, if you will allow him to be."

Can you help us?

We are currently looking for volunteers around the country to help build awareness of the College and what we do, and to help increase support for our cause.

If you have a little time to spare, would be willing to help the College and would like to find out more about this exciting new initiative, please contact us by sending an email to fundraiser@collegeofstbarnabas.com, by calling us directly on **01342 872813** (Monday to Thursday 09.00 – 16.00), or by writing to us at the address on the front of this Bulletin.

A new presence in social media

Do you use social media, like Facebook or Twitter?



Perhaps your spouse or partner, or your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews do.

Well, you – and they – can keep up with news and information from the College by joining us on Facebook and by following us on Twitter.



You can find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/pages/The-College-of-St-Barnabas/654452197922136

and on Twitter we are: **@CofStBarnabas**

Please recommend us to anyone you know who uses these methods of keeping in touch and informed.



We are also continuing the development of our website, through which we are able to give more detailed information about the College, our mission and the work do. It is continually changing, so please visit us regularly at www.st-barnabas.org.uk.

More good news from the lottery

From the Fundraising Team

The College has just been awarded a grant of £10,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



LOTTERY FUNDED

This grant is made so that we can explore the College's place in the local community over the past 120 years and make the heritage of the College more widely accessible.

We shall do this through College and community events, volunteer involvement and greater use of digital / online platforms.

Another great reason to keep up with our news online!

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy