

**BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES**



# *Herald*

March 2026



# Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

As I sit here, working on the Herald, I am watching the Winter

Paralympics. As someone who would never have skied downhill when I was more able-bodied, I think they should all get medals, just for finishing!



Clare Preston has contributed lovely spring photographs of Church House Gardens. There is one on the front and one on the back. She was also very pleased that the total raised by the charity coffee morning for Snowdrop was £250. The person in charge of fundraising was very impressed! Clare's daughter, who works for Snowdrop was also very pleased. Even in our retirement, we do our bit for many kinds of good causes!

Due to Jo going on a well-deserved holiday, this edition of the Herald will be later than usual. The deadline for the next edition, for April/May, will be April 18<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. We miss her so much when she is away! Thanks to Rob for his support, and to all our contributors, both with words and pictures!

*Brandy Pearson*

## **From the Chaplain's Window**

Dear Friends

As I write this time, looking out of the window on the gardens – they are looking very promising.

'My' tree definitely has buds ready to go -and they will likely open before I even notice.

This is what nature is doing – surprising us with the familiar. I am expectant and it is likely I will not be disappointed. It is not 'my' tree at all of course – it has been where it is considerably longer than I have been looking at it – I am merely among the lucky latest recipients of it's kindness in doing what it does.

If only everything was as reliable, or as predictable. In as much as we have nature around us to give us the hope we need in dark days, it is part of the rhythm of 'see and receive' – 'take and you will be refreshed' which is in the air as we move through the Holy Season of Passiontide towards Holy week, and into Easter, and beyond.

'New every morning is God's love' - and the hymns of closing and retiring to the evening have a special poignancy for me as I continue to share the rhythms of the life of the Colleges.

It has been good to read alongside others the Lent book on Hope by Chris Chapman. We have enjoyed our reflective times together during Lent, and I sense that we have been able to receive from the book - and each other – some sustenance that has enabled practical

'rooting around' for real Hope – not just a bland hopefulness but some solid expectations, and some guidance in where and when to look as we expect Hope to 'show up'.

The rhythms of the Colleges life will of course include our Founders Day in May. This will be on Wednesday 27th May – our visitor and preacher will be the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. I look forward to welcoming him, and our wider circle of Friends and celebrating this day together.

I look forward to celebrating the Holy Week and Easter Services, and feeling, knowing & living the renewal they bring.

With all good wishes

*Nick*

## **London Transport Museum**

A school project on London buses? It can only mean a visit to the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden. The first exhibit is one of the earliest forms of getting about in London, if you had the cash, a Sedan Chair pulled by two sturdy guys. This, my granddaughter found underwhelming, but found that clambering about in the horse-drawn omnibuses was the best thing and patting the horses of course. There was a long discussion on whether to touch the horses poo underneath to prove if it was real or not, but she was persuaded to take my word for it that it was made of clay.



As we worked our way through the time lines of horse to engine and then to the trams and trains, including the old Metropolitan line trains we used for over twenty years, we noticed all the old familiar advertisements, Wrights Coal Tar soap, etc.



Trying not to digress, we come to the old favourite, the Route Master, with no closing doors, this one even had our name on it and finally the all electric bus. Chocolate ice cream and the customary purchase of a souvenir, a teddy bus driver with appropriate safety jacket, finished the day of course!

*Barbara Driver*

# Trainspotting

Wherever we have lived there has always been a favourite place to watch trains. In Penrith the Rectory was in walking distance of the West Coast Main Line, and in Northleach it was Cheltenham Spa. Our first home in retirement, near Pinner was 200 yards from the West Coast main line, and here in Bromley I choose to travel to Clapham Junction to watch trains.

There was a time when I collected numbers, which is what most spotters do, but now I am content just to soak up the atmosphere and Clapham Junction is a good place to do that because there is a lot going on. It is a place that I identify with personally, having spent the first nine years of my working life on Southern Region of British Rail, working for most of that time at Waterloo in the HQ offices.



There are lots of memories around Clapham Junction. I used to pass through the station twice a day, commuting

from Farnham in Surrey and for the first year there were still steam trains around, so I would make a point of catching the 17.09 to Basingstoke as far as Woking whenever time allowed. (It was steam hauled almost to the end).

I have got to know many people in parish life with an interest like mine, A churchwarden with an interest in timing trains whose logs have been published in The Railway Magazine, a Deanery Synod lay chair who had a ride-on steam railway in his garden. In one parish a train driver who twice took me on unofficial footplate rides.

When our children were young, they used to accompany me on visits, but sadly often without any great enthusiasm! Max our Dog however, liked nothing more than a walk in the fields adjoining the West Coast Main Line in Penrith.

*Dick Woodger*

## **A pastoral opportunity or put out to grass?**

How many lawns are there on the Bromley and Sheppard's site?

There is a lot and a wide variety of type and condition. During the covid epidemic the lawns became very important to the way that we coped as individuals and as a community. We were blessed to be able to exercise and to carry on with a variety of communal activities – maintaining social distancing, of course.

The lawns in the old quad were rather taken for granted and suffered a lot of footfall. Then there was a summer drought and it seemed as though all the grass had died. Some grass recovered but, generally, looked stressed and tired.



A few months ago, the trustees decided that action was needed to restore the quad lawns and tidy up the borders. Ted was asked to take the matter in hand and I was asked to help him in the project.

But what to do? The first thing was to consult a specialist, so we contacted the esteemed Norwegian horticulturalist Lorn Or'da. Lorn said that we would need to scare the existing grass to get some of the rubbish out and then air raid the ground with a special hollow-timed fork that would make the ground holey and enable it to drain more efficiently. (We thought that having some holey ground would be a good idea!)

Then we would need to apply wedenfede (whatever that is) and scare the grass again. Afterwards we would need to re-cede and use a special blanket to keep the ground warm and the pigeons off.

Lorn said that we should work on the grass near the office in the spring and the grass near the Bored Room in the autumn but we could do some edging work before then. And we should ask that any new plants in the borders should be kept within 20" of the cloister walkway so that they don't get damaged during the edging repairs.

We have already made a start. Please pray that we get favourable weather for the work to progress.

*Peter Morris*

PS. If you have any grindingly awful gardening puns or similar, Letsby Avenue and Sendem Inn

## **A little story**

In the recent heavy rain my daughter Sophie and her family were unable to get out of their house (near Lichfield) as the lane was flooded . Their cat Charlie was very miserable. They kept putting him outside but he'd come straight back in.

After a couple of days when the water had receded, he stayed out, and brought them back a mouse to celebrate.

Not quite the dove and the olive branch but there are definite resonances!

*Richard Martin*

## **Recycling of plastics in Bromley**

We all want to do our bit for recycling but it is important to follow the rules. Just because something is made of plastic doesn't mean it is suitable for ordinary recycling. Plastic bags, plastic wrappers, crisp packets, cling film, bubble wrap, polystyrene, black plastic food trays OR plastic plant pots are NOT accepted for recycling in the green bins. You can check this if you look on Bromley Council website or just ask A1.

Plastic bags can be recycled at Sainsbury's which is wonderful. There is a container there for them. Just ask if you can't locate it.

*Clare Preston*

## St Bartholomew's Hospital's Great Hall.

Barts North Wing

It is well worth visiting the newly refurbished St Bartholomew's Hospital's Great Hall and its magnificent staircase showcasing huge wall murals painted by William Hogarth depicting the bible stories of The Pool of Bethesda and The Good Samaritan. Although Hogarth is best known for his series paintings of 'modern moral subjects', of which he sold engravings on subscription, a Guide there explained to us that Hogarth was keen to display his talent in a different way, hence the wall murals.



In the Great Hall itself the walls are covered with lists of benefactors of the Hospital, and portrait paintings of Henry VIII and others. There are keen experts wandering about to explain all that you are viewing in the Great Hall and on the Staircase, and there is a video film of all the major restoration work and repairs carried out, all being reopened to the public in October 2025.

There are plenty of seats to sit on in the Great Hall to rest while you are absorbing the atmosphere of where great banquets took place to host the many patrons. You can find full details on their website:

<https://bartsnorthwing.org.uk/visit/>

Barts North Wing: the Great Hall and Hogarth Stair, and St Bartholomew's Hospital Museum is open to hospital staff, patients and the public. It's free to visit – no booking required.

Opening Times: Every Monday & Tuesday: 10am – 4pm  
First Sunday of every month: 10am – 4pm

For more information about engraver and painter, William Hogarth (Born 10 November 1697) and his series of paintings depicting moral scenes such as 'A Harlot's Progress, A Rake's Progress and Marriage A-la-Mode, Collections in London are found in the Sir John Soane's Museum, (A Rake's Progress, An Election), The National Gallery (The Graham Children, The Shrimp Girl), and Tate Britain. Also in his former country home, Hogarth's House in Chiswick, and The Foundling Museum.

(Taken from various websites)

*Barbara Driver*

## **AbilityNet**

### **Free tech support & information for disabled and older people**

AbilityNet is a UK-based charity with a global reach - our vision is a digital world accessible to all.

We've been helping older people and disabled people of any age with their technology for 25 years. Could we help you or someone you know?

How to get free help from our tech volunteers:

An AbilityNet IT can help volunteer with a client. We have a network of more than 450 friendly tech volunteers who can help you or someone you are supporting. They can come to your home, or help you on the phone.

Volunteers are all DBS-checked and are happy to deal with any tech problems you may be having, large or small.

To request help from our tech volunteers:

call us on 0300 180 0028

email us at [enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk) or

fill in the home visit request form on our website

*This advert for a free service for pensioners that offers computer advice in their own home. My friend volunteers for them and it's highly recommended.*

*Richard Martin*



## Cecil's Potatoes

A few Sunday's ago, we heard a particularly fine sermon by Cecil Heatley, featuring his potatoes.

I think, when they moved flats, Cecil rediscovered these and was willing to share them with us. Paul Allton had the presence of mind to photograph them.

They illustrate four types of Christians found in a typical congregation - from left to right they are: spectator, commentator, agitator and imitator.



Do you recognise yourself in any of these? I was definitely an agitator, but now I think more of a commentator!

With thanks to the original illustrator

*Brandy Pearson*

## The Parish Church Choir



The Choir of the Parish Church visited the Colleges for Evensong on March 1st - the first such visit since Covid. Thank you to them for coming.

*Photo by Paul Allton*

## Valerie in Qatar:

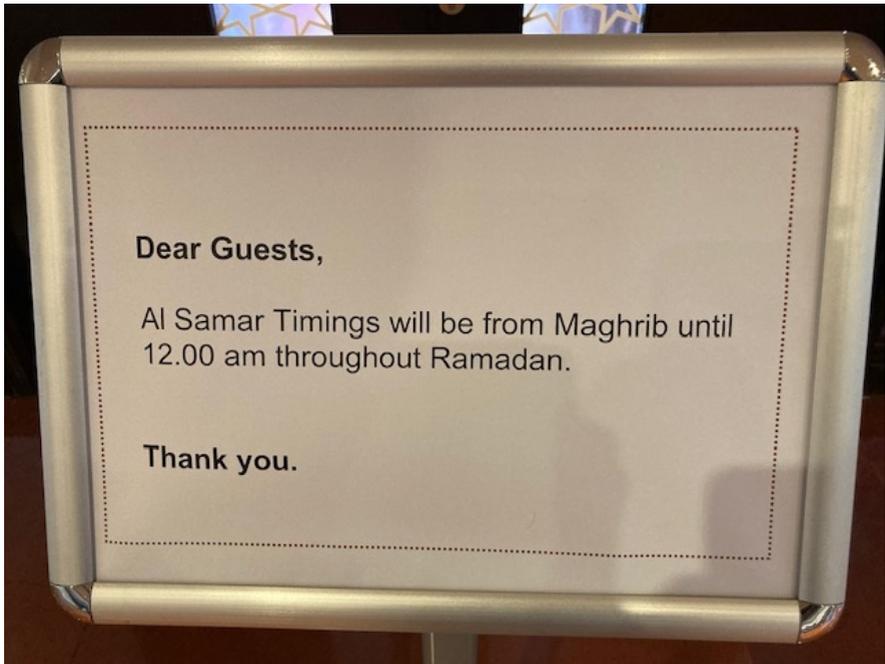
### Ramadan and Lent in Qatar

This year the start of the Muslim festival and fast, Ramadan, started on the same day as Ash Wednesday. Normally this fact would have passed me by, but being in



the Muslim country of Qatar this year, it assumed much more significance.

First of all, Ramadan affected every aspect of daily life. All the Muslims were fasting from food and drink from the hours of sunrise to sunset and while non Muslims were not expected to be doing the same, it proved difficult to even have a cup of coffee out in the city during the day, as all the many restaurants and coffee bars were closed - mainly, I was told, because they would have very little custom.



In the hotel where I was staying we were all given the letter about the customs of Ramadan and how we non Muslims were expected to behave. We were asked not to eat in public, or in front of fasting Muslims and, as it said, 'not to indulge in a conversation or perform an action which may lead them into a violation of their fast'.

Non Muslims were (thankfully!) fed as usual, so I was able to have breakfast and lunch in the dining room, which had a curtain across the entrance during this time.



After sunset, which was about 5.30 pm, they all broke their fast with an Ifta meal - which seemed like a party and a feast and was a very communal event which friends and families got together for,

I joined my friends for their Iftar and on our last evening together we went to a very special meal at an hotel at soul al Wakra, just along the coast from the city of Doha.

That usually begin with eating dates, but before that they both went of to say some special prayers which they always pray before breaking their fast.

*Valerie Pearce*







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