



St Barnabas Bulletin - Summer 2014

He made it!

College Fundraising Officer, Mike Herbert, successfully completed the Dales Highway Walk (*right*) in aid of the College.

"I decided to do a sponsored event for the College for several reasons," he says. "We know that when the College was built a lot of 'community fundraising' took place. Since then, there hasn't been anything quite like this, and I want to encourage our supporters to see how they might develop their own fundraising opportunities to help us.

"Also, we are now doing more work online and through social media. I wanted to test how effective online giving might be for the College as we will definitely be using online platforms more and more in the future. So we developed the sponsored walk idea but only promoted it to existing supporters who had previously given us an email address, and through Facebook, Twitter and our website.

"As this was the first sponsored event and because comparatively few people knew about it, I am very pleased with the £1,600 raised so far. If you didn't know about the walk before and would like to give, you can still do so by visiting www.justgiving.com/Mike-Herbert1



"If you are already one of my sponsors, I cannot thank you enough for your support!"

Caring for retired Anglican Clergy

Characters from the College: Canon Michael Shields, cmp

By Cliff Caswell



A life of fulfilling ministry followed a calling of extraordinary simplicity for this much-respected priest.

When the ten-year-old Michael Shields gazed above his home, he was confronted with white etchings on the blue of the autumn sky. It was 1940 and the Battle of Britain was taking place. The world was at war – and yet, amidst this, a calling from God came as a bolt from the blue.

“My parents were occasional churchgoers,” the 83-year-old recalled. “But there was one evening when I was at a window and saw a lady leave her house to go to a chapel. I told my parents I wanted to go to church. By the age of 14 I knew I had to be a priest.”

A year later, Fr Michael became a student at Kelham Theological College. After three years of enjoyable and fulfilling study, the teenager was called up for National Service, electing to join the RAF, but tragedy touched his life soon after he enlisted when his father died. “My plan had been to complete my theological studies but my mother was also unwell and needed support,” he said. “I went to work in management for travel agent Thomas Cook, but as time went on my bishop was anxious I should move forward for ordination. He devised a scheme under which I could do most studying part-time.”

Fr Michael was eventually ordained in St Paul’s Cathedral at the age of 34 before going on to serve two curacies and an incumbency in a London diocese. “I was fortunate that doctors discovered that my blood pressure was through the roof,” he remembered. “I was mindful of the risks I faced when I later moved to the Diocese of Rochester, where I had a parish of 11,000, two schools and a hospital. Then, when I was 65 my doctor warned me about blood pressure again and said I needed to slow down.” Despite this, after retiring Fr Michael served for a time on the staff of Rochester Cathedral.

In addition to his full-time parish ministry, Fr Michael has also played a major part in the Society of the Holy Cross, an organisation recognised as one of the key driving forces behind the Anglo-Catholic movement in the Church of England. “When our Master General died in 1977, the senior members were all invited to stand for election,” he said. “Nobody came forward, and I remember getting up and saying what a great privilege it would be to lead an organisation that had existed since 1855. My view was that anyone who was nominated should stand. I was completely dumbfounded when a senior priest then climbed to his feet and said he was nominating me!”

Fr Michael continues to lead an active life in retirement with colleagues at the College of St Barnabas. “I count myself as being extremely fortunate to have been able to do all of this,” he says. “It has not only been very fulfilling, but also enormous fun!”

Pilgrims' Progress

By Vivien Hepworth

As I joined the College pilgrimage to Walsingham for my first-ever visit, my mind was buzzing with questions.



What would happen? What was required of me? How would I know what to do?

In the event, I need not have worried. For a start, I had the companionship and support of 11 friends (*left*) from the College who were going with me. Those who had long experience of Walsingham were generous with their time and background briefing as to what it was all about.

What struck me first was the beauty of the site where the Shrine is placed. What a clever mix of modern and mediaeval buildings, laid out around beautiful gardens. Early fears about not knowing how to find where I needed to be soon melted away as I learned how to find my way around. As I did so, I began to appreciate the spirit of tranquillity and contemplation which, to me, is very much part of the Walsingham experience. There is a wonderful peacefulness about it, even though there are many pilgrims joining together at the same time.

I was moved by the intensity and beauty of the services we attended, perhaps particularly those in the Holy House itself but also those in the church. The *Evening Liturgy of Reconciliation with Sprinkling at the Well* provided an opportunity to pray for healing for oneself and/or for others – the laying on of hands being a powerful personal experience for me. The following evening, the candlelit procession that forms part of the *Address, Procession of Our Lady and Benediction* was another highlight – somehow particularly liberating as we walked around the grounds, singing as we went, carrying candles aloft.

Apart from the services, there was time to be alone if one wished – but also time to spend in the company of fellow pilgrims, all there to experience the special atmosphere which Walsingham has. We enjoyed walks in the nearby Abbey grounds, around the village and to various religious sites in and around Little Walsingham. We even included a birthday party for one of our group (*right*). Oh, and the food was excellent!



It is a major experience, one to reflect on for many months to come – and a time to remember and sustain me amidst the inevitable turbulence of daily life.

The College of St Barnabas

Could this be for you?

Know someone we could help?

Thinking of becoming a supporter?

COME AND SEE US FOR YOURSELF!



OPEN AFTERNOON

SATURDAY 14th JUNE

from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Live Jazz Morris Dancing

Personal tours of the historic buildings

Afternoon Teas Barbecue

**Our contact details are on the front of the Bulletin,
but if you can't let us know in advance, just come along!**

Charity Commissioners registered number 205220

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