

**BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES**



# *Herald*

September 2024



# Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

As we enter the season of autumn, Rob and I are still enjoying the slightly mad display of sunflowers and others from our windows. The horse chestnut leaves are turning, and we are entering conker season. Our cover picture is of buskers on the Southbank, with a full sized piano, one of my August memories.

We have had the opportunity to say a final goodbye to Mary Kemp, thanks to the Obitus streaming service of her funeral. We welcome a new Collegian, Joanna Yates.

We also have learned that Angela King, our chaplain for the last few years, is finally retiring at end of September. As we wish her well, let's pray for a good response to the advert appearing in October.

The next Herald will be for October and the deadline is Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: [therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk)  
Thank you to Jo for printing and distributing them, to Rob for doing the housework so I can get on with this, and to all our contributors!

*Brandy Pearson*



## Evensong

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, the Colleges were treated to Evensong, led by Margaret Engler, with the choir of St John the Baptist, Southend, Catford, ending with a Voluntary, the Toccata in D minor, op. 57 by C V



Stanford.

There was a good congregation, and we hope this will encourage them to come again!

*Brandy Pearson*

## **Remember "Remembering"?**

In October 2018 and again in 2019, we held an event in the Chapel at which we were invited to remember.

It was quite simple: each was invited to take a candle, take it to the stand and light it. This could be in silence, or we could say what it was we were remembering. For some, the events turned out to be quite profound - even healing.



The remembering was very varied. Some described a key event in youth, others something more recent. For some, it was about a key person in our lives, for others it was an event, or a place, or a journey. But, whether silent or spoken, each of us who took part was able to stand for a moment with our candle and simply remember. The event began with quiet, reflective music and proceeded with music and silences.

We chose October as it feels like the start of the 'remembering' season that ends with Christmas. But as we planned the event back then, we wanted it to occupy its own space, and not encroach on, say, All Souls or



Remembrance-tide. So while some of us did recall people who had died, the overall emphasis turned out to be about their lives rather than dwelling upon their deaths. For yet others, it was an opportunity for thanksgiving.

Like so much, "Remembering" (planned as an annual event) got lost in the fog of Covid and Lockdowns and in the huge loss of energy we have all felt. But two reasons suggest we might re-start it. First, several collegians have recently indicated how much they appreciated the two events we held and shown interest in repeating them.

Secondly, we are, I think, only just coming to understand the profound effects of the pandemic. Is one way to make sense of it to remember it? Are we forgetting Eucharists in the cloisters? The fires we lit at Christmas and at other events? And what about more sombre moments: the paraphernalia of the masks, and the emergence of 'social distance'? Perhaps some of the remembering could be reading out some of our responses to Paul Allton's project to recall memories of Covid before they get forgotten.

This could be quite a simple event. An October date would need to be decided upon. Other than that, could this be a step towards re-remembering who we are? Let me know what you feel.

*Michael Keen*

## Care Bears at the Oxo Tower

There is an art gallery in the Oxo Tower on the South Bank, a little way upstream from Blackfriars Station.

Until September 11<sup>th</sup>, there is an exhibition there of the Care Bears.



For those not in contact with small children in the 1980s, Care Bears are multi-colored bears, painted in 1981 by artist Elena Kucharik to be used on greetings cards. Her original paintings are part of the exhibition. They were turned into plush teddy bears and featured in films and a TV series. Each Care Bear is a different colour or shade and has a unique image on their stomach that represents their personality.

Care Bears of all sizes were also on sale. Rob and I, as confirmed arctophiles, could not resist these two tiny bears to add to our collection/family!

*Brandy Pearson*



## Something Beautiful for God

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016, I joined a crowd of over 120,000 people, including 13 heads of state and official representatives from many other nations, for the Canonisation of Mother Theresa of Calcutta. I was reminded of this when looking at her depiction in a glass window in St Sebastian's Church, Negombo, Sri Lanka in March this year (see picture below).

I had met Mother Teresa in 1976 whilst staying with the Missionary Brothers of Charity in Calcutta. Pope Francis said of her that:



"She made her voice heard before the powers of the world so that they might recognise their guilt for the crimes of poverty they themselves created."

and again that:

"None deserved the title of 'Saint' more, yet her sanctity is so close to us, so tender and fruitful, that spontaneously we will continue to call her 'Mother'."

In the Foreword to Desmond Doig's "Mother Teresa – Her people and her Work" (1976), Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi says:

"How appropriate that this book should begin with St Francis' beautiful and well-loved prayer, for it so eloquently epitomises the gentleness, the love and the

compassion that radiates from Mother Teresa's tiny person.

Who else in this world reaches out to the friendless and the needy, so naturally, so simply, so effectively? Tagore wrote 'there rest Thy feet where live the poorest, the lowliest and lost.' That is where Mother Teresa is to be found – with no thought of, or slightest discrimination between colour or creed, language or country.

She lives the truth that prayer is devotion, prayer is service. Service is her concern, her religion, her redemption. To meet her is to feel utterly humble, to sense the power of tenderness, the strength of love."



Mother Teresa refers to her Calling, whilst on a train to Darjeeling in 1949, as "a moment of inspiration" and she, in turn, continues to inspire the Missionaries of Charity and all of us today.

Her feast day is 5<sup>th</sup> September.

*Michael Hewitt*



## **We say a final goodbye to Mary Kemp**

Mary Kemp was a beloved member of our community for many years, before moving away to be nearer her family. And so, many Collegians gathered in the Common Room on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August to witness her funeral, live streamed from Rushcliffe Oaks, and enabled by Paul Jenkins.



At the forefront of this picture are an angel and a shepherd, two of the wonderful knitted characters Mary made for us. We will see them again at Christmas in the Chapel.

*Photo by Janet Heatley*

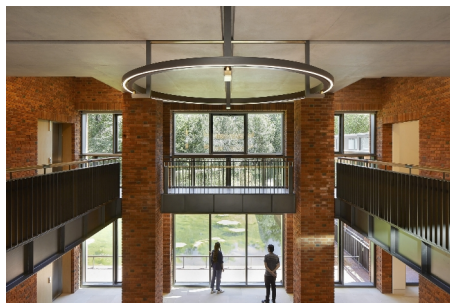
## Early Modern Women and their Books

This is a free exhibition, open Mondays to Friday until 21 November at Lambeth Palace Library. The impressive new library building is opposite the Evelina Children's Hospital, next to St Thomas' Hospital. Besides the research library with the biggest archive of Church of England manuscripts and books- including material on Bromley Colleges- there are regular exhibitions, the current one on Early Modern Women and their Books.

This exhibition highlights material owned, written, commissioned and translated by women during the long early modern period, from the late 15th century onwards. Items on display include medieval manuscripts written by the sisters of Syon Abbey on the cusp of the Reformation; Queen Elizabeth I's newly identified translation of Tacitus with edits in her own distinctive handwriting; correspondence from a future Archbishop of Canterbury about Jane Austen; and first editions of Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter Mary Shelley, whose *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* (1818) is preoccupied with anxiety about the "modern" future in the face of new scientific discoveries such as electricity.

I am a regular reader at the library and would be pleased to introduce you to the library if you would like to explore the collection.

*Neil Fairlamb*



## 25 Years of Horror!

Every August Bank Holiday for about twenty years, Rob and Alex, our daughter, have attended "Frightfest" a horror film festival held in central London, this year at the Odeon West End.

This year was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Frightfest.

Here is a lovely photo of Rob and Alex with one of their Frightfest friends, Dave/Nosferatu, demonstrating, I hope, how lovely horror movie fans can be! Dave comes in different costumes every year. I find his Facebook pictures very entertaining!



*Brandy Pearson*

## An Unexpected Visitor



Leaving my front door open attracts all sorts of visitors!

*Bob Wallace*

## Clare in South Africa - The Story Continues

To continue an account of my time in South Africa earlier





this year:

after Easter, Volmoed and Somerset West.



After Easter in Hermanus, which is on the coast about 70 miles east of Cape Town, I spent a week staying with a friend who lives at a Christian Retreat Centre

inland from Hermanus in wine growing country. The valley is called Hemel en Aarde which translates as Heaven and Earth and the name of the retreat centre is Volmoed, meaning full of courage. A long time ago in the 18th century there was a leper colony on this site. It is a peaceful setting with its own hills, river and waterfall. There is a collection of bungalows and a beautiful chapel. Some people live on the property like my friend, who is a clergy widow, and there are other bungalows for visiting groups and guests.

It is easy to look it up on the internet, just type Volmoed



Hermanus and see what comes up. Recently a small group of Anglican Benedictine brothers who belong to

the Order of the Holy Cross have come to live at Volmoed and they use the small chapel for their offices at which guests are welcome. They join with the rest of the Volmoed community and guests in the main chapel for the Eucharist on Thursday and Sunday mornings.

After my week at Volmoed I went to stay with another friend in Somerset West, a small town surrounded by vineyards and mountains, near the historic university town of Stellenbosch. On Sunday I attended a service at the cathedral in Somerset West. This is a new diocese split off from Cape Town. It was the first communion for those recently confirmed.



*Clare  
Preston*





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