

BROMLEY & SHEPPARDS COLLEGES



HERALD

MARCH 2023



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

February was a busy month in the Colleges. Two Charity Coffee Mornings were held. After the Coffee Morning on 16th February, we sent £320 to the Foodbank of which £150 was given under Gift Aid so the tax man would add another £37.50.

The Coffee Morning for DEC Earthquake Appeal on 23rd February resulted in the following:

Non Gift Aid donations £280.86 [cash and cheques]

Gift Aided donations £510.00 [4 cash & 8 cheques]

Totalling £790.86 with £127.50 to be claimed from the tax man.

So, a truly amazing £1110.86 was donated in 8 days.

Thank you to everyone from Sue Morris who counted all the money!

Our Mystery Child for February, with her grandma, was Yvonne Fairlamb. More Mystery Children needed!

The deadline for the next Herald will be Friday March 31st. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk ... as ever, thanks to Jo, for printing and delivering the Herald each month.

Our cover picture was taken by Roy Nicholson of the view at the Sheldon community in Devon. There is an article about his retreat there here in the Herald.

Brandy Pearson

Introduction to Angela

Hello Everyone! I was born in Workington on the Cumbrian coast on 8th September 1945. My father was Curate at St Michael's before moving on to be Vicar of Westnewton, just inland from Allenby. There we had no car, no electricity or gas so conditions were rather primitive until we moved to East Yorkshire when my sister was a baby.



At Allerthorpe near Pocklington we all watched the Coronation on a television set up in a Nissen Hut in the village and when I was eight I travelled by bus daily to go to school 12 miles away at York College for Girls (it was in Petergate and is now an Italian Restaurant). I was there very happily until I was eighteen and then studied English at Bedford College, part of London University in Regent's Park (now amalgamated with Royal Holloway). In my third year, in a bit of a panic about what to do next I remember saying that if I'd been a man, it would have been easy because I'd have been a priest. Instead, I fell into teaching!

I met Desmond (from South Africa & training at the Tavistock Clinic) at the Chaplaincy in Gordon Square, and we married in 1969 at St George's Chapel Windsor, a convenient venue and easy as my grandfather was one of the Canons at the time!

We moved to Bromley in April 1970 where Desmond was Clinical Psychologist at the local general hospital, now the Pru. The result was four lovely children: Lucy, Peter, and twin non identical girls, Celia and Nancy. There was a gap of twenty years filled with child rearing,

a gradual return to teaching and the purchase of a village house in eastern France before a call to ministry came suddenly in 1996. I trained at SEITE in the same year group as Brandy and eventually became SSM Priest in Charge at our local church of St Andrew Bromley. Meanwhile we have gradually garnered eight grandchildren (also lovely!).

I have known Bromley College since the seventies and my father was here from 1998 – 2010. Now I am delighted to be able to take part in pastoral visiting here for as long as I am able. May God bless us all this Lent.

Angela King

"Thud through the Letterbox"

Photograph: Paul Allton with the Ecumenical Patriarch 1963

"Thud through the Letterbox" In these days of e-mails, texts and video calls that noise usually accompanies a bill or a catalogue! But sixty years ago, when I was spending a year at Halki Theological College in Istanbul, for my parents it signalled another long letter from me, written in minuscule writing on thin airmail paper sealed in a blue



envelope detailing the places I had been to, the people I had met, the experiences I had been having.

My mother lovingly kept these letters –over forty of them. Sixty years later I have just taken them out of storage to read and to transcribe. I have never read them before so it will be a task. Are my eyes up to the challenge of reading such tiny writing? Was my handwriting really as bad as that? Will I be able to read it? But it will also be an adventure –of discovering the me of sixty years ago and as I read them of sharing the experiences my Mum and Dad had as they read them week by week across the miles.

I expect there will be memories awakened, faces recalled, incidents brought back to life, my parents given a new place in my heart and the me of sixty years ago in part re-born. Sadly, it will be one-sided as none of the letters my mother sent to me survive. But it will be an experience that will remind me of the importance of letter-writing and that no digital contact can replace that thud through the letterbox!

Paul Allton

'Mercy within Mercy within Mercy'

This was the attractive title of a 4-day silent retreat advertised in the Sheldon Advent Newsletter, and I decided to go for it.

The retreat was led by Brother Sam SSF, who with care, sensitivity and humour led us away from blame and shame, and from penitence to forgiveness.

I found the retreat very restful and appreciated the silence – although it did feel a bit weird enjoying a glass of wine in the bar before supper with a few others

without talking to each other, our only gestures being a smile and a raising of glasses.

Sheldon is a lay community situated in the beautiful Teign Valley in Devon.



Its main focus is the care of people in Ministry and their families, especially in times of stress, crisis or breakdown. But lots of other things happen

there too, and Dorothy and I have been involved with the Community for many years – Dorothy running courses and both of us working as volunteers.

I would recommend a stay at Sheldon to anyone who feels they need a break – and the food is lovely! So I returned home feeling very refreshed, relaxed and forgiven, and back just in time for Rob and Brandy's 50th!

Roy Nicholson

The Gift that just keeps on giving!

Just before Christmas, those of us in our Inspiritus Choir, sang for the Fellowship at Bromley Parish Church. We were treated very well, joined in their festive tea party, and were given gifts. One present we received, was a delightful pot of primulas.

The flowers lasted over Christmas, and then died, but the leaves carried on. Then last week, we realised that the flowers were blooming again, both a sign of spring and a reminder of Christmas

Brandy Pearson

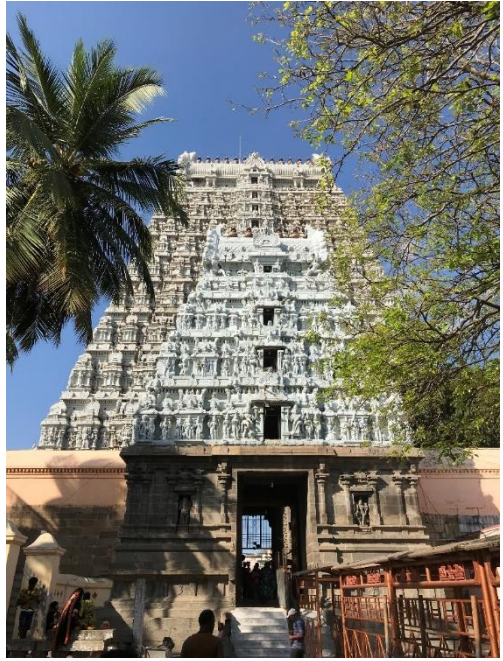


The Grail Trust – Neil’s Visit to Vallioor

My first photo is of a mother and son. She had 40gms of gold from her family as wedding dowry which she sold to pay for her husband’s treatment for renal failure, but he died. Her

family disowned her, and her in-laws wouldn't help either. She works in a printing press for £3 a day, 75p of that on bus fares. The area around the house is infested with snakes and she is constantly anxious for her two boys. She is a Christian.

This was my 8th visit to the project for poor families in the Vallioor area, one hour from the southernmost tip of India





at Kanyakumari where three seas meet - the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. It is where Gandhi's ashes were scattered following his assassination, at his favourite place in India.

I see great and wonderful sites and also abject poverty among the 110 families we

support (www.grailtrust.org). None of our children have a father, due to alcoholism, suicide, road deaths, or disease. Mothers struggle to make ends meet, tailoring at home or rolling beedi which are primitive cigarettes. They roll 500 in a day and get £1.

Neil Fairlamb

Volunteering with a difference- being an Independent Assessor

Brandy has prompted me to share something of the volunteering that I do in connection with Guy's and St. Thomas' Health Trust.

Since my initial involvement with the Renal Unit at Guy's, I have been monitored once a year and, in the course of that I've talked to the Living Donor Co-ordinators. In 2019 one of them asked me if I would consider being trained to be what is called an Independent Assessor, (IA) which is role which comes under the auspices of the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) and is a legal interview



with someone who is presenting as a Living Donor, and if the recipient is known, also with them. Some donors are known as Altruistic Donors as they are prepared to donate a kidney to anyone who may need it and is a match.

The role of the IA is to ensure that the donor is identified as being who they say they are, that they have a good knowledge of what will be entailed in the procedure, and that they have not been coerced in any way, or that they are receiving a reward, because it's illegal in the UK to be remunerated in any way for donating an organ. Having thought about it, I applied to do the training, but couldn't manage to go in January 2020, and the next training was due in April, but was cancelled owing to the Pandemic. So it wasn't until October 2020 that I finally

managed to complete the training, and for the first time this was done on-line. Having done that, I started volunteering in November 2020.

Pre-Pandemic these interviews were all done face-to-face at Guy's, but I have only started doing them in person occasionally within the past four months, and usually when a translator is required. In many ways I prefer the human contact, but sometimes the donor and recipient live in different parts of the country, or even abroad, so it can be very useful to be able to make contact on-line.

The emphasis is on the legality of the interview, but at the same time I need to contact people quickly and it is often very moving to hear their stories. Very often it is a parent donating to one of their offspring, or a young adult to an older parent. Married couples or partners are often available as donors, as are siblings. The net can also be spread wider to include close friends and acquaintances and, as I have already indicated, some people wish to donate to a stranger (often young men) and they will probably never know who has been the recipient of their kidney.

Another procedure which happens a few times a year is a 'Donor Chain', where A wants to donate to B, C wants to donate to D and E wants to donate to F, but they are not a good enough match. So it may result in A donating to F, C donating to B and E donating to D. There is a slight risk in this, as, like with selling houses, the chain may break down for some reason. In this case they will not know who receives their kidney, but they trust that the person they wish to donate to will receive one.

I usually do about one assessment a week and I tell them when I am available. I find it an interesting and worthwhile way to volunteer and feel that it is enabling the work of the transplant team to continue.

Valerie Pearce

Lunchtime Concerts

Now some of the dates no longer clash with College lunches, I hope you will be able to join us at Bromley Central Library for their Lunchtime Concerts. You won't be disappointed. There is a short interval, so bring a sandwich and drink if you wish. Look forward to seeing you.

Gill Marshall

Bromley Central Library (High St, Bromley, BR1 1EX)
LUNCHTIME CONCERTS 2023 with ADRIAN BOYNTON
AND FRIENDS:

Thursday 16th March SPRING SURPRISES

Thursday 13th July SUMMER SERENADE

Thursday 5th October AUTUMN DELIGHTS

Thursday 21st December A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

12 noon - 2pm In the Large Hall, Floor 4, Bromley
Central Library

Admission by programme at the door £8 All welcome
Further details from Adrian Boynton 07961 348697

Coming next:

LUNCHTIME CONCERT with EMILY HAIG (soprano) ROSIE
REED (flute) JOHN FISHER (piano) hosted by ADRIAN
BOYNTON Featuring music by Bach, Mozart, Chopin,
Faure, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Puccini, Ravel, Rutter
THURSDAY 16th March.

An udder joke about cows

There was a man from Huddersfield,
who had a cow that wouldn't yield.
The reason why it wouldn't yield,
was because it didn't like its udders feed!
Cecil Heatley

More than Summoned by Wild Bells

I suspect we all have a great regard for church bells. In the 50s and 60s I rang the single turret bell of our village Church Primary School, and the single bell attached to the side of what was then known as the Mission Church, in the village of Rusthall. Decades later it was always a joy for me to hear our church bells at Ridgewell ringing out the church's vocal presence across the village and fields, particularly on a balmy summer

Friday evening when the ringers had their practice.



The ringing of Church bells was one of the most familiar sounds to a person living in the Medieval and Tudor periods. They were rung to tell the time, as a call to

prayer, to signify the arrival of royalty and leaders, and to mark momentous occasions. They also alerted people to threats such as invasion, fire or flood. Whilst so much of the landscape has changed in the last 500 years, the sound of church bells has remained constant. The ringing of bells and the continuation of this sound creates a

connection between us and those who inhabited our space some centuries before.

I have never, in my almost a decade here, rung our chapel bell, but much appreciate those who do.

Michael Hewitt

Friends of the Colleges – “Inside the Walls”



Some forty Friends of the Colleges enjoyed on February 11th a showing of "Inside the Walls" -the video of the 350th Anniversary play put on in 2016 by collegians. A tea of home-made cakes was served in the intermission, and it was good to see the audience responding to the video and entering into its spirit with cheers and jeers just as the original audience did in 2016!

One of our visitors said it was the "best afternoon he'd had for ages" and there were certainly a lot of smiling

faces and laughter around the Common Room. We also raised £185 for the funds.

Bromley & Sheppard's Colleges

Photo **BR1 1PG opposite the Swan & Mitre** of the

**Come and hear classics by
Bach, Beethoven, Mozart,
Schumann and Chopin**

**played live in the Chapel
by Michael Keen**

3.00pm

Saturday March 18th

with collection in aid of



**working with
street children
in Kenya**





From Angela: Community of the Resurrection Chapel at
Mirfield on a frosty morning. Greetings to you all!

Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges
London Road,
Bromley
BR1 1PE