



The College of
St Barnabas

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Come and see us at Manchester!

The work of the College will be exhibited for the first time at Manchester's EventCity on 8 and 9 October.



After the success of our regular presence at the International Christian Resources Exhibition each year in May, and also at Birmingham last year, we are delighted to be bringing the work of the College to CRE North at Manchester.

"I very much hope that we shall welcome many of our regular supporters from the Diocese of Manchester and its surroundings," says the Warden, Fr Howard Such. "This visit also gives them the opportunity to encourage friends to join them in finding out more about our work. I am especially keen that people recommend us to those whom we may be able to support."

To book complimentary tickets as guests of the College, please contact us, or visit the exhibition website at www.creonline.co.uk/northtickets. We look forward to seeing you there!



Caring for retired Anglican Clergy

Characters from the College:

Mrs Norma Simpson

By Cliff Caswell

Mrs Norma Simpson earned a unique place in the history of the College when she celebrated her 100th birthday in June (see *below, left*) – the first such occasion since the College was founded.



During her long life, Norma provided steadfast support to the work of two clergy husbands, helped to raise an extended family and cared for many in her own two professions.

Having moved to Gloucestershire from her native Birmingham as an aspiring nurse, she met Fr Edgar Saunders when he was a curate at Stroud Parish Church. They fell in love, married, and then moved to nearby Whiteshill where he became the Vicar. The Second World War was soon to change everything. “Edgar served as a military chaplain during the war,” Mrs Simpson recalls. “By that time I had a son who was 18 months old and, in Edgar’s absence, I had to look after the priest-in-charge, who was lovely and very loyal to my husband. When he returned after the war, he was made a Rural Dean. The Bishop gave him the living of St Catherine’s Church in Gloucester.”

His death in 1960 plunged Norma into grief, almost left her homeless and saw her face great uncertainty and financial hardship. Undaunted, she went on to re-train and fulfil a new vocation as a social worker. It was when she had to see a vicar, Fr Clarence Simpson, in connection with a baby who was being placed for adoption, that she met her second husband.

The couple married the following year, and Mrs Simpson found herself with an extended family, becoming a mother to three step-children as well as her son, who was by then 20 years old. “I was to go on to lead a very busy life,” she said, “but it was wonderful. I never imagined all that would happen, and that I would be married for another 32 years. We were extremely busy in Cornwall for six or seven years and also in a little parish in Hertfordshire.”

Eventually, the couple made the decision to retire in 1995 to the College of St Barnabas. Sadly, Fr Clarence died just 18 months after they arrived here.

“He knew that coming into the College was the right thing to do, and that I would be safe if anything happened to him,” Mrs Simpson recalled. “He was right – there is a lovely community here, the countryside is beautiful and I have made so many friends.”

Legendary Things

By Mike Herbert

Every day, people are doing legendary things for good causes like ours – sky diving, mountain climbing, walking the Dales Highway, to name but a few.

Gifts in Wills are perhaps less frequently mentioned, but nonetheless are equally legendary acts in the way they support charitable work.

During this year's **Remember A Charity in your Will Week** you too can become a living legend by leaving the gift of a lifetime to your favourite charity.

Although most of the College's voluntary funds spring from the generosity of people like you, people who clearly care very much about the people we look after here, the truth is that relatively few of our supporters have included the College in their Will.

Legacies are a vital source of income for many charities. Mostly, it is the big "household name" charities with huge marketing budgets that benefit. Lower-profile organisations like the College tend to miss out. But now more than ever we urgently need caring people like you to come forward and take the profound and meaningful step of leaving a final gift to the College in their Will. By doing this you will help us continue to provide the care you value so much to people whose welfare is so important to you.

Last year, gifts in Wills enabled us to provide nursing care for 5 frail and infirm residents without means for 4 months.

Next year, with the help of these legendary gifts we hope to meet, for at least 8 months, the nursing care costs of 8 sick and vulnerable residents who have no means of support.

That's why, as a member of **Remember A Charity**, a national consortium of more than 140 charities, we are taking part in **Remember A Charity in your Will Week** to help raise awareness of the importance of gifts left in Wills.

It's a common myth that you have to be wealthy to leave a gift in your Will to help us, but nothing could be further from the truth. After taking care of family and friends, you'll be amazed at what one final gift, no matter how big or small, can do.

Whatever the amount, we're extremely grateful for all gifts left to us, as they help us to continue to provide shelter and care for elderly, impoverished and infirm Anglicans.

Taking care of your loved ones and the causes that are important to you is easier than you might think. Visit www.rememberacharity.org.uk for more information, or contact the College of St. Barnabas directly, and please, speak to your professional advisor about including a charity in your Will.



**REMEMBER A CHARITY
IN YOUR WILL WEEK**

8-14 September 2014

The College and the Great War

In the interests of economy – “so absolutely essential at this time” – the Warden recorded on 3rd November 1915 that “the Central Heating must be regarded as essential”.

However, no coal would be provided to residents, who were told that if they “do not find their own rooms warm enough, they should make use of the public rooms where in severe weather they will find fires in addition to the central heating”.



The College Infirmary in 1914

Things had already become difficult. The first reference to the War in the Council’s Minutes had appeared in June 1915 when the Warden lamented “the great difficulty in getting nurses and servants at the present time”.

In the interests of economy, from 2nd February 1916, breakfast consisted of just porridge, bread and butter, dry toast and marmalade, and the midday luncheon was reduced to two courses.

In the Spring of 1916 the Warden was successful in seeking an exemption from military service for the gardener, Edward Jordan, 41, on the grounds that “he might be indispensable in working the electric plant and the central heating”. His job must have become increasingly difficult, as by the winter of that year coal was in even shorter supply.

By October 1917 in the face of further food shortages the question of introducing rationing at the College was raised. Nonetheless, the following December the College invested £900 from legacies in National War Bonds. That same month Council gave its permission for the Warden to assist at St. Dunstan’s to help blinded soldiers.

The shortage of staff was felt again in April 1918 with the “impossibility to get labour for the garden”, while the shortages of food and fuel clearly lie behind the Council’s decision that “no hospitality should be offered to visitors under the present war conditions”.

We read in July 1918 that Mr Laws, the Assistant Secretary had been examined and graded for military service, and that the Warden was directed, should Mr Laws be called up, to make an appeal to the tribunal for an exemption.

If it appears that the First World War left the College relatively unscarred, it must be remembered that the only records we have are largely impersonal, simply recording the governance of the organisation. They give us glimpses from a particular perspective, but not the whole picture. Over the next few years the changes in Society that resulted from the conflict, would continue to affect the College and its Residents.

We are grateful for the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, enabling research into the history of the College during this period.



Supported by

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Caring for retired Anglican Clergy