

**BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES**



# *Herald*

September 2025



# Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

Now that September is here, we are entering the autumn season, as demonstrated by these lovely photos of rose hips, that Rob took, before they were eaten by our resident wild life!



A major event here in the colleges, was the Vigil for VJ Day, and Remembrance of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A jollier event was Aidan's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



We are looking forward to the coming of Nick, our new chaplain, on September 17<sup>th</sup>. There have been sightings of him!

The next Herald will be for September and the deadline is Saturday September 27<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*



## VIGIL FOR THE EVE OF VJ DAY 2025

### THE PRAYER PATH



On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August I left my 7 am laundry slot and went into the lovely early morning sunshine to photograph the Prayer Path which was set up as a central feature of the College's Vigil for the Eve of VJ Day. As I went down the path photographing the prayer tiles I found myself moving from photographer mode to intense prayer mode as I faced on those tiles so many harrowing examples of human inhumanity in my lifetime and the years before. Here set out in stark simplicity was our human failure to be the creatures God made us to be. It was an intensely spiritual experience from which I only recovered as I sat in the simple Poustinia set up in the quiet beauty of the North Lawn and came face to face with the great reality of God the Holy Trinity.



## THE PEACE CANDLE



At Morning Prayer a Peace Candle was lit and remained burning throughout the day. Collegians kept watch in Chapel in a Prayer Chain lasting until Evening Prayer. A Eucharist for Peace took place at noon. This was an immensely moving service marked by much powerful silence which enabled us to reflect individually and collectively upon the horrors of war and upon the presence amongst us of a risen Lord who is the Prince of Peace.





## THE PORTICO PEACE GATE



The Vigil ended after Evensong with a procession from the Peace Candle along the Prayer Path with collegians carrying ashes of the past to a simple Japanese peace ceremony. The ashes were laid around peace flowers, water was poured on white stones, the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation and Peace was said and Doves of Peace, made earlier at the Coffee Morning, were distributed.

A unique atmosphere of reflection enfolded the Colleges throughout the day as Collegians held the Watch and walked the Prayer Path. It was a moving and beautiful way of concluding our celebrations this year of the end of World War Two as we live on in a world still desperately in need of peace. Immense thanks are due to Paul Jenkins and those who helped him for all the

work of conceiving this day and gifting it to us – not least to Paul for the tiles he lovingly painted for the Prayer Path.



*Paul Allton*

## **The Origami Crane – a symbol of peace**

The Doves of Peace made for the Vigil, are, in fact, cranes. In Japan, animals often have symbolic meaning. The crane is the symbol for long life, prosperity and good health. Through the story of Sadako Sasaki, the crane became a symbol of peace.

On August 6<sup>th</sup> 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in Japan. A few days later a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. It is impossible to know for sure, but it was estimated that as many as 250,000 people were killed along along with 100,000 wounded.

Many of those who survived the burns from the flash would later die from radiation poisoning for years after World War II ended.

Sadako Sasaki was only two years old when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima where she lived with her family. Ten years later, she had developed leukemia as a result of the radiation. Soon after, Sadako began folding a thousand origami cranes. It is a Japanese tradition to fold a thousand cranes for someone who is sick, to wish them long life, prosperity and good health.



Sadako never finished making the thousand cranes. She was only twelve years old when she died on October 25<sup>th</sup> 1955. She only folded 644 cranes before she died. Her classmates folded the remaining 356 cranes, so that one thousand were buried with her. As a result of her effort, a peace park stands in Hiroshima today. The park has a statue of Sadako holding an origami crane in her hands.

*Brandy Pearson*

At the Coffee Morning on the day of the Vigil, I attempted to show people how to fold an origami crane. I am not a natural teacher, and the crane is not the easiest creature to fold, but there were several brave attempts.



Please notice Rob and Bob taking no part in these attempts.

Since then, I have discovered that the origami master of Bromley College, is Cecil Heatley – who can fold an origami crane in a flash!

*Brandy Pearson*



## Summer walks

In July Michael Hewitt and I did the walk from Eynsford to Shoreham along the River Darent. It is a delightful walk of 5 miles, passing Lullingstone Roman Villa, Lullingstone Castle (only open on Bank Holiday weekends but the gardens are open every Thursday to Sunday from April till the 26th October) and Lullingstone Country Park, where you can stop for a snack at the Visitor Centre, and then press on along the river to Shoreham, where one of my favourite artists, Samuel Palmer stayed for a while in the 19th century.



*Early  
Morning  
and  
The Magic  
Tree  
by Samuel  
Palmer*



If you go in July there is the added attraction of the lavender fields, a stunning purple at their peak, and then there is the Castle Farm shop where you can buy lavender and honey and homemade cakes and all manner of things. There is a nice pub in Shoreham and the church is open to visit. What more could you want! Then catch the train back from Shoreham station.

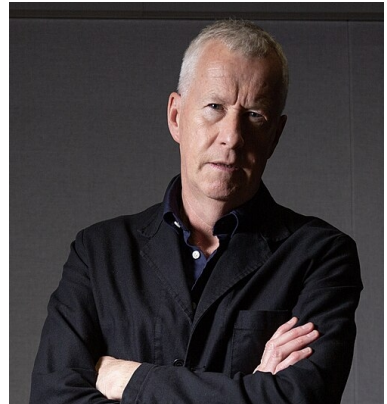


*Clare  
Preston*

## This Cultural Life

I often accompany my afternoon siesta, with programmes from BBC Sounds. My favourite at present is "This Cultural Life", described on BBC Sounds as:

*In-depth conversations with some of the world's leading artists and creatives across theatre, visual arts, music, dance, film and more. Hosted by John Wilson*



The programme started in October 1921, and there are well over a hundred programmes, each 45 minutes long. with guests including Paul McCartney, Margaret Atwood, Nick Cave, Tracey Emin, Nicole Kidman, Whoopi Goldberg, Frank Auerbach, Judi Dench and many more.

I decided to just listen to them in order, whether or not I knew anything about whoever John Wilson was interviewing. The first was Sir Paul McCartney, who I am familiar with! However, these fascinating interviews include people, whose name I vaguely knew and those I've never hear of. I have fallen in love with some, been challenged by others, but fascinated by them all. I have learned so much about subjects I knew nothing about, and much more about subjects I thought I knew! I feel as if I am being educated – and it's never to late to learn. I only have seven more to listen to, so I look forward to John Wilson interviewing more people in the future.

*Brandy Pearson*

## **Honey and Mouldering Clergymen – more on Rupert Brooke** *by Michael Hewitt*

"*I only eat strawberries and honey*", so wrote Rupert Brooke to a friend circa 1910. The Old Vicarage, Grantchester had been sold by the Church in the 1820s and was lived in as a private family home, the tenants being a Mr and Mrs Neve, from whom Rupert rented three rooms for thirty shillings a week. With Byron's pool at the end of the garden, and lots of honey from Mr Neve's hives, he found the place very conducive.

Rupert wrote of his delight in the Vicarage: "*This is a deserted, lonely, dark, ruined, overgrown, gloomy, lovely house; with a garden to match. It is all of five hundred years old, and fusty with the ghosts of generations of mouldering clergymen.*"

Rupert enjoyed lashings of honey for breakfast and, at ten to three, there was – hopefully – more for tea.

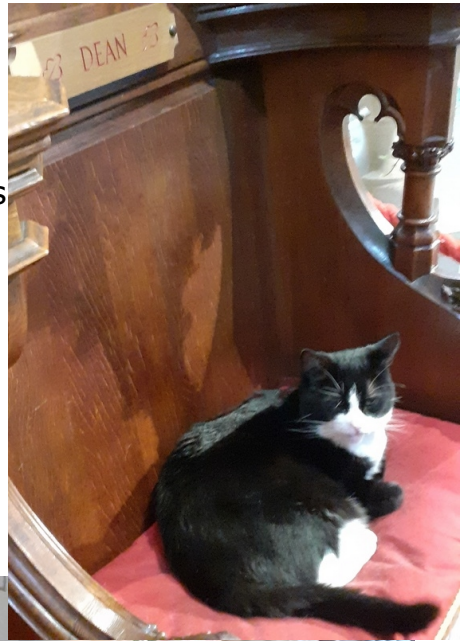
Rupert often slept on the lawn, prompted by the fleas and woodlice which infested his rooms, among the flowers and trees and Mr Neve's hives. We may not want or need to sleep among the bees, but aren't we lucky to have our own hives here and our ever-keen Jenny-bee-keeper who very successfully encourages them to buzz happily along.

PS One of Rupert's ancestors was Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>. Her first Archbishop, Matthew Parker (of Nosey Parker fame) was a predecessor of mine as Rector of Ashen, North Essex. I gained the not-so-well-known info from: *Life, Death and Myth – Rupert Brooke* by Nigel Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2014



## The Cathedral Cat

On a recent visit to Southwark Cathedral I was fortunate to see Hodge. He is obviously a musical cat and has a proper sense of his importance in the Cathedral hierarchy, as you can notice from his stall, if you make sure to look carefully.



*Clare Preston*

## **Bernard and the Lantern**

Many will not be aware of the fact that the missing lantern on College Slip has been replaced. The original lantern was stolen, but for a year there has been one lantern missing. After my initial chat with the council, a temporary light was installed, but in the winter it wasn't strong enough to light up our "walk the plank" entrance to Sainsbury's car park. After much discussion with the council, they agreed that the missing lantern should be replaced and should match the other lanterns on College Slip. It took a lot of time to produce sketches for the new and matching lantern to be made. Then there was a lot of discussion about its safety from a theft point of view. I again pointed out that overhanging tree branches were not only hiding the light, but were giving cover for future thieves taking the new lantern ! After a year of fairly regular discussion with the council , I was delighted to see the long-awaited lantern returned in early August.

*Bernard Fray*

## **Aidan's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

David, on behalf of the Collegians, presented one of Bruce's birthday card paintings to him at the coffee morning on his birthday.

*Photos by Paul Allton*



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY





*Autumn in Coming! Photo by Rob Pearson*

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