

BROMLEY & SHEPPARDS COLLEGES



# HERALD

APRIL 2023



# Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

I am putting this together in Holy Week, and hope to have it out before Easter. Spring is here, with all the variety of British weather that entails, including the occasional appearance of rainbows in the sky!



There is much life in the Colleges, some of which is reflected here. Angela continues to come and provide her friendly pastoral care, and new collegians, Richard and Janet Woodger are due to move here this week. We are continuing with our coffee mornings, raising money for a variety of good causes.

The deadline for the next Herald will be Saturday April 29th. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: [therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk) ... as ever, thanks to Jo, for printing and delivering the Herald each month.

Cover picture by Clare Preston  
*Brandy Pearson*

## **A Thankyou from Footsteps**

A message to Michael Keen:  
Christine Latham dropped off a large bag of cash yesterday - the proceeds from your recent recital. The grand total (including the gift aid so kindly added by many donors) was an amazing £773.85. Thank you so

much for making Footsteps the focus for what was obviously a very successful event.

In January, we took 25 new street boys into our Sunshine Centre, so our most pressing need at the moment is to care for them, giving them good food, warm beds, loving care, and enrolling them into school to resume their education. The gifts from your recital will be a great help in meeting the costs related to these new boys.

With our very grateful thanks, and best wishes,  
*Martin (and Mary) Print*

### **'No man is an island' John Donne**

I have been trying to get my mind round quantum physics for many years with little success. Recently several writers have described one of the results of the new physics as being about relationships.

According to these authors, the emergent theories seem to confirm what the mystics have been telling us all along, that we are one, not just human beings but all creation, the entire universe. Interdependence and mutual connection are integral to all life. (Quantum Grace, Judy Cannato)

We are in a unique place to experience this connectedness with the various groups that meet e.g. Gentle Exercises, Book Club, Poetry Please, Art and Crafts, Film Night, Daily Prayers, as well as the many Coffee Mornings we have. It saddens me that not more collegians make use of these opportunities to strengthen our connectedness.

*Cecil Heatley*

## **Sisterhood**

St Michael's Convent, Ham Common  
28<sup>th</sup> November 1996

A scattering of sisters  
In the chapel,  
A handful of welcome  
Visitors,  
(Me too),  
A woman priest,  
Calm and dignified of manner,  
Unobtrusive,  
Speaking with quiet assurance  
The newly-written  
Liturgy.

Suddenly  
I belong.

For the first time  
I understand  
The talk of God  
As She as well as He  
And take refuge  
In the shadow  
Of His/Her wings

*Linda Hall*

*This service was led by Dorothy Nicholson*

## **A Meeting of Heaven and Earth – A Proposal**

In 1956, Anne and I were sitting together in a morning service in Westminster Chapel, London. We were holding hands – boldly – we had just become engaged a few days earlier. It can be useful to write our memoirs in

later years, I did this and here is a very brief account of what I said:

At dusk we walked, wheeling our bicycles, to the house where Anne was staying. My heart thumped and I looked up at the stars for inspiration. My words seemed to be coming from someone else, "How would it be if we get engaged when you are twenty-one?" This seemed to me to be a fairly safe way to avoid being refused outright: Anne was only eighteen. I needn't have worried. The look she gave me was enough to cause us both to lean on our bicycles against a tree and to stand spellbound.

Her reply was a warm "Yes!". We kissed for the first time, and in that undeserved moment of wonder, I felt that Heaven and earth have met.

*A short excerpt from a sermon by John Townsend.*

## **Bethlehem Royal Hospital**



Here are photos of the Bethlem Royal Hospital as it was in 1880 in Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, BR3 3BX. One of our most interesting museums - the Museum of the Mind - is in the Hospital grounds, just 5-6 minutes away from the College. Admission is free, Wednesdays to Saturdays 9.30 to 5pm. If you need a lift, please just ask Neil (flat 18).

Exhibitions change regularly and you can even take a virtual tour without having to visit in person. Change Minds online is worth seeing in person or virtually.

The current exhibitions include The Faces We Present, with a painting by Richard Dadd, the Victorian painter of angels and fairies, who ended his life in Broadmoor as a criminal lunatic. There is a cafe and shop.

*Neil Fairlamb*

**This Month's  
Mystery Child**  
Who is this smiley  
little person?



## A Pilgrimage to Assisi (Eventually)

They say that there are two sorts of pilgrims who go to Assisi: those who go for the bones of the saints and those who go for the art. I go for both, although my first visit was soon after completing a Summer School on Franciscan Art at the Courtauld Institute and concentrated on the latter.



Soon after joining the team as Honorary Assistant Priest at St Francis of Assisi Church, Petts Wood, the Parish Priest asked me to organise a pilgrimage to that hill town 100 miles north of Rome where our Patron Saint was born, lived and died. Our detailed plans for March 2020 were frustrated at the last moment by the onset of Covid, so we didn't get there for another three years.

These photographs were taken by various members of the group. They show the Convent of St Bridget (where we stayed), the Cloister at San Damiano (where the Crucifix spoke to Francis), and the group outside the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels (where Francis died). One of our ladies got up early every morning for a run before breakfast and took the pictures showing the Basilica of St Francis and the Cathedral of San Rufino above the Basilica of St Clare. Finally, the Town Square provided refreshment for the weary pilgrims!

I expect that the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis in 2026 will see a renewed interest in the Saint and in his hometown. The nearby Perugia Airport will see an increase in flights as pilgrims from all over the world will, no doubt, come to walk in the footsteps of 'Il Poverello'.

*Bob Wallace*



Basilica of St Francis



The group outside the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels



Convent of St Brigit



Cloister of St Damiano

## **The (Bus) Shelter**

Suntrapped shelter  
warmed in blessing,  
focuses around  
foraging squirrels,  
soil-sifting birds, searching,  
shifting leaves, soon nesting.  
Robin's chirp protects his ground,  
food not to be shared,  
magpie's squawk contests it.  
No cloud of a microcosm of the world  
can blot out a moment of God-bathing.

*Christine Latham*

## And they said it wouldn't last!

Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> marked our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. We married at Southampton Registry Office in 1973. As the Collegians seem to enjoy dressing up, we invited people to dress in outfits inspired by David Bowie for an anniversary tea party. We were not disappointed, and Paul Allton took many great photographs!



Here we are, with our tea and daffodils. I remember my mum worrying that the daffodils she had bought for our reception would not come out in time but they did!

As inveterate hoarders, we still have Rob's blue velvet trousers, my black velvet skirt and Rob's waistcoat red platform boots. It has to be said that none of them fit us any more!



In honour of David Bowie, we gave a spirited rendition of "Starman"





We were pleased that there was a certain amount of cross-dressing. Dorothy Nicholson was very smart in her suit, and the small prize for

best costume  
went to Michael  
Hewitt, who  
came in drag.

Thank you to  
everyone who  
helped with the  
refreshments and  
The setting up.

*Brandy and Rob  
Pearson*







Cathedral of St Rufino and the Basilica of St Clare, Assisi – photo provided by Bob Wallace

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