



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Before I became Archbishop of Canterbury I knew of the valuable work of the College of St Barnabas, so I readily agreed to become one of its Patrons. When I visited the College during its Patronal Festival this summer I was even more impressed. That is why I am asking for your help.

The College is a community of people who have given their lives in the service of Our Lord. Many have served in the most demanding missionary situations, either abroad or in this country. Some have founded or restored churches. Some have served in areas of great deprivation. Some have served as Chaplains to the Forces, in schools, hospitals or religious communities. Many have been faithful parish priests. Others are or have been married to members of the clergy and supported them tirelessly in their ministries. All have cared selflessly for others, often at great cost to themselves. In later life they continue to offer a powerful ministry of prayer.

During my visit I was able to see for myself the exemplary care which is given to these remarkable servants of Christ. Whether they live in sheltered accommodation, residential care or need full nursing, the staff of the College provide the practical and spiritual support that these Gospel servants deserve. It was a privilege for me to join in this work, praying with each of those living in the integrated Nursing Wing who were too frail to join the congregation for our worship.

I was, however, disturbed to learn that the cost of caring for some of these most needy residents is not covered by the contribution that Social Services make for them. Yet even though they are unable to afford their care, the College promises to continue looking after them just as it does all the other residents. Because of this, in the past year the College itself has had to raise over **£140,000** to meet the full costs involved.

This is a problem that will not go away. In the present economic climate, although the cost of care is rising steadily, the government funding available for it shows no signs of increasing. If anything, in real terms it is going down. Nonetheless, many of those who continue to look to the College for care have not been able to save enough to pay for their care themselves.

That is why I am asking you to support the work of the College as generously as you can. We have to ensure that these faithful servants of the Gospel can be given the care they need. Every donation we receive will help to support their individual needs.

£140,000 is a lot of money, but with your help I know it can be found. The remarkable work of the College and those for whom they care deserve our support. We must do all we can to help.

Please help us now, with a gift and with your prayers.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

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