

**BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES**



# *Herald*

April 2025



# Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

Today, the magnolia trees are blooming around the Colleges – the picture on the front and to the right are by Yvonne Fairlamb. There are daffodils and primroses about the grounds.



We have said our final farewells to Richard Handforth, whose body spent a last night in the Chapel before his funeral. A group of Collegians have been to Ghana, and Clare has visited Bruges (lovely photo on the back cover). We have made money by being funny for Comic Relief (we made over £200!) The life of the College carries on!

The next Herald will be for May and the deadline is Saturday April 26<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 his support, and to all our contributors!



*Brandy Pearson*

## Clare's Visit to Bruges

Two weeks ago I went on a coach trip to Bruges and Ghent. I had never been on Le Shuttle before, it was an interesting experience. In a

very short time we were in Calais and driving across flat landscape with very neat fields, no hedges and long lines of poplar trees along roads and canals. It always amazes me how different the landscape is only 20 miles across the Channel.

We soon arrived in Bruges which is a very attractive little town and very easy to walk around. We did the usual things, canal trip, lace factory, Michelangelo Madonna, but the highlight for me was suddenly finding myself in a close of white houses set around a square of grass and trees and masses of daffodils. Many years ago I was given a biscuit tin with this scene painted on it, including the daffodils, and now unexpectedly here I was right in the scene along with the daffodils. This was the Beguinage, similar to the one in Amsterdam where from the Middle Ages single ladies could live in a religious community without having to enter a convent. Many of them supported themselves with lace making. I would like to add that in the church with the Michelangelo





Madonna there are some tomb paintings of rather amusing incense swinging angels.

The next day we visited Ghent to see The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb by Jan van Eyck which dates from the 15th century. I remember learning about this painting in art history at school so it was exciting to see it in real life. It is an altar piece made up of 12 panels, some or all of which have been stolen many times including by Napoleon and the Nazis. One of the panels has never been found but is replaced with a replica. To see it look it up online.

*Clare Preston*









## **Turin Shroud Exhibition at St. George's Cathedral**

From Christine's friend:

I thought I would let you know about this Exhibition, in case you are not aware of it.

I went recently to see it and it is truly absolutely amazing, I do recommend going to see it ! It displays a replica of the Shroud and even if you went to Turin all you would see these days is a replica. The original one is in a bomb proof container in Turin or Rome and the public can no longer view it. The exhibition contains a

great deal of information including the fact that the Shroud has now been authentically dated to be about 2,000 years old and that science still cannot answer the mystery of how the image came to be on the Shroud. There is a lot of information about it and it is fascinating, harrowing and enigmatic.

The exhibition runs until April 21<sup>st</sup> at St. George's RC Cathedral, Lambeth Rd, London SE1 7HY

## **The Warburg Institute**

At the beginning of March, Rob and I went to a fascinating exhibition about Tarot at the refurbished Warburg Institute, a part



of the University of London. I found the origins of the Institute really fascinating!

The Institute is named after its founder Aby Warburg (1866-1929). In 1913 Warburg was joined by Fritz Saxl (1890-1948) who, in 1921, turned the library into a research institute.

When Aby Warburg was 13, he had done a deal with his younger brother Max, trading the birth-right to the



family business in exchange for any book he ever asked for. Thus began the collection that would become the Warburg Library in Hamburg. As the private collection grew—along with its importance as a resource for the city’s new university (founded in 1919)—a new building was created next to the family’s home: the so-called Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg [KBW], with its famous elliptical reading room and its stacks devoted to Image, Word, Orientation and Action, opened in 1926.

The Institute was exiled to London when the Nazis came to power in 1933 and became part of the University of London in 1944.

Look at the Institute website for more information and coming exhibitions.

*Brandy Pearson*

## **Ghana – an Introduction**

There will be a special edition of the Herald about the recent Collegians’ visit to Ghana, with lots of pictures. So this is just a few thoughts about the extra week I had after the group had come home.

First thankfulness that all the arrangements went well and that we proved to be such a happy group. I was then able to relax for a couple of days and then go back to Kumasi to meet old friends.

I met several old caddies from the Golf Club whose education I had helped with, now 33, 27 and 24 years

old, sadly none of them has been able to get a proper job but they are still full of hope.

I also met the retired bishop of Kumasi, a gay friend struggling under the threat of anti gay legislation, and several other friends.

I was struck by all the changes, dismayed by the constant struggles people face, impressed by their Faith and sense of hope ,but above all grateful for the warm welcome I received (and half of me didn't really want to come back!).

*Andrew Grant*



**Primroses**

*Brandy Pearson*



## Resting Overnight

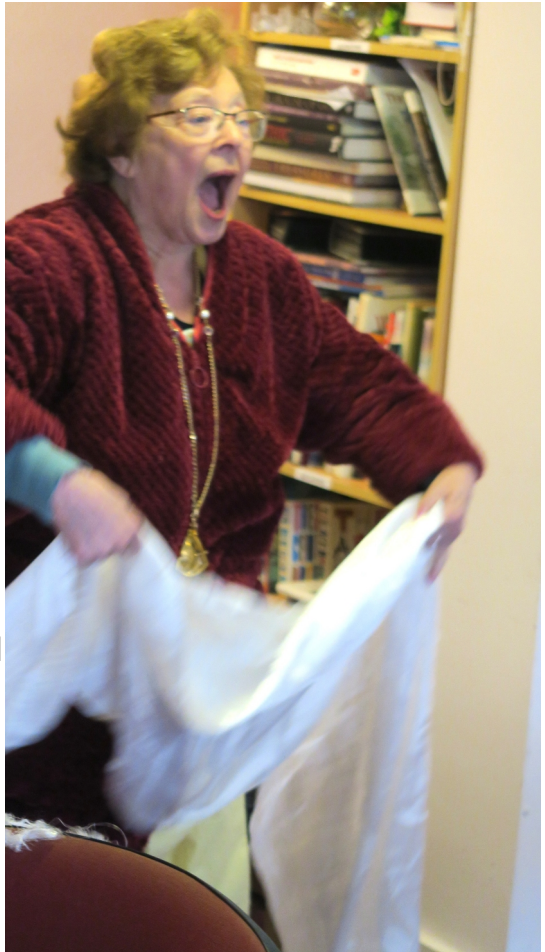


Richard Handforth's last visit to the Chapel



## Red Nose Day

Why had Janet H. re-arrived wearing her red velvet dressing gown and a gold pendant? It soon became clear that we were witnessing the time when Janet, in her role as Mayor of Southwark, wearing the regalia of office, was meeting the Dalai Lama. She described him as a lovely, gracious man. They exchanged presents and there was the moment when he placed a beautiful garland around her neck but then had to slightly delve down to rescue her chain to prevent it from being obscured from sight on her chest. The international press took some fascinating pictures and we had one of the many laughs of the day.



Another piece was Rob's attempts to invent ways to prevent the comment, "I didn't know about it," when it was clearly listed in the Pew Sheet. With Michael's permission, he had decided to sing the activities listed daily to the tunes of the various hymns during the

Sunday service. Very entertaining. You could have a go! We also watched old episodes of "Porridge," "Are you being Served," "Keeping Up Appearances" etc. A huge thanks to Paul and his expertise in many fields and to the other helpers and all the contributors



*Christine Latham*

## **The Crucifix World**

Anyone who enters my flat will see a wooden crucifix on the wall opposite the door. The reason it is there is better articulated by Geoffrey Studdart Kennedy, better known as Woodbine Willie, than by myself:

"On June 7<sup>th</sup> 1917, I was running to our lines, half mad with fright, though running in the right direction, thank God, through what had been a wooded copse. It was being heavily shelled. As I ran I stumbled and fell over something. I stopped to see what it was. It was an

undersized, underfed German boy, with a wound in his stomach, and a hole in his head.

I remember uttering, "You poor little devil, what had you got to do with it? Not much great blonde Prussian about you." Then there was some light. It may have been pure imagination, but that does not mean that it was also not reality, for what is called imagination is often the road to reality. It



seemed to me that the boy disappeared and in his place there lay Christ upon His Cross, and he cried, *"In as much as ye have done this unto the least of these my little ones, ye have done it unto me."*

From that moment on I never saw a battlefield as anything but a Crucifix. From that moment on I have never seen the world as anything but a Crucifix. I see the Cross set up in every slum, in every filthy overcrowded quarter, in every vulgar flaring street



that speaks of luxury and waste of life. I see Him staring up at me from the pages of the newspaper that tells of a tortured, lost, bewildered world.

*Michael Hewitt*



## **Covid Anniversary Service**

Here in the Colleges, we marked the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the the Covid lockdown, with a choral evensong – including Paul Allton’s Covid Chorus. During the service, The Covid Archive, compiled by Paul Allton, was laid on the altar.

### **A Covid Chorus**

(sung to the tune “Marching”)

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
We Collegians kept on track.  
Distance keeping, coffee seeking,  
With this chorus “Look not back”

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
We Collegians kept on track.  
Shopping never, on-line ever  
With this chorus “Look not back”.

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
We Collegians kept on track.  
Laundry spaces, masks on faces,  
With this chorus “Look not back”

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
We Collegians kept on track.  
wine a-flowing, faces glowing,  
With this chorus “ Look not back”

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
We Collegians kept on track.  
Grounds a-walking, birds a-talking,  
With this chorus “Look not back”

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
We Collegians kept on track.  
Clapping carers, being sharers,  
With this chorus "Look not back"

Through the months of Covid Lockdown,  
Bromley 'n Sheppards kept on track.  
Quads a-praising, God up-raising,  
With our chorus "Look not back"





Bruges by Clare Preston

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