

2020 / 2021



ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE
NEWS



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Welcome to the latest edition of the College Newsletter, in what has proved to be the most extraordinary year for us – as for most people – since the Second World War. In March we were able to welcome the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes, to the celebrations on Edward King Day, which were particularly important for us this year as we marked fifty years of our formal association with the University of Oxford, and forty years of our occupation of our current buildings. Little did we know that within days, the college and the University would be shut to residents, and the country in lockdown.

I have been hugely impressed and inspired by the commitment of my colleagues and the students of the college to keep going in the face of this – despite being away from Oxford, and having to make huge adjustments to working from home and away from libraries, we coped with delivering teaching by Zoom and Teams, and we managed to enable all our students to complete their courses. As I write, we are looking forward to the new term with hope but with some trepidation too, as the influx of 20,000 students to the city will tell us just how virulent the Covid pandemic still is. I hope this newsletter will be a cheering one for our old members, showing what has been happening and what people have been able to achieve despite all this – we very much value your ongoing support. ♥

Canon Robin Ward

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🏠 Covid-19's unsung alumni heroes (p10)



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In recognition and thanks to our alumni for their many and varied contributions to society during Covid-19.

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NEWS



🏠 Michael Dixon & Lydia Jones

🏠 Joachim Delia

🏠 Hugo Weaver

Congratulations to...

- Ordinand Michael Dixon and his fiancée Lydia Jones on their engagement. They plan to marry in summer/early autumn 2022 in their home church of St Matthew's, Carver Street, Sheffield.
- Ordinand Josh Delia and his wife Emily have welcomed a new baby son, Joachim Mattathias Ronald Delia, born on 29th December 2019 in 1 Moberly Close – possibly the first-ever baby to be born at home at the College? An unexpected home birth, the paramedics arrived just in time! Joachim's older sister Eva-Maria, turned three in July.
- Ordinand James Walton and his fiancée Katie Gripton on their engagement.
- PGCE student Hugo Weaver who was awarded a Half Blue for Badminton, meaning that he represented the University in the Badminton first team.
- Prebendary Will Hazlewood (SSH 1998–2001) who was consecrated as Bishop of Lewes on 15th July 2020.
- The Revd Dr Michael Spence (SSH 2004–6) who has been appointed President and Provost of University College London.

Publications

Paternity, Progeny, and Perpetuation: Creating Lives after Death in the Hebrew Bible by The Revd Dr Steffan Mathias, has recently been published by Bloomsbury Publishing, offering a fresh perspective on the importance of progeny and perpetuation of the family line in the Hebrew tradition.

SSH Honorary Research Fellow Dr Norman Russell proposes new ways of approaching the thought of this seminal medieval Greek bishop and theologian in his new book *Gregory Palamas and the Making of Palamism in the Modern Age*.



Virtual College Garden Party

Due to the Covid lockdown, the 2020 College Garden Party moved online, taking place via Zoom on 15th June. We were delighted to have in the region of 40 members of the College community join us from New York, California, Armenia and Adelaide, Banbury and Padstow, to name just a few!

Christ Unabridged: Knowing and Loving the Son of Man has been published by SCM Press, to bring together papers from the 2018 conference held at Pusey House. It includes a paper by SSH Principal Canon Dr Robin Ward on 'The Christology of the French School' in the collection.



Canon Carl Turner, Rector of Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York, preaching at Edward King Day Mass



The Principal with Lord Patten at the College's Edward King Day celebrations, which took place shortly before the Covid-19 lockdown

Edward King Day 2020

The Chancellor of the University, Lord Patten of Barnes, was guest of honour at the 2020 Edward King Day celebrations, which this year marked fifty years of the

College's formal association with the University of Oxford, and celebrated forty years of its move to the current site, from Norham Gardens.



SJE Arts

After months of cancelled performances in St John the Evangelist Church, in July SJE Arts re-opened for socially distanced recordings, the first being a programme of concerts for the Presteigne Festival, normally held in the Welsh Marches but this year held online. Additionally, SJE Arts regulars Instruments of Time and Truth used the College Church to film works by French composer Charpentier, due to be released online at the end of September 2020.

New College shield

The College is now using a new coat of arms. Until about twenty years ago SSH used the arms of the founder Edward King, after which arms devised by former bursar Philip Baxter were adopted. Thanks to the generosity of a benefactor, the College of Arms has now made an official grant to the college, the shield of which is shown here.



Other news

- The Revd Canon Graham Foulis-Brown (SSH 1980) died on 26th June 2020.
- The Revd Dr Stephen Peay, sometime Dean of Nashotah House died on 31st August 2020. He is survived by his wife Julie (nee Frankwick) and stepsons Jeremy Strandt and Matthew Strandt.

New roles

- The Revd Dr Steffan Mathias became new Priest-in-Charge of SSH parish St Peter's Streatham on 22nd July 2020. Fr Steffan's Licensing Service was led by the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Reverend Christopher Chessun, on 26th July 2020.
- Dr Richard Major (SSH 1992-4) has taken up a new role with the U.S. mission to Palestine, as Programme Monitoring and Evaluation at the Palestinian Affairs Unit within the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.
- Fr Andreas Wenzel (SSH 2012-14) has taken up the role of Vice Principal and Director of Pastoral Studies at the College, following his time as Shrine Priest at the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham. An interview with Fr Andreas can be found on page 8.
- Dr James Whitbourn (SSH Senior Research Fellow) has taken up a new role as Director of Music at St Edmund Hall, which he will undertake alongside his post at SSH leading the College's conference and summer schools programme.



- The Funeral Mass of Father Peter Huckle SSJE, last Superior of the English Congregation, took place at the College Church of St John the Evangelist, Iffley Road on 17th January 2020.
- Longtime supporter and friend of the College, Peter Kraus died on 5th April 2020. he is survived by his wife, Kristin.

THE COLLEGE DURING COVID-19

As with many places of work, worship and study, Covid-19 had a deep impact on the life of the College. Here different members of the College community share their experience of how life at St Stephen's House changed due to Covid-19.

Maciek Pietruszewski, Maintenance Manager

Quickly things went from feeling quite normal to really strange here at the College. Over the course of just a few days all the students had gone home and most of the staff team were working from home. Eventually it was just the Principal and I coming into College each day.

Initially I was pleased to be able to get a lot of things done that can't normally be done when the college is full of people – jobs that are too messy or noisy. But fairly soon I started to miss having someone to talk to, although my morning chats with the Principal were a nice start to the day. I also had great support from our Bursar, Alison.

I would normally start off in the morning by doing a site walk around to check everything was in order, and to tidy up any rubbish and so on, then there were lots of regular jobs such as doing the fire safety checks, and running the taps through regularly to ensure bacteria wasn't allowed to build up in the pipes. I've lost count but there must be hundreds of taps in the College!

Everyone has been very supportive and I've also kept in touch with other maintenance teams across the university which has been helpful.

I just look forward to the day when everyone's back and we can return to some sort of normality!



Tony Lawrence (SSH 2019–) Diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission (Common Awards)

It wasn't long after Edward Kind Day on 9th March that the Principal told the student body we needed to make arrangements to go home. It was then slightly frantic working out how to get home on the Isle of Wight. It felt like the whole of Oxford was trying to leave the city and it was quite tricky booking coach and ferry tickets, but eventually I succeeded, and returned to my wife and family in Newport.

It was a time of real sadness – deep down I think we all knew we wouldn't be coming back for quite some time, and many people missed the chance to say goodbye. It really hit me when I got home that I realised so many would miss out on so many key moments: the leavers' retreat, the leavers' dinner and so on.

The focus soon shifted to sustaining our learning online, and although initially I found it quite challenging, I soon got used to using Zoom for this. As far as possible the College tried to stick to the usual ordinand routine, and so we all gathered for Morning Prayer via Zoom, albeit at the slightly later time of 9am. Then from 9.30 we had lectures throughout the day. I personally feel the online lectures were very well done – it must have been as alien for our tutors as it was for us students. I know many of the student body are very grateful for what was done by the staff team to support our learning, as well as provide pastoral support.

Thankfully I have another year at SSH, so I hope to return to Oxford as soon as possible.

Alison Parker, Bursar

Taking over as the College Bursar in July 2019, I knew that my first year in post would be an interesting and engaging time, but responding to a global pandemic was not on the anticipated list of challenges!

In the early days of the national lockdown, my focus was enabling students to quickly leave whilst supporting the remaining community of ordinands, alumni, graduate students and stranded sabbatical guests in Moberly Close. Within days, most staff had moved to homeworking where possible. Once the initial building closure was complete, attention turned to supporting the academic staff as they prepared to deliver Trinity term online.

Alongside this practical and logistical work, my attention throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has also been on the wider strategy for the College and determining how to respond to the financial challenges presented. The crisis resulted in a significant impact on a variety of other income streams that the College has worked hard to develop over recent years – our bed and breakfast operation, vibrant SJE Arts programme and a summer vacation full of conferences and summer schools were all suspended almost overnight. We estimate that the calendar year 2020 will see a net loss of income in the region of £400k – a daunting number to address and which will require bold initiatives to make up for.

At the time of writing, we're very much looking forward to the return of our students in the autumn, and are looking at ways of most effectively managing our resources as well as considering when and how our additional income streams can be safely re-introduced. SJE Arts led the way here as our first commercial recording sessions resumed in August 2020.

One immensely positive aspect of the year has been the sense of community and everyone's willingness to pull together, be adaptable and make a success of the situation – I am grateful for the support of students, staff and trustees and incredibly proud of the way in which members of staff have adapted and risen to the challenges. With that attitude, alongside a clear vision of our educational future and wise management of our financial situation, I am hopeful of positive times ahead.

Mother Lucy Gardner, Tutor in Christian Doctrine

It is often said that one teaches best when one is learning: as tutors we have certainly learnt a lot this year.

Moving all our teaching and pastoral care online rapidly in one great sweep was undoubtedly a challenge. Nevertheless, with our 'Virtual Learning Environments' already in place, and with generous help from students and administrative staff running pilot sessions and providing prompt feedback, we were able to move surprisingly quickly.

'Experts' warned of untold difficulties, but lectures proved fairly simple to move online. Indeed, feedback from across the University is that students have preferred this mode of delivery, as they can listen again to the recorded sessions. Likewise, redesigning reading lists to be based around online resources was mostly straightforward, if often time consuming.

Seminars and group discussions took more adjustment, because online interaction requires a different rhythm and timing from regular conversation. Each group, however, quickly established its own etiquette and working pattern. More demanding still was the need to re-imagine placements and practical assessment tasks to work via online engagement, but this helped us focus on what students really need.

Much of the technical know-how we have developed in this experience will, I'm sure, become a part of our future teaching. This is exciting, because online engagement could enable us to support ordinands in their studies after leaving, invite remote visiting speakers, reach a wider range of students and maintain more interactive links with the wider St Stephen's House community.

But I have sorely missed chance encounters at meals and in the corridors. I have relearnt through their absence how important these unplanned interactions are for teaching, for pastoral care and for generating new ideas, and it has been good to be reminded of the unique advantages of our usual residential setting.

The napkin rack, a familiar sight in the College dining room, stands empty

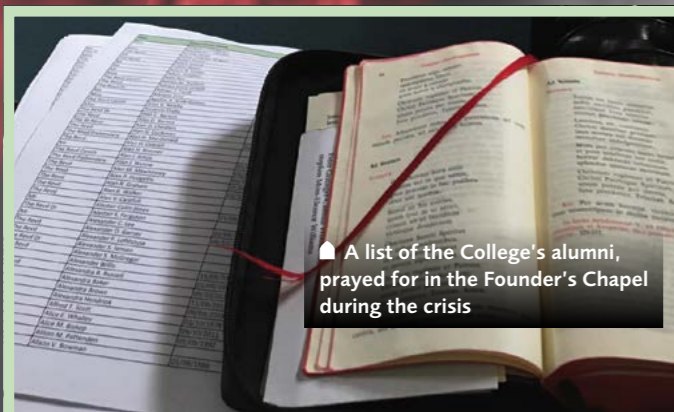


Rachel Makari, Director of Development

As many readers will know, through the help and support of our alumni and friends, the College has worked hard to build up the Main College Appeal Fund to secure an ongoing future investment income for the House. This fund has provided a vital reserve to sustain the College through the unprecedented times we have all lived through recently.

Sincere thanks must go to everyone that has contributed to our fundraising efforts – it is one of the reasons that the College has been so well-positioned to weather the impact of Covid-19.

Work to build this fund back up is likely to be extremely challenging over the coming months as incomes come under increasing pressure, and other organisations that support the College's work see investment values fall. We are extremely grateful for the support given so far and hope that as and when green shoots start to appear, we may once again count on your support to safeguard and support the future of SSH. 🍀



A list of the College's alumni, prayed for in the Founder's Chapel during the crisis

A NEW VP IN THE HOUSE



🏠 Fr. Andreas and family



🏠 Fr. Andreas launching Pilgrim's Pale Ale at Walsingham



🏠 Fr. Andreas's Ordination

Mick Wood

Fr. Andreas Wenzel, 39, joined the House in August 2020 to take up the role of Vice Principal and Director of Pastoral Studies. He moves to Oxford with his wife Zoe and children Miriam (8) and Robert (4) from Walsingham, where he was Shrine Priest since 2017. SSH News spoke to him to find out more...

Welcome! Or should I say welcome back?

Thank you! And yes, it's a return, having studied at the House (2012–14) some eight years ago. Our daughter was born in Oxford whilst I was training at SSH, so we have some good friends in the area, and it is good to be back.

Could you talk us through your journey to SSH?

Yes, it's a winding route to a certain extent! I was born in Hamburg and grew up in Germany, attending The University of Hamburg where I studied Theology. I first came to the UK in 2010 shortly after graduating. I've always been interested in the Anglican tradition; the music, worship and generous hospitality, and I suppose this was crucial for the discernment of my vocation. I moved to London and spent a year at St Matthew's, Westminster as a Pastoral Assistant, and it was here that I met my wife, Zoe, who was working as a Civil Servant. We moved up to Huddersfield a year later where I worked as a primary

school Teaching Assistant for a period, and it was in the Leeds Diocese that I was accepted for formation.

How was your experience of SSH as an ordinand?

I firmly believe you can learn the faith – you might feel you want to do something because you love God, but then it is important to be shaped by the faith, become firmly rooted in the tradition of the church and to be prepared properly to work as a priest 'in the real world'. SSH does this and does it very well. This is why the pastoral studies element of my role as Vice Principal is so important – to marry the tradition with how people live today and what people need from the church today.

What did you do in the eight years or so since you left SSH?

I served my curacy in Wakefield – at St Peter's Horbury and St John's Horbury-Bridge – and following this I became Shrine Priest at the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Both roles were integral in terms of further forming me as a priest, allowing me to link the theory of my formation with the practical. I was fortunate to work with all sorts of interesting people and organisations in these roles, from brass bands to brewing companies, artists to musicians. At Walsingham, I was also deeply involved in pastoral engagement with pilgrims – as

many of your readers will know, there is a deep spiritual tradition to engage and counsel pilgrims, and to worship together. I hugely valued and grew from these experiences.

Can you tell us more about the work with the brewery?

Yes, sure – it was part of an EU project on 'Green Pilgrimages' and part of the project was aimed at developing more sustainable walking routes to the Shrine. This enabled me to work closely with community partners and landowners and led to a slightly more innovative approach involving a local brewery (Barsham Brewery also a landowner) to create 'Pilgrim's Pale Ale'. SSH students were in fact some of the first people to taste it as they happened to be at the Shrine when we launched it.

What are the key elements you feel are important for SSH's future?

Well of course core to the College is its central mission of formation and ministry. But I think engaging with wider society is also key. So, I hope to bring some of my experience working with other bodies and being

Extracurricular

I'm a hobby vintner! I've already planted four vines (German Riesling and Chasselas for those interested!) in the garden of the VP's house and I'm rather hoping there might be an opportunity to extend my viticulture into the cloister garden... I estimate it could take up to 20 vines! Watch out for an SSH House wine? Absolutely! I did it in Walsingham!

open minded about working in partnership with other organisations, facilitating dialogue and developing our outward-looking work. SSH already does this well with SJE Arts and its bed and breakfast offering, so perhaps this is an area I can help to support.

I understand you have a particular interest in liturgy?

Yes, I'm studying with the University of Erfurt and my thesis will be on Albert Krantz, a Renaissance theologian from my hometown of Hamburg. One of the first courses I will be

teaching at SSH will be on Liturgy and Mission and my preparation for this has forced me to confront the tension between tradition and action. Modern priests need both, of course: By being more rooted in God, you are more rooted in his mission. Living the liturgy helps us engage with the contexts in which we are called to serve and prepares us to talk about that love that nourishes us deep down. Community outreach at the periphery is important, but then it's also important to have something more deeply nourishing for our – and our parishioners' – formation as Christians. ♥

SSH ALUMNI: CELEBRATING THE UNSUNG HEROES OF COVID-19

Many of the College's alumni have played a significant role in supporting people and communities throughout the Covid-19 crisis. Here we take a look at some of the 'unsung heroes' (our term, not theirs) from across the College's alumni body...

The Revd Dr Chris Dingwall-Jones (SSH 2015–18): Curate of St Peter & St David, Fleetwood, Lancashire

I was on placement at the University of Birmingham chaplaincy centre when lockdown started to look imminent, so initially it was a frantic dash home to my parish in Fleetwood, and to my pregnant wife Hannah and our daughter Agnes.

Together with my incumbent, Canon John Hall, we rapidly organised a meeting to bring together a wide range of charities across the area to coordinate our responses to the crisis. We also worked closely with other churches and denominations to make sure that all our efforts were focused in the best way, and not overlapping.

One of the key pieces of work that our church led was to set up a food delivery service ('Fleetwood Together') for those shielding, self-isolating, or struggling through poverty. We just felt a real sense of 'this needs to happen, and we are not going to stop until it does'.

This started out based in the church but soon grew too big, so we moved to do all the packing at Marine Hall, an art deco theatre on the sea front. At the peak, we were feeding 1,000 families a week – it was mad! And it was very clear that a lot of people were in the mindset of surviving day to day.

People in my parish didn't really respond well to Zoom, so instead we did a lot of phoning people to stay in touch – we made

sure that every single person on the electoral role in the parish got a call at least once a week.

Fleetwood's care home populations were the main sufferers from Covid-19 in our area.

One particularly challenging situation I witnessed was a woman whose husband was in hospital, and subsequently died in the middle of lockdown. She was on her own at home and unable to see anyone, so I called her regularly to make her aware that I was here and praying for her. It was a particularly humbling experience for me; I was pleased to be able to help.

The emotional toll has been significant, and I have seen first-hand a range of psychological issues that are clearly due to the Covid crisis. I think the impact will be long-lasting.



Fr Chris Dingwell-Jones blesses the parish with relics of the Saints

The Revd Dr Peter Anthony (SSH 2003–6): Vicar of the Parish of St Benet, Kentish Town

I think for me it was probably around 3–4 weeks before lockdown that it became clear we were heading towards the lockdown situation we'd seen in Italy, and that public worship might be restricted within that. However very swiftly I realised that the next six months would be completely blown off course.

Initially we had a few weeks where worship continued to take place but in a different format – like many churches, we didn't share the Peace during Mass, and worshippers only received the host, and not the chalice, during communion.

I don't remember the precise moment when I heard that churches would close, but the first thing I did was to assure people that worship would continue. To begin with I was able to continue to say Mass in church because I didn't have to leave the curtilage of the vicarage to enter the church. But later I was forbidden from doing this, at which point I set up an altar in my house to prepare to broadcast Mass online. We experimented and adopted this quite extensively and it was quite popular, but I was acutely aware that this was not reaching some key people, many of them older and more isolated. Covid-19 really emphasised the internet apartheid that exists.

As well as maintaining the spiritual life of the church, a lot of my time was also absorbed in helping those in our parish that have suffered hardship. The church runs a food bank and I have seen an unquestionable increase in the number of people coming to

the vicarage to ask for food during lockdown. We have had to make a series of appeals to the community to replenish our supplies, and people responded very well to these.

Another key area of work for me was the church's involvement with our local primary school (Kentish Town Church of England Primary School). I greatly admire the staff, who kept the school open for the entire duration, even over the Easter holidays, to ensure key worker children were safely looked after. Although the Covid-19 rules forbade me from going into school, as a Governor I had regular contact with the headteacher. I also provided YouTube assemblies for children to access from home.

As soon as we heard that churches could re-open, we did so. First for private prayer and then for communal worship, and this was quite a breakthrough. It's really quite simple: people really appreciate meeting and worshipping together.

For the most part, lockdown was a huge challenge for our church community, but there have been some key revelations for me. For example, it's clear that teaching and catechesis can be done online very effectively – particularly for those with young children or those who might struggle to get out to a physical meeting in the evenings. Also, I think during lockdown people really rediscovered local living, and to value the physicality of family, friends, neighbours and community, and that can only be a good thing.



Socially distanced 'après Mass' at Fr Peter's church



Fr Peter saying Mass via YouTube

Mariko Coelho (SSH 2015–16) Maths Teacher, The Oxford Spires Academy

Right from the very beginning my school was very organised. We have over 1,000 pupils, a fair proportion from poorer backgrounds, so from the very start the school set up food deliveries to those families relying on free school meals.



Together with my teaching colleagues, I was put on a rota to look after key workers' children. Some of these children were from homes where a parent was working in a medical environment, or in other essential roles such as bus drivers, meanwhile others just needed respite from challenging home lives.

There's been a considerable impact on the children I teach. Some of my students withdrew completely without the usual structure of the school day. Others really struggled with a lack of computer or internet access so at times we were posting work out to them to make sure they could continue their education. I also tried to call students as much as possible to stay in touch.

Other students flourished, embracing the need for self-discipline and self-motivation, or learning new hobbies. Many reported enjoying greater family time too.

Towards the end of the academic year, we opened up for the Year 10 and 12 pupils, with everything set up to adhere to the two-metre distancing rules, and classes split into a quarter of the usual size.

For me, Covid-19 put a lot of things into perspective and reminded me that some of the simplest things are the most important. Professionally, I'm very much hoping for a return to normal soon.

Fr Nicholas Rundle (SSH 1982–8): Chaplain at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), South Australia

As a chaplain at the RAH, I support staff, patients and families in our 60 bed Intensive Care Unit and across the hospital – one of the most modern in the world. Many of our patients come from regional areas of Australia. We give an especial priority to Aboriginal patients most of whom are Christian and often away from ancestral lands.

We all find it hard to cope with the unknown and despite our training, fear can be very draining. Many nurses and clinicians took me aside and share their feelings and ask for prayer. A senior consultant who is Hindu said this was really helpful for her.

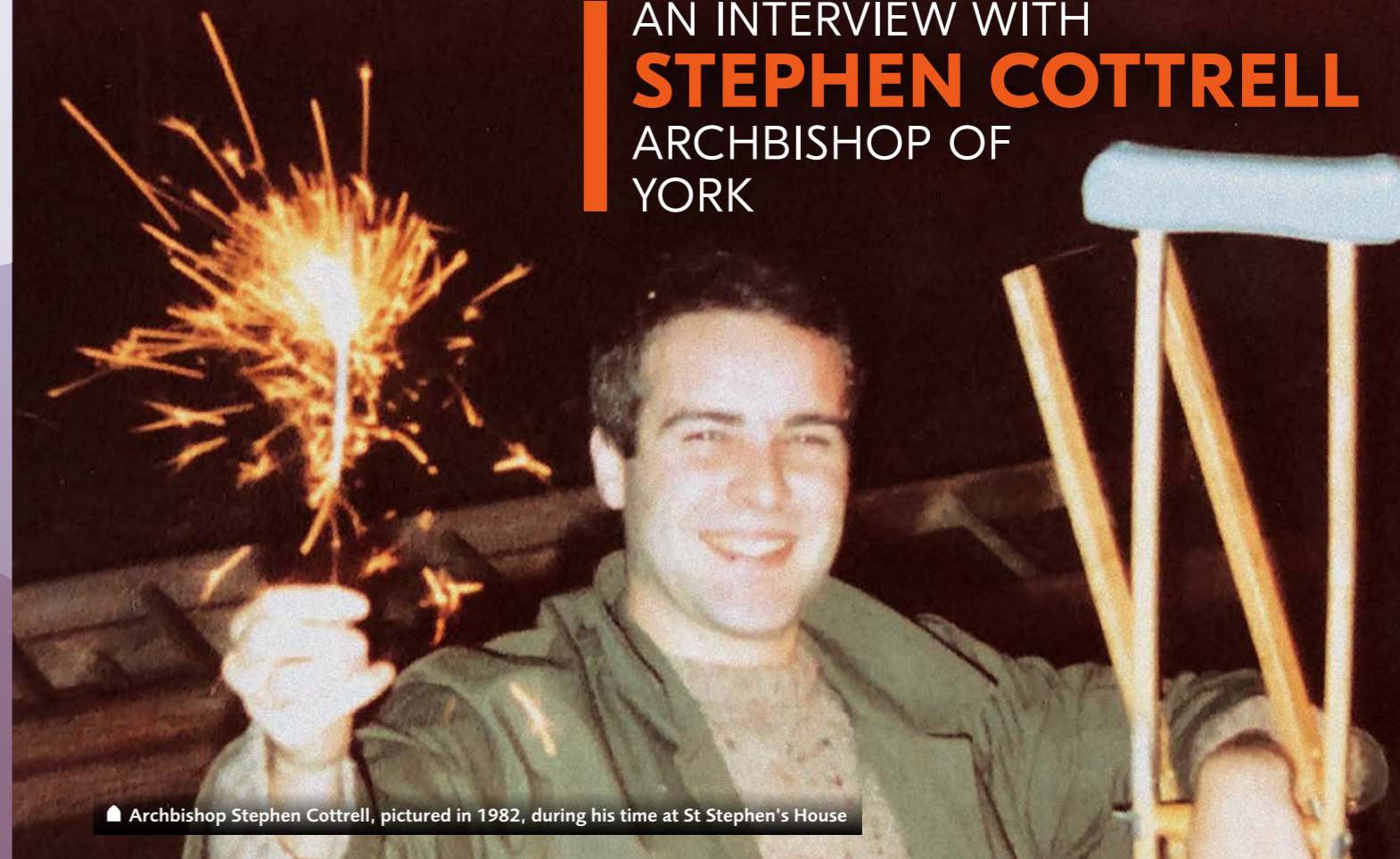
Offering prayer for the dying in personal protective equipment with relatives from around the world joining in via video link was very moving. Being with families at 3am in the Emergency Department as well as seeing patients go home is part of my life. During Covid so many came to the sacred space for prayer as they could not visit loved ones at their bedside, and Chaplains continued to be in contact with families.

There are many aspects of life at St Stephen's House that continue to inspire me, but it's the discipline of silent prayer and meditation that I've found sustaining especially in military and health chaplaincy. Being calm, present and available are the fruits of prayer. I teach meditation at the hospital and during Covid I developed a mindfulness based hand hygiene technique to support the team. A couple of UK NHS Trusts have adopted this.

Priests at time of Covid are called to be present, *'In love's endeavour love's expense'* (Vanstone) alongside our health professional colleagues. 🇬🇧



AN INTERVIEW WITH **STEPHEN COTTRELL** ARCHBISHOP OF YORK



🏠 Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, pictured in 1982, during his time at St Stephen's House

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell is the most senior member of the Church of England to have trained at St Stephen's House. SSH News spoke to him one week after his installation in July 2020 to reflect on his time at the House, his plans as new Archbishop of York... and the famous 'SSH campaign for kippers'!

Congratulations on your new role and thank you for making time to speak to SSH News.

You are most welcome. St Stephen's House holds a special place in my heart. I was one of the first year groups at Marston Street, but other students still fondly reminisced about the Norham Gardens site – some would say the 'real SSH'!

What was it that made you choose to study at St Stephen's House?

My parish priest, Fr Ernie Stroud, was the person who suggested SSH to me, and although I did look at and consider several other places, I trusted him. I remember coming for an interview at SSH and it was very busy – there wasn't enough room in the chapel for the 70 or so ordinands, mostly aged 25 or under. It was very competitive, and I

was worried I might not be offered a place as I found parts of the interview process extremely tough. I was interviewed by the then-Principal David Hope and I was hugely impressed by him. I thought: 'You're the sort of priest I want to be.' Ultimately, he was the main reason I chose SSH, and thankfully I was offered a place! Of course, he is also now one of my predecessors as Archbishop of York. So I find myself following in his footsteps again.

What were your first impressions of SSH?

Initially it was a shock! In particular the intensity of life – I sometimes reflect that it felt as if I became a monk for three years! There hadn't been a lot of 'church' in my upbringing whereas most of my contemporaries seemed to already know a lot and really 'got' the culture. I suspect these days I wouldn't get recommended for training – I'd have been told to go away and get a bit more experience first.

My year group was also the first to combine men and women at the College. There were two women in my year group, which at the

🏠 The victorious SSH football team, of Autumn 1982



Some of Archbishop Stephen's SSH contemporaries

- Martin Warner, now Bishop of Chichester
- Trevor Mwamba, now assistant bishop in the Diocese of Chelmsford, and previously Bishop of Botswana
- Carl Turner, now Rector of Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York
- Norman Banks, now Bishop of Richborough
- Chris Dalliston, now Dean of Peterborough

loved it. I felt I could make a difference. I also did another great placement in Sunderland – at St Ignatius with Fr Michael Whitehead – I still draw on that one week of mission in Sunderland, it was very influential for me.

I also made some very good friends whilst at SSH, people I am still in touch with today.

My formation had a huge impact on me; it was very influential.

Do you recall any particular members of staff?

Yes, our teachers were impressive people and we all wanted to learn from them.

David Hope was a huge inspiration for me, even though he was only Principal for my first year at the College. David Thomas then followed, and was also wonderful, enormously kind. I learnt a lot from them both.

I also remember fondly George (Sedgewick, I think) who held a caretaker-type role at SSH when I was there. He was a lovely man and he and his wife, Ellen, used to invite some students to their house Sunday afternoon for tea. I imagine many from my generation might remember him. He was such a kind man. I kept in touch with them for many years prior to his death. I went to his funeral, which was in the



🏠 Leavers Tea 1984. L-R: Chris Dalliston, Andrew Walker, Stephen Cottrell, Carl Turner

time was very controversial. I think they had quite a tough time, but were also very welcome.

And beyond these first impressions?

I decided to really embrace the life, and I very much enjoyed my time at SSH. I did a placement in Blackbird Leys, for excluded secondary school pupils, where I went every Wednesday for two years and I absolutely

College church some years ago, and the number of alumni outnumbered a lot of reunions.

How has SSH influenced your ministry?

One of the most valuable things I took from my formation at SSH was the importance of saying my prayers – that has always stayed with me. I think that came from David Hope – it always seemed impossible to get into the chapel before him in the mornings, even though we started early.

Also, I think the integration of spirituality, theology, and social action at SSH had a very big impact on me, as well as a love of the sacramental life and the scriptures. People often don't realise how important this is to Catholic formation – we really studied the New Testament and as a result we all had a very solid academic and scriptural foundation.

How will your SSH formation influence your new role?

I think the Catholic sacramental contemplative tradition is as vital and important as it has ever been. The Catholic tradition offers deep water – as Graham Greene said, if you're going to jump, make sure the water is deep.

What do you think the future is for TEIs?

I was very privileged to train at SSH. I think the Church will have to make hard decisions in future about TEIs but I hope there will always be a place for the residential training that I benefited from. There are of course other models, and TEIs must take care not to become tribal, but I ultimately believe there is a place for all.

Fond memories of SSH

- I discovered academic abilities I didn't know I had whilst at SSH. I had never really excelled academically and wasn't from a particularly academic background, but I loved learning Greek – in my day we had a Greek class every morning. For three years my life was: morning prayer, Mass, breakfast, Greek!
- I led a campaign to have black pepper on the dining tables – there was only white pepper and salt before me! I also campaigned for kippers at breakfast. Both were – I'm delighted to say – successful campaigns!
- There used to be an annual football match with Cuddesdon (which SSH always lost). I was on the team (together with Mike Smith – now Canon Pastor at York Minster) for the match in my second or third year and a particularly vicious foul led to me breaking my leg. For the first time in living memory, however, we won!
- (There was a lot of sherry! I'm sure that's no longer the case.)

Thank you for your time. As a final note, do you have any brief advice to ordinands at SSH today?

As I look back, I have come to the view that the most important thing I do each day is say my prayers. There are different ways of praying, and most of us will need help to find a way to sustain prayer and intimacy with God. For me, this has always been centred on the Eucharist. 36 years after leaving SSH I still tremble with excitement when I say the Eucharist. I'm not someone who likes routine that much, but saying Mass has never become remotely like a routine: it is new every morning. Pay attention to that and pay attention to it when you've left... 🙏



THE COLLEGE'S MOVE TO MARSTON STREET: 40 YEARS ON

2020 marked the fortieth anniversary of the college's move from Norham Gardens to its present site in East Oxford, the former monastic home of the Society of St John the Evangelist, or the 'Cowley Fathers' as they were known across the world. In an edited extract from his recent book, book *The Cowley Fathers: A History of the English Congregation of the Society of St John the Evangelist*, author Serenhedd James describes the move.

“A wonderful book: profoundly readable, attractive, and accessible

– ROWAN WILLIAMS

“A monumental work of ecclesiastical history

– CHURCH TIMES

“A precious gift to those with eyes to see and ears to hear

– MODERN BELIEVING

In July 1978 the Cowley Fathers made the decision to leave the site on Marston Street, in the eastern part of Oxford, which had served as their mother house for eleven decades. The Superior General, Fr David Campbell SSJE, called it “a great and momentous step forward.” The main buildings and various houses in the surrounding streets were initially offered to the newly amalgamated Ripon College Cuddesdon; this came to nothing and the Society put its buildings up for sale. The SSJE hoped that another Christian community might find a use for the church as a place of worship, or – prophetically – that it might be used as “a centre for music”.

No buyer was forthcoming, and in May 1979 the *Church Times* announced that St Stephen's House was on the move. The college had outgrown its premises in Norham Gardens, on the other side of Oxford; the Committee of Management, the predecessor of the House Council, had discussed enthusiastically the possibility of taking over the SSJE's buildings in April 1979. The committee – chaired by the Bishop of Chichester, Eric Kemp – elected the Superior General of the SSJE to its membership; staff and students moved premises over the long Vacation of 1980.

It had been arranged that the college would take responsibility for the community church, and that the panelling carved with the names of the deceased members of the Society would remain in the Lady Chapel. The reredos of the chapel at Norham Gardens, an eclectic depiction of the martyrdom of St Stephen with much to distract the eye, came too. Bishop Kemp felt that “ill-feeling might be generated if this was not transferred”, and it was later shoe-horned onto the west wall of the Founder's Chapel, with chunks sawn out to make it fit the space.

The Superior General thought the arrangement “a happy solution”; the SSJE handed over the not inconsiderable sum of £100,000 as an endowment, as well as the advowsons of Worksop Priory and Cowley St John. The new site was inaugurated on 15 October 1980; the Principal, David Hope (a future Archbishop of York, and now Lord Hope of Thornes) noted that the whole summer had been taken up with the move.

Fr Campbell called the ordinands at St Stephen's House, who were at that time all male, “men of the moment, men precisely up to the mark of the times, men who are far from being the traditional imitators of bygone days”. Certainly by 1980 St Stephen's House had itself been overtaken by a contemporary pottery-and-polyester trend in church furnishings, but some students who took a longer view of the matter benefited from the dispersal of the remaining vestments in the sacristy drawers.

Much of the old furniture was removed from the cells, in an attempt to dispel the monastic atmosphere and replace it with that of a modern theological college. The great choir lectern – which might well be regarded as one of the most significant items of ecclesiastical furnishing in the Church of England, but which by then had been banished to the Song School – was only very



🏠 1980s leavers



🏠 The Class of 1980 in an informal photograph in the cloister garden

narrowly saved from a bonfire. The pond in the garden was filled in, and college legend holds that the next morning the basement (which included some ordinand studies) was overrun by displaced and indignant frogs.

Nevertheless, in change there was also continuity. The SSJE continued to provide the college with confessors; the portrait of its founder, Richard Meux Benson, still hung over the fireplace in what had become the Common Room; and the names of deceased brethren would go on being carved into the panelling in the Lady Chapel. Above all, Fr Campbell rejoiced that the Cowley Fathers had handed their buildings to “a college which is bent upon giving the Church priests”. Here it is, forty years later, doing just that –

and the lingering smell of cabbage and linoleum appears finally to have been suppressed. 🍷

By Dr Serenhedd James. He is grateful to the Rt Revd Norman Banks, the Ven. David Gunn-Johnston, and Canon Jeremy Haselock for their reminiscences of this period.

serenhedd.james@ssho.ox.ac.uk

The Cowley Fathers: A History of the English Congregation of the Society of St John the Evangelist by Serenhedd James is published by Canterbury Press (2019)

SOCIAL MEDIA ACTION

The Revd Alice Whalley (SSH 2011–13) is vicar of St John the Evangelist, Hackney, London. During the Covid-19 lockdown, she wrote an article entitled 'YouTube sermons won't feed the hungry' which was published in the Church Times. Here she explains the lead up to the article, and the response it received.

I always find Low Week a bit of a tired struggle. And when I'm tired, I'm a bit grumpy. And I was especially grumpy this Low Week, when the celebrations of the Triduum had been so utterly different to anything I'd experienced before. I'd tried the whole online worship and YouTube sermons, and they were a complete flop. And so in that Low Week grump, I got annoyed by another Church of England tweet about online worship, and ranted away on the phone to a friend. I was sick of feeling like a failure because my online parish presence was a bit rubbish. I wasn't against things being streamed. Far from it. It was the fact that so many parishes did it well that I felt I probably didn't need to. But I just didn't have time: we'd started a food bank, ramped up the parish soup kitchen, and I'd been dealing with a constant stream of desperate people at the door of the vicarage. And yet, these elements of parish work (that were going on up and down the country) didn't

seem to be recognised anywhere officially. The moan ended.

He suggested I write it down, and then he sent it to the *Church Times*, who published it on 24th April.

I was ready for a backlash, and indeed, there was a little (mostly on Twitter, and mostly from not-my-own bishops).



Cartoon: patredgedcartoons.com. Scribbles by freepik.com

'We do that anyway. Why do we need to shout about it?' they argued. That wasn't the point I was making. What I was wondering was, if, in 200 years' time some historian looked back to see what the Church of England offered during Covid-19, the conclusion they may, incorrectly, come to, might be 'Well, not much other than YouTube a bit'. I was angry that the Church of England seemed to be saying 'we're here to prove we're doing what the government wants' and serving the middle classes in comfortable homes.

The real backlash never really came though. Quite the opposite. Clergy phoned me up from around the country and wrote me emails. 'I'm scared of advertising our food bank in case the bishop tells me off' one told me. Cheques started arriving in the post from retired clergy to help us pay for food and supplies, and others backed me up on Twitter. An email from Church House, Westminster, showed me that it had been taken on board, and gradually, the narrative has, at least outwardly, changed. I am amazed at what churches have achieved to help the poorest in society in such a short time. I hope that confidence in that Gospel imperative continues to shine through. ♥



🏠 Mthr Alice Whalley pictured in her parish

REMEMBERING BISHOP EDWIN BARNES

(1935–2019)



Principal of St Stephen's House from 1987 to 1994, Edwin Ronald Barnes was a startling choice. He had trained for the ministry at Cuddesdon, a major competitor. Edwin was always at pains to point out that, in his day, it had been the old Tractarian Cuddesdon and not the later invention 'Ripon College, Cuddesdon'. In his day, Cuddesdon men trained for glorious pre-Reformation Gothic chancels, presenting a modestly revived mediævalism with moderation. St Stephen's House, by contrast, formed men (and now women) for something more ultramontane in inner-city Victorian piles. Cuddesdon was 'establishment', Staggers a bit more subversive of Anglican respectability.

Startling choice though he was, Fr Barnes was a very good choice. His experience as a parish priest equipped him to care for the community, as a priest cares for a parish. He may have been a doughty opponent of the ordination of women to the priesthood but he was also reverent about Holy Orders, including the ministry of women, and he was the gentlest and kindest of pastors to those who looked to him for care. His many years of experience in Farncombe and Hesse before becoming Principal of St Stephen's House showed.

Edwin was cleverer than he thought. He taught very seldom at St Stephen's House, leaving that to what he considered his more able academic colleagues, but in the pulpit he revealed himself to be a polished wordsmith, creative and imaginative. He governed by memo: a series of 'Ever, Edwin' notes – some irascible – appeared in pigeon-holes, and he boasted that his was the only theological college which spent more on food than on books. He worked tirelessly for the College, bringing in bishops a-plenty and DDOs (mostly suspicious of the House), and preachers from a variety of traditions.

Anglo-Catholic parishes were in crisis in 1994 and, missing the application deadline, I nonetheless applied for the post of Vice-Principal. With the help of Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, an interview was arranged for me. Edwin gave me a few coaching tips on how to prepare for interview. My relevant teaching experience was slight – teaching A-level music in a Sixth Form College and a music

course in a Polytechnic (where I found needed to mark assignments on Jimi Hendrix). I became Edwin's Vice-Principal in late 1994 but the overlap was small: in 1995 George Carey made him the first Bishop of Richborough, the second of the Southern Provincial Episcopal Visitors. Five years later, Bishop Edwin presented me for consecration as Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Edwin died on 6 February 2019, in the early hours of his 84th birthday. A couple of days earlier, in his blog 'Antique Richborough', he had written an uncharacteristically emollient piece, drawing his final campaign to an irenic close. Many of us got to know him as a doughty warrior on General Synod. He would stand up, bark out 'Barnes, Oxford' and his Synod number, and then, as often as not, lambast Synod or Church for some evasion or idiocy. Edwin said memorably in 2010 that 'the Anglican Church is no longer the one holy and apostolic Church it says it is'.

He had enormous pastoral wisdom and, as bishop, continued to be on the side of the downtrodden, and amongst his successes, it has to be said, were some lost causes. With Jane, his wife, at his side he would charge hither and thither in his car, treating the Richborough Area as a very large parish. He retired in 2001 and in 2011 he was received into the Catholic Church and ordained priest. The following year he was made a Chaplain of His Holiness, a monsignor. He inaugurated – and for a time ran – the Ordinariate Mission in Bournemouth, living in Lymington, and, in his early eighties, he moved to Salisbury, where he assisted Fr Keith Robinson, Pastor of the Salisbury Mission.

His funeral, on 25th February 2019, was celebrated by Mgr Keith Newton, his successor as Bishop of Richborough. One could almost hear Edwin grumbling about the changes the Ordinariate liturgy makes to the Prayer Book texts but it was all very seemly: simple plainsongs and good hymns, noble words and fine preaching. ♥

By Mgr Andrew Burnham (Vice-Principal, 1995–2000)



– Fact File –

PUSEY HOUSE

Location

St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LZ

Key contacts

George Westhaver, Principal –

george.westhaver@stx.ox.ac.uk

Mark Stafford, Chaplain –

pusey.chaplain@stx.ox.ac.uk

Jessica Woodward, Librarian –

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About/purpose

Pusey House was founded to be "a house of sacred learning", a place where theological study is encouraged alongside worship and prayer and in the context of a rich community life. Originally it was founded to serve the University, although today we seek to provide a home and place of refreshment to all those who are drawn into the life of the House, whether or not they are connected to the University. Worship, study, and community life – mixed together in a way which we hope

brings joy as well as edification – continue to be the essential ingredients of the life of the House.

Drawing on the tradition of spiritual renewal inspired by the Oxford Movement, we seek to build a community where thoughtful and robust faith is nourished by beauty-inspired worship to form disciples in Christ for service in the Church and in the world.

Library

The Pusey House Library is one of the largest theology libraries in Oxford, and a leading Anglo-Catholic library in the UK: it houses 75,000 printed items and 1,100 boxes of archives, and the collections have been recognised by The National Archives as being of international significance.

Worship and events

Worship includes Sunday and daily Mass; daily Morning Prayer and Evensong, as well as special celebrations. Hospitality and social events break down barriers and offer a space for questions to be asked alongside opportunities to hear and partake of the catholic faith, to be drawn into community life, and to grow as disciples of Christ. Offering pastoral care or spiritual direction and hearing confessions are important elements of the House's ministry.

Opportunities for study

Opportunities for study include weekly discussion groups, the Recollection series of lectures (focussing on important figures, ideas, or movements), an Anglican History seminar, and major bi-annual conferences.


The Scriptorium programme brings together a group of twenty to forty graduate students three days per week who, after gathering for prayer, spend the day working in the library as well as gathering for social time and food. Our Vocations Programme, including two or three pastoral assistants, identifies, trains, and mentors potential leaders and candidates for ordination, and we encourage a vocational understanding of the catholic life more generally. In accordance with the principles which have guided the life of the House, we seek to serve as a centre of renewal and a resource for the Church, promoting a thoughtful and robust faith nourished by rich worship and expressed in lives of service.

How does Pusey House work with SSH?

Fr Robin is the President of the Dr Pusey Memorial Fund, SSH students attend worship or lectures at Pusey House, use the library, come on placement, and have been known to appear at the Stuckey Cole Club (a termly gathering which bring together the hearty singing of hymns with a glass of wine or two). Fr George is a regular lecturer at SSH and taught the Pastoral Care course this past year.

Other notes

- A book drawing together the contributions from the 2018 conference on Christology has just been published by SCM (Christ Unabridged).
- July 2022 will see the (postponed due to Covid-19) conference on the Holy Spirit (Descent of the Dove). 🕊

 puseyhouse.org.uk

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name: Musonda Trevor Selwyn Mwamba

Studies undertaken at SSH: BA (Honours School of Theology), Oxford Certificate in Theology

Year of graduation: 1984

Undergraduate degree/other studies: LLB, MA, MPhil, DD (Honoris Causa) Yale

Your current role: I was until January 2020, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Chelmsford, and Vicar of Barking. I relocated to Berlin in February, where my wife is the Botswana Ambassador to Germany, and have permission to officiate as a priest in any Anglican church in the Diocese in Europe, doing locums



Please briefly describe a typical day (for you, in your current role)

General pastoral ministry but very quiet now due to Covid-19. My last role was in February/March in Torrevieja, Spain where I did a locum before the lockdown was imposed.

Could you tell us about your time at SSH? What was life like when you were here?

My time at SSH was an exciting season of transformation from Law to Theology. SSH was also transforming it relocated from Norham Gardens to Marston street. And in 1981 my first year, SSH for the first time admitted women such as Jean Lamb and Diana Cherrett to train as deaconess. They made history. Life at SSH was a dynamic mix of different professions, ages, and a sprinkling of other nationalities, learning from each other.

How did SSH prepare you for what you've subsequently gone on to do?

SSH taught me to think. The academic education, the pastoral training, the spiritual discipline of prayer, Scripture, and Mass, instilled in me at SSH have been invaluable and enabled me to do the different roles of my calling well. After SSH, I became a Parish Priest and Director of Ordinands in Luanshya, Zambia, then Secretary General of the Anglican Province of Central Africa, comprising Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. I was then elected Bishop of Botswana in 2004.

Are there any particularly memorable moments or experiences from your time at the College?

Yes, one is of this fellow named Stephen Cottrell we sat next to each other in Chapel. He was a great singer and guitarist. He compiled excellent folk Masses and worship songs and also provided great entertainment at our Christmas revues.

There was one particularly memorable song of his called 'St Stephen's House Blues', with words as I can remember:

'I wanted to be a film star, a rock singer at least. But now I'm at St Stephen's House training to be a priest'. Where is he now I wonder!?

Other experiences indelibly imprinted in my life were my amazing tutors such as Kallistos Ware, one tutorial he was an Eastern Orthodox priest and the next the Bishop of Diokleia in Phrygia; John Muddiman was also a brilliant tutor whose tutorials were never boring, what fun I had!

What advice would you give to someone considering studying here?

Go to SSH, it will teach you to pay attention to prayer, Scripture and Mass so it becomes your habit, your life. Everything follows from that.

Go to SSH to learn that the worship of God regularly sharpens the point of your relationship with God and other people and makes your inner life more beautiful so you can make the world better, more caring, more loving, and more beautiful.

Go to SSH, it will teach you to think wisely.

Any parting thoughts?

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God'. 🕊



THE PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

What will the consequences of the Covid pandemic be for the college? We know that they have already been very drastic for the Church of England: spiritually, because of the way in which public worship has been suspended – and continues to be very problematic for many people at particular risk of suffering severe consequences from contracting the virus – and financially, in terms of lost income. This has naturally prompted a review by the House of Bishops, and those of us in theological education have been told to expect a 20% cut in our funding – which might ultimately be less, but might also be more. This in a year when ordinand numbers entering residential training appear to have risen nationally, which would be good news in any other circumstances but which begs the question as to whether their training can be paid for now, and their stipends when they come into stipendiary ministry.

We are of course not alone in having to face very difficult decisions about the future, decisions which over the coming months will be apparent in every diocese of the Church of England. Theological education – and University education as a whole – has been profoundly affected not only by the damage caused by the pandemic but also by the evident opportunities that it has thrown up for new ways of delivering teaching and learning. Zoom has made it feasible for colleges, like churches, to gather learning communities which we would never have gathered before – I have been teaching myself a series on great theologians weekly during August at St Thomas Church Fifth Avenue to an audience of sixty or so interested lay people, and it has been a great experience for me (and I hope for them). Walls around citadels of learning are coming down, but free accessible education of the sort that Ivan Illich envisaged in his seminal and prophetic work, De-schooling Society, needs a funded core of scholarly educators at the centre.

We want to express our solidarity and support for all of our old members who are dedicating themselves to keeping things going at this time. The very restrictive regulation of public worship, the large numbers of those in our congregations who are still unable to risk attending church on Sundays, the acute financial and health pressures and the pastoral demands that these create are making intense demands on the parish clergy. We think too of those of our old members teaching in schools, facing risks that are unclear and having to cope with effective teaching in very taxing circumstances. We will have our difficulties here too, and we cannot escape the wider consequences of what this means for the Church of England and for the economy of our Universities and our country. But we believe in our mission, and with the support of all who care for it, we will do our best to carry it forward in the years ahead. 🇺🇰

Canon Robin Ward



Gerry Lynch

The 1876 Society Thank you to all members of the 1876 Society for their support:

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- The Revd Father David Stevenson
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- The Revd Gary Waddington
- The Revd Alan Walker
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- The Revd Ben Weitzmann
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- Richard Yoder
- The Revd Dr Jennifer Zarek
- The Bishop of Chichester



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- Matthew Austen, Brentwood (St Thomas), *Chelmsford*
- Helena Bickley-Percival, Westminster (St Stephen) with St John, *London*
- Ross Brooks, Wolverhampton (St Martin) (St Stephen), *Lichfield*
- Ross Copley, Lincoln (All Saints), *Lincoln*
- William Delia, Worthing (St Andrew) (St John the Divine), *Chichester*
- Gerard Lynch, Devizes (St John) (St Mary), *Salisbury*
- Glen Thomas, Potteries, North (St Saviour) (St Werburgh) (Holy Trinity), *Lichfield*
- Laura Ward, Perry Barr (St John the Evangelist), *Birmingham*

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD 2020

- Sam Aldred, Swansea, Central (Christ Church) (St John) (St Mary and Holy Trinity), *Swansea and Brecon*
- Tom Crowley, Eastbourne (St Saviour and St Peter), *Chichester*
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- Sam Maginnis, Loughton (St John the Baptist) (St Gabriel) (St Nicholas), *Chelmsford*

The new GDPR rules prevent us from publishing examination results without the explicit consent of our students. So we congratulate all our students who successfully completed their courses in 2020, and who were awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, the degrees of Master of Studies, Master of Science, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. We are very proud of all you have achieved during your time with us.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE 1876 SOCIETY?

The 1876 Society is a membership society for alumni, friends and supporters of St Stephen's House, with the aim of providing a community of stewardship to help support the work and future of the College. Simply by becoming a member you are supporting this aim. You can join yourself, join in memory of someone, or gift someone else membership.

Membership starts from just £10 per month.

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