



AMPLEFORTH DIARY  
SPRING 2019

# *Ampleforth Diary*





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# WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Ampleforth Diary*, once again offering a snapshot of so many of the things happening in and around Ampleforth, in our works and among our friends and supporters.

Once again the media spotlight in recent months has focussed on the Catholic Church and sexual abuse, and it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to reiterate in the name of the Monastic Community our profound sorrow at the lasting damage inflicted by the actions of individuals and by our failures as a community, to say how sorry we are and to dare to ask for forgiveness. We understand too, that it is actions that count and we continue to work with and learn from survivors of abuse and commit to promoting the highest standards of safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

Since the last edition of the *Ampleforth Diary*, we have celebrated the funerals of

a number of the brethren: Fr Aidan, Fr Dominic and Fr Antony – who between them spent over 170 years in the service of the Lord as monks. In gathering in the



Abbey Church (or joining via live streaming) to pray to the Lord for Aidan, Dominic and Antony, we witnessed one of the things that makes Ampleforth so special: people from all corners of the globe

coming together as one family. In its own way, each occasion was a celebration not just of the service of the individual monks but of the wider family that they had helped to nurture over many years. For those grace-filled opportunities, we give thanks to God.

That ‘family connection’ is at the heart of the work of the Ampleforth Society, a global community of 16,000 people, with its launch of ‘Ampleforth Global’, the new, dynamic networking platform uniting people across the globe. May I take this opportunity to thank all of you, friends and supporters,

who are part of this family, and all those who have worked so hard in the Development Team to make this initiative possible. In availing of such new technologies, may the spirit of friendship continue to bind us together in seeking the Lord through our own compass for life.

In his *Rule*, St Benedict says that the “life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent”. In faith we know and believe that Lent ends with the celebration of the joy of Easter Resurrection, and so on behalf of the Monastic Community I wish you all a happy, holy Easter: may the Light of the Risen Christ dispel any darkness and fill you with His joy.

May I beg your prayers for vocations to our Monastic Community, that the voice of the Lord calling young people to a life of prayer and service may be heard; and be assured that you will be remembered in our prayers here at Ampleforth.

**Fr Gabriel Everitt OSB**  
Prior Administrator

“WE WITNESSED ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES AMPLEFORTH SO SPECIAL: PEOPLE FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE COMING TOGETHER AS ONE FAMILY”



# Ampleforth Society Report of the Trustees

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**What is the collective noun for us, this band of monks, parents, alumni, staff and friends from all walks of life and all parts of the world who all have in common a strong connection to Ampleforth?**

Well, for many years it's been a form of shorthand to bundle us all together and just call us the Ampleforth family.

On reflection, however, the phrase 'The Ampleforth Family' could not be more appropriate. The concept of family is essential to the Catholic faith. The story of Jesus' early life is the story of a family that includes his birth, presentation at the temple and the flight into Egypt to escape persecution.

After the family's return to Nazareth comes Jesus' disappearance at the Passover in Jerusalem, the concern of his parents and their wonder at how their child has grown and changed when they find him in the Temple. Finally, at the Marriage Feast at Cana, Mary gives her blessing to Jesus and his ministry with the words 'Do whatever he tells you,' words that usher in Jesus' first miracle and the evolution of Mary's own role as a mother.

Here is a story of a family going through a difficult time, suffering persecution, returning home, worrying about a missing child, of a child growing up, changing into adulthood. It is the story of people from all walks of life including shepherds, kings, wise men and temple elders supporting a couple and their child.

Ultimately, the story of the Holy Family is the story of love, sacrifice, encouragement, support and growth. It is the story of our own families, and of the Ampleforth Family.

I've heard people from other schools express surprise (and some envy) at the strength of the Ampleforth Family. It's not surprising though, given that Society members are often so willing to extend these Christian values to others with generosity and kindness.

Many articles in this edition of the *Ampleforth Diary* focus on the importance of the Ampleforth Family, and of coming home from time to time.

It's probably no surprise (especially to parents) that we hear nothing of Jesus returning home after his mother lets him go at Cana. Many of us who are now

parents will recognise this phenomenon in our own children. It happens in the Ampleforth Family as well. In his article, Fr Hugh, Chaplain to the Society, encourages us to return to Ampleforth where we will be made welcome while asking us to recognise and accept the necessary changes to access and procedures for visitors.

Elsewhere, you will find a profile of the Development Team. The team works tirelessly to strengthen and deepen the Society through events and communications. The team wants to ensure that students learn about the Society from the outset and that College leavers are adequately welcomed into the Society during their last year at Ampleforth.

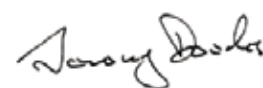
We've also included an update on Ampleforth Global, our exclusive social media platform. There is no doubt Ampleforth Global will make it much easier for the Family to share news, organise get-togethers, provide support to each other and to give or receive help and advice. Please join up and share your thoughts and stories with your fellow Society members.

Apart from the many members of the Society who visit each year, Ampleforth

also welcomes many hundreds of other visitors, and you can read how the Lettings Team organises and welcomes these groups.

Finally, I would like to thank Richard Collyer-Hamlin, Vice Chairman of the Catholic Union of Great Britain, for writing about the CU and the Ampleforth Society's new affiliation with the CU.

As you read this edition of the *Ampleforth Diary*, take a few moments to reflect on the concept of the Ampleforth Family and what it means to you. If you can, come back to the Valley to say hello. You are always welcome.



Jeremy Deedes (W73)  
Managing Trustee  
Ampleforth Society

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## Note from the Editor

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Dear Friends,

Receiving two editions of the *Diary* in quick succession may have left some of you wondering why. More recently we moved to publishing two editions of the *Diary* each year; one in early spring and the second in late autumn. However, last year brought a number of challenges which focussed our attention and resulted in our late autumn edition being delayed until January. In order to get us back on track in producing two editions of the *Diary* each year, and as we had lots of news to share with you, we decided to publish our spring edition as usual. The next edition will be with you in late autumn, but please do not wait until then to discover what is happening at Ampleforth; you can access news and updates via the Ampleforth Society website and by signing up to join Ampleforth Global, our new digital platform for Ampleforth Society members to interact, share news and find out more about what is happening at the Abbey and College.

Best Wishes

Sue Fisher  
Director of Development  
Editor of the Ampleforth Diary



# MEET THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

● **Bron Bury**

Prior to joining Ampleforth, I was extremely fortunate to work for Summer Boarding Courses on their fantastic programmes at Clare College in Cambridge, and more recently at St Hugh's College in Oxford, where I operated as the Excursions and Events Manager. I completed these roles alongside my studies at the University of Nottingham where I graduated with a 1st in American Studies and History in July 2018.

Since assuming my position as Ampleforth Society Coordinator at the end of November 2018, I have been working closely with colleagues to begin crafting an array of Ampleforth Society events for 2019, as well as helping to prepare Ampleforth Global ahead of its launch this spring. During this period, I have also devoted a significant amount of time and energy to immersing myself in the day-to-day life of the College. Not only has this enabled me to introduce myself to both staff and students, but also to widen their general awareness and understanding of the Ampleforth Society. Whilst this did lead to being invited to numerous Christmas dinners, mirroring the challenges faced by Geraldine Granger in a famous episode of the BBC's *Vicar of Dibley*, my attendance at such formal Christmas events with the Houses was truly inspiring. Indeed, at the centre of each of

these events was the spirit of kindness and generosity, which I can already see is instilled in pupils during their time at the College.

At this point I feel it is crucial to stress my immense respect for the comradery between current and former pupils, as well as their families who are deeply invested in the continued success of Ampleforth Abbey and College. Despite not being an Old Amplefordian myself, such admiration for the pride amongst Ampleforth Society members will ensure that my fresh outlook remains strictly in-keeping with the Catholic values which continue to underpin the Society.

● **Dionne Saville**

My son is in his penultimate year in St John's House and has loved his time at Ampleforth. It is a very special place that I have been part of for a long time, from the early days of Ian Little's Hummingbird's Choir to the Ryedale Chorus. My son was a chorister at York Minster, so coming to Ampleforth was very much a natural progression. We have been happy to encourage other friends to consider the value of an Ampleforth education.

I have a creative background, which includes work in the Music Industry, York Museum's Trust, the Diocese of York and



Bron Bury



Dionne Saville



Sue Fisher



Ellie Wadsworth



Jane Pillow

York Explore and Enterprise. Now I find myself in the Valley, developing and producing a bespoke programme of cultivation and stewardship events for supporters of Ampleforth Abbey and College through the Ampleforth Society.

I am passionate about helping Old Amplefordians, current and former parents and the wider society remain connected to the Valley. It is my hope that Ampleforth Global will be the place to grow and strengthen our global connections by enabling us to stay connected to all the fantastic talent we have in the Society. Through inspiring events, careers, mentoring and networking, I am truly excited to be developing and strengthening Ampleforth Society connections globally.

I am also a Postgraduate Researcher in media. I'm currently working on a case study on the use of innovative storytelling and cultural heritage from South East Asia. I was born in Hong Kong, grew up in Yorkshire, but have lived both in London and the USA but love being here in the Valley. It is a very special thing to be connected to a place as unique as Ampleforth for daily life.

● **Sue Fisher**

I have been at Ampleforth as Director of Development for almost three years, after spending ten years as Director of Development for the Science Museum Group, based at the Science Museum on Exhibition Road. I have spent most of my career working in charities, first as a junior researcher and

when it became clear I was more successful in raising funds for research than actually carrying out the research, I decided to focus on income generation. My three years at Ampleforth have been interesting, stimulating and challenging, and importantly enjoyable. I feel very privileged to be able to work with and learn from the monastic community; no amount of professional experience or qualifications prepare you for working within the context of a 1,500 year old monastic tradition. Fortunately I like a challenge and am enjoying working with the Community, trustees, my colleagues and my team in responding to the current situation.

Specifically we are developing an organisation-wide strategy, masterplan and identifying new methods of engaging with our alumni, friends and importantly developing new initiatives to enable more people to visit and experience Ampleforth.

● **Ellie Wadsworth**

Before Ampleforth, I was lucky enough to be involved with several prestigious projects, a highlight being the refurbishment of the Tower of London galleries, during which I developed a true fascination for Tudor history, Henry VIII and the resilience of the Catholic faith. It seems serendipitous to now be here immersed in a modern era of Benedictine life!

I joined in 2016 as Development Manager and have worked on a number of campaigns; most notably the refurbishment of the Monastery and the College's bursary appeal. My interests

are in museums, galleries and the arts, so it's of no surprise that I've so enjoyed leading the auctions of Fr Martin's paintings and have taken great delight in re-homing each piece, where I trust they will forever be admired and treasured.

A family cousin – a priest and regular guest of Ampleforth – often speaks of the Valley as if it were a home-from-home. In the time I have been here and having met so many of you, I've realised the relevance of that sentiment and what it means to be part of the Ampleforth family. My involvement in Society events has increased in recent months, so if our paths haven't yet crossed, I look forward to welcoming you to one of our celebrations in the future.

● **Jane Pillow**

I have lived locally for many years and would often drive through the Valley and imagine what a wonderful place Ampleforth Abbey would be to work – I felt that I was in some way drawn to being here. Previously, I worked for local government and prior to that, in banking. I've been at Ampleforth for nearly seven years now and my role within the Development Team is to maintain our database to ensure we remain connected with all Ampleforth Society members and alumni.

In my spare time I enjoy the countryside and exploring God's own county on long walks with my chocolate Labrador. I also enjoy travelling and numerous crafting activities.





Since entering the monastery in September 1977, successive Abbots have afforded me a variety of opportunities: teaching modern languages; seven years of Housemastering; a year on a parish; three years as Domestic Bursar at St Benet's Hall; and Chaplain to St Hugh's House since 2004. My involvement with the Ampleforth Society began in September 2009 when I was asked to become the Honorary Secretary, a post I held until October 2016 when I was appointed Chaplain.

## MESSAGE FROM FR HUGH LEWIS-VIVAS OSB

Ampleforth Society Chaplain

Many changes in recent years by able and committed Old Amplefordians have reinvigorated the Society. The new Constitution better reflects the professionalism required in the current climate and leaves monks free to concentrate on the pastoral side of the Society's work with Old Amplefordians: presiding at Mass before events in various parts of the country, as well as offering prayers and Mass on a regular basis for those who contact us, as well as for deceased members of the Society.

Over the years close friendships resembling that of an extended family have developed between Old Amplefordians and the monastic community. Recent changes in legislation however have meant that access to the school which holds such special memories for many, is now restricted in the interests of the welfare of current students. This has inevitably had consequences for all visitors.

Old Amplefordians and members of the Society are always very welcome and it is hoped that Ampleforth will continue to be considered a second home. In order however to balance the requirements of safeguarding with welcoming you, it would greatly help, if at all possible, for contact to be made before arriving. An email or phone call will suffice. This will both ensure that someone is around to receive you, as well as making sure that you have access as far as possible to areas you may wish to visit.

The Ampleforth Society Coordinator is Bron Bury [societymail@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:societymail@ampleforth.org.uk), telephone 01439 766884 and my own number is 01439 766867.

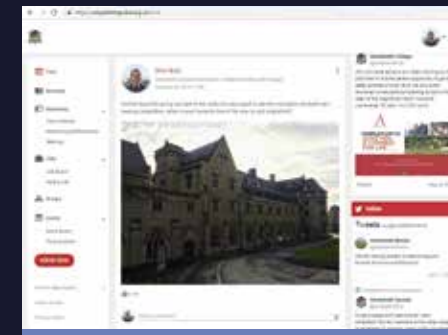
## AMPLEFORTH GLOBAL LAUNCH

Following the introduction of Ampleforth Global in our winter 2018 edition of the Diary, we are pleased to update you on its ongoing progress and growth. Since mid-January, the Development Team has been working with colleagues and representatives of the Ampleforth Society on a one-to-one basis to gain thoughts and feedback on this new interactive platform. With such a wide range of functions available on Ampleforth Global – from mentoring and networking, to event registration – we are focused on ensuring it has been thoroughly tested ahead of being made available to the entire Ampleforth Society.

Following feedback Ampleforth Global is now available to all members of the Ampleforth Society. Whilst the Ampleforth Society website will still be online, we strongly encourage members to sign up to view our most up-to-date news feeds, event notifications and to connect with each other through the Ampleforth Global directory.

We have received great feedback from the participants of the soft launch, some of which you can read opposite.

For more details on how to sign-up to Ampleforth Global, please see the postcard enclosed. Don't delay, sign-up today!



*"We can already see the significant potential of this exclusive social media platform for helping the Ampleforth Family to share news, reunite friends, organise and promote get-togethers and provide support to each other. The Trustees of the Ampleforth Society see it as a key to their objective of strengthening the Ampleforth Family and encourage all members of the Society to register, contribute and participate".*

**Jeremy Deedes (W73) and Managing Trustee of the Ampleforth Society**

*"The calibre of people who come out of Ampleforth as alumni are second to none. To be able to develop oneself using contacts within the Society is invaluable – Ampleforth Global allows us to do this."*

**Philippa Jalland (M13)**

*"We are always particularly delighted to welcome OAs who wish to share their career stories and offer insights and wise words of advice stemming from their own experiences of the workplace. Ampleforth Global is an effective platform upon which OAs can offer their time in this way and help students to become as prepared as possible for life after school and university."*

**Amanda Toone, Head of Careers at Ampleforth College**

*"I've already been struck by how many people are so generous with their time and willing to help, especially relatively recent students, and how polished and intuitive the site is. As someone at the exciting but somewhat nerve-wracking stage of starting a career, Ampleforth Global promises to be an invaluable goldmine of opportunities and advice from people who have achieved all sorts of things. It will also be a fantastic way to keep in touch with the Valley and give back, should anyone ever want my advice."*

**Charlie Channer (D15)**



# AMPLEFORTH SOCIETY EVENTS

At the heart of the Ampleforth Society is a keen desire for all of its members to reunite regularly and to celebrate their connections with their home-away-from-home in the Valley. The Development Team strives to facilitate this with a comprehensive year-round programme of events across the UK, with a view to expanding this offer much further across the globe.

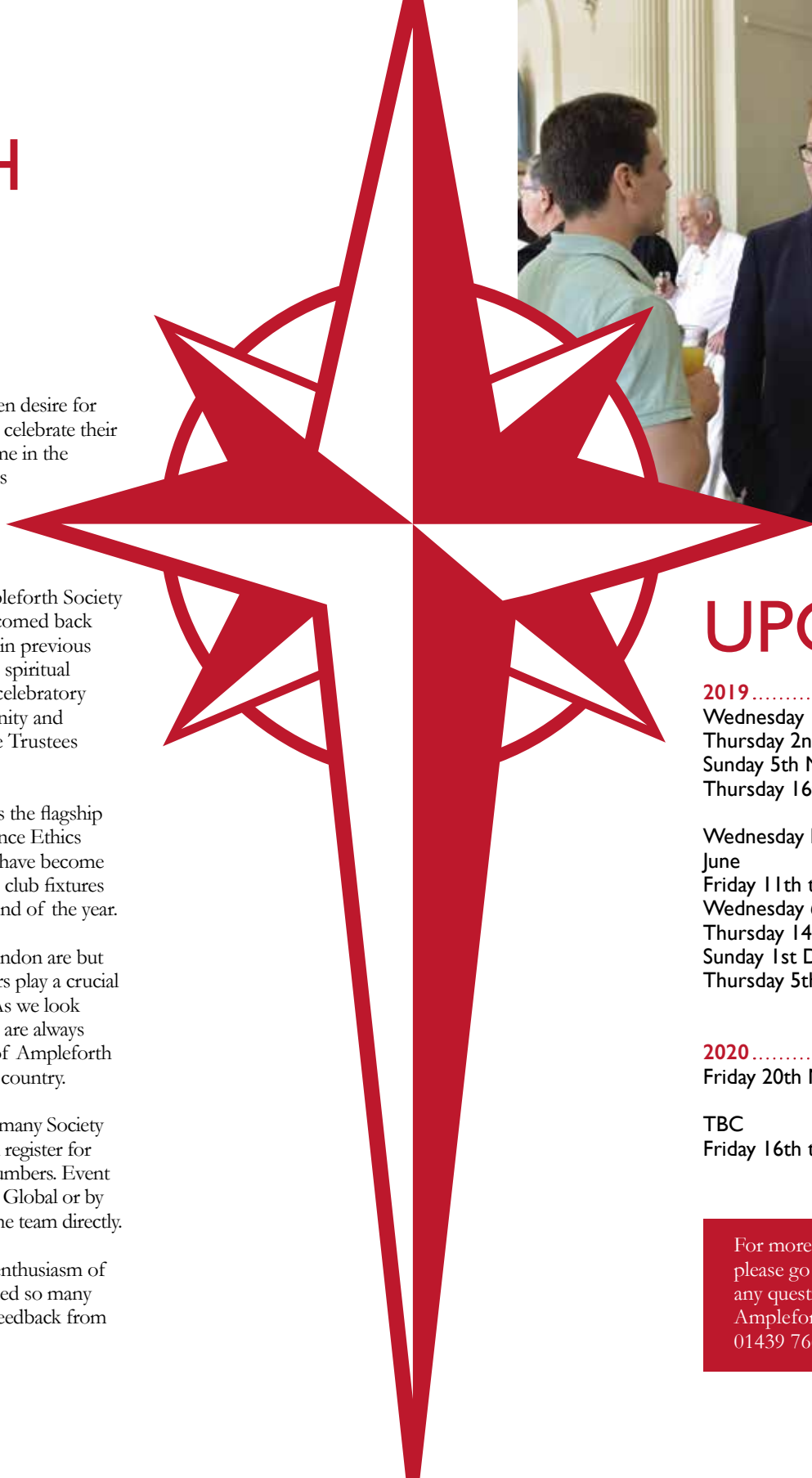
Central to our events programme is the annual Ampleforth Society Weekend. Every October, Society members are welcomed back to Ampleforth to join a number of activities, which in previous years have included the AGM, clay pigeon shooting, spiritual day retreats, chocolate making, orchard tours and a celebratory dinner hosted by members of the monastic community and representatives of Ampleforth College alongside the Trustees of the Ampleforth Society.

The Ampleforth Society Weekend may be regarded as the flagship event of the year, but it is fair to say that the St Laurence Ethics Forum and the Brompton Oratory Mass and Drinks have become firm favourites in our calendar, interspersed by sports club fixtures and OA reunions, closing festively with carols at the end of the year.

Our well-established committees in Yorkshire and London are but two great examples of how OAs and Society members play a crucial role in helping us to orchestrate key regional events. As we look towards increasing our presence in other counties, we are always grateful of offers of support from OAs and friends of Ampleforth to help us co-ordinate various celebrations across the country.

Whilst we do charge a fee for some special occasions, many Society events are free to attend; however, we ask that you still register for non-ticketed events, so that we can best prepare for numbers. Event bookings can of course now be made via Ampleforth Global or by contacting the Development Office and speaking to the team directly.

Needless to say, it has been impossible to ignore the enthusiasm of all the Ampleforth Society members who have attended so many of our events to-date. To see photographs and read feedback from many of our guests, please visit Ampleforth Global.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>2019</b> .....	
Wednesday 1st May	Manchester HotPot
Thursday 2nd May	St Laurence Ethics Forum
Sunday 5th May	Old Amplefordian Golf Day
Thursday 16th May	Ampleforth 'Compass for Life' Reception, Brompton Oratory
Wednesday May 29th	St Benet's Summer Drinks, Oxford
June	Yorkshire Walk
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October	Ampleforth Society Weekend
Wednesday 6th November	Northern Counties Dinner
Thursday 14th November	Brompton Oratory Mass
Sunday 1st December	Lourdes Carol Service
Thursday 5th December	Ampleforth Society Christmas Carol Service, London

<b>2020</b> .....	
Friday 20th March	50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Schola Cantorum, London
TBC	Old Amplefordian Sports Weekend, Ampleforth
Friday 16th to Sunday 18th October	Ampleforth Society Weekend

For more information and to keep up to date on new events as they are announced, please go to the Ampleforth Society Website or Ampleforth Global. If you have any questions about upcoming Ampleforth Society events, please contact Bron Bury, Ampleforth Society Coordinator via societymail@ampleforth.org.uk or on 01439 766884.



# The Ampleforth Society & The Catholic Union



We are delighted to announce that the Ampleforth Society has become an Associated Society of the Catholic Union of Great Britain.

## What is the Catholic Union of Great Britain?

Founded in 1870 by the Duke of Norfolk and other Catholic peers, the Catholic Union has been the consistent voice of the laity working to promote and develop the values of Catholic spiritual, moral and social teaching. It speaks out on issues that affect Catholics and brings together the expertise of the laity with Catholic members of both Houses of Parliament. The Catholic Union has consultative status to the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

## What is the role of the Catholic Union?

The Catholic Union aims to provide a voice for Catholic lay people through sensible and informed contributions to public debate and legislation. With wide expertise in different disciplines, the Catholic Union has been able to make effective criticisms and representations to Government in many areas. It has specialists on its Parliamentary and Public Affairs Committee and it also has representatives in the field of bio-ethics with the Catholic Medical Association.

The Catholic Union speaks out on issues that may affect the freedom of Catholics to live according to their consciences. It seeks to uphold a Christian standpoint in public life, through representations to Parliament, Government bodies and the media.

Catholic values and interests are presented to key decision makers who determine legislation and social policy. The Catholic Union seeks to make its contributions in a balanced and respectful way to the dialogue between religion and politics and to promote the common good in public life. It works to influence the changing nature of the Parliamentary world where the Government relies on the recommendations of expert Commissions which in turn take evidence and advice.

## The Catholic Union Charitable Trust

The Union has a sister Organisation, the Catholic Union Charitable Trust, which was launched in 2015 to develop and strengthen the role of advancing Catholic moral and spiritual principles by means of educational conferences, lectures, training, and seminars. Please visit [www.cuct.org](http://www.cuct.org) for more information.

## Why does the Catholic Union invite other Catholic groups to become Associated Societies?

In 2020, the Catholic Union will reach its 150th anniversary. There is widespread sympathy and respect for the Catholic viewpoint in our nation yet is it often not heard or considered seriously. The Catholic Union works to draw from as wide a range of Catholic opinion and experience as possible. By inviting Catholic organisations and groups to become Associated Societies it is hoped that both parties may benefit from their respective networks and mutual friendship. It is intended that the Catholic Union will support the development of the St Lawrence Ethics Forum and that members of the Ampleforth Society will become engaged with the life of the Catholic Union. Members of the Ampleforth Society have Associate Membership of the Catholic Union.

If you would like more information about the Catholic Union of Great Britain, please visit [catholicunion.org.uk](http://catholicunion.org.uk) or contact [director@catholicunion.org.uk](mailto:director@catholicunion.org.uk).

**Jeremy Deedes (W73),  
Managing Trustee of the Ampleforth Society  
Richard Collyer-Hamlin,  
Vice Chairman of the Catholic Union**

# Announcements

## Old Amplefordian Births

**2019** .....  
3rd March, to Kirsty and Harry Lukas (O99)  
a son, Dominic Cecil  
14th January, to Maria and Thomas Healy (D97)  
a daughter, Ivana Vasilisa  
7th January, to Charlene and Charlie Pacitti (W99)  
a son, Julian Charles

**2018** .....  
14th August, to Mark and Cecilia Nunn nee  
Horsburgh (A10) a son, Amayus Dominic Patrick  
9th May, to James and Adelaide Paterson (nee  
Staunton) (A07) a daughter Ailsa Dorothy May

## Old Amplefordian Marriages

**2018** .....  
25th August, Alex O'Rourke (T03) to Joana De Luca  
4th August, Moritz von Eltz-Rübenach (E94) to  
Anna von Zerboni di Spocetti  
21st July, Alexis Bouvier (J06) to Katy Hands  
7th April, Tom Leeming (H00) to Charlotte Garrett  
24th March, Grant Denny (J97) to Katrina Clarke

## Ampleforth Community, Parent and Friend Deaths

**2018** .....  
12th February, Rev Antony Hain OSB  
23rd December, Claude Briske, friend of  
Ampleforth Abbey  
9th November, Dr Joyce Korczak-Fields, friend  
of Ampleforth Abbey  
3rd November, Professor Thomas Edward John  
Healy, father of Thomas Healy (D97)  
16th September, John Atkin, friend of Ampleforth  
Abbey

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If you have an announcement to add to the Ampleforth Society website and the *Ampleforth Diary*, please email [Jane.Pillow@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:Jane.Pillow@ampleforth.org.uk).

## Old Amplefordian Deaths

**2019** .....  
23rd March, Fr John Melhuish (W68)  
12th March, Patrick Hickey (A41)  
22nd February, Dominic Michael Pearson (W39)  
18th February, Anthony White (E43)  
16th February, Christopher Jardine (E63)  
27th January, Peter George (C53)  
26th January, John Middleton (D43)  
18th January, Rev Thomas Cullinan (C53)  
17th January, Charles Anthony del Tufo (A57)  
14th January, Francis Oldham (W46)  
12th January, Dr Peter Mcgrath (A46)  
9th January, Simon Pilkington (E91)  
6th January, Sebastian Bourne (H13)  
6th January, Michael Howard (T51)  
1st January, Very Rev Dominic Milroy OSB (W50)

**2018** .....  
31st December, Simon Gegg (D55)  
22nd December, Dominic French (W76)  
15th December, Rev Aidan Gilman OSB (A45)  
13th December, Richard Reynolds (C51)  
3rd December, Hugh Lumsden (B56)  
13th October, Henry Lynch (W44)  
9th September, Peter Hothersall (D50)  
26th July, Michael Cole (T60)  
16th June, Blaize Harper Gow (A10)  
14th June, Kit Mangles (D)  
10th June, Patrick Feeny (E49)  
1st April, Brian Hill (A37)

**2015** .....  
29th August, Adam Pearson (H65)

# NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Following the publication of the New Year's Honours list, we are thrilled to share news of Old Amplefordians who have been recognised by Her Majesty the Queen for outstanding accomplishments.



## **Robin Andrews MBE (O61)**

Having studied Civil Engineering and then Economics at Edinburgh University, Robin emerged with an MA degree, having played cricket for the University for three years and started his unconsummated amateur acting career.

In 1967 he joined de Zoete and Gordon, an old established City stockbroker as one of the first Civil Engineering Investment analysts in the City and two years later accepted an offer with one of the larger Canadian Investment Banks, A.E. Ames. This was the start of a love of Canada and then mining and oil exploration financing. For over 50 years he was involved in establishing and financing public companies in the UK and in Canada and served on the boards of many of them. In this time he met and partnered with some of the most creative entrepreneurs and prospectors from all over the world. Some became billionaires – but most are still waiting for their moment of good fortune.

Other than mineral and exploration, there were ventures in West End theatre productions, software development, and even a French porcelain company! Robin retired from his last mining exploration venture in 2008 having discovered new tantalum and zinc reserves in Greenland.

Although a keen amateur singer, but a really poor pianist, he nonetheless was asked to serve on the board of the Ryedale Festival and became Executive Chairman for seven years. He brought business disciplines to an organisation that had been used to receiving public funding, which was due to stop. The Festival thrived and indeed expanded as it learned to fly solo. For this he has recently been awarded an MBE much to his surprise – and delight.

It should also be mentioned that Robin continues to have a fascination for stock markets and in recent years has been an occasional writer published in The Spectator under the title Robin Andrews - Veteran Investor.



## **Captain Sir Nicolas Wright RN KCVO (T68)**

After attending Gilling Castle, Junior House and St Thomas' from 1957-1968, Nick Wright joined the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. On passing out from the College in July 1969 he was awarded The Queen's Telescope by Her Majesty on board HMY BRITANNIA.

Nick then enjoyed a very happy 34 years in the Royal Navy including two years in the Royal Yacht BRITANNIA in the mid-1990s, after which he was awarded the LVO by The Queen. Nick's last posting was to the NATO HQ in Norfolk, Virginia after which he retired from the Navy a few years early to take up the position of Private Secretary to HRH The Princess Royal in 2002 – essentially her Chief of Staff, a role which required a lot of interesting overseas travel.

He was awarded the CVO in 2010 and retired in February 2019.

He was Knighted by Her Majesty and appointed KCVO at a private audience with The Queen in mid-December. He has been appointed an extra Equerry to The Princess Royal so he is not quite fully retired. Among a number of charitable commitments he is a Trustee of Wardour Chapel in Wiltshire, a beautiful Baroque semi private Catholic Chapel which will be known to many Old Amplefordians.



## **Charlie MacDermot-Roe LVO (H92)**

Charlie attended Junior House and later St Hugh's between 1984-1992 where he was taught (briefly), by the late Commander Wright, father of Captain Sir Nicholas Wright KCVO.

Following University and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Charlie was commissioned into The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, which was at that time based in Fallingbommel, Germany and had just been equipped with the Challenger 2 tank, on which he served for operational tours in both Kosovo (2000 & 2001) and the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

On leaving the Army, Charlie joined the Royal Household, where he worked closely with Sir Nicholas, (who took it upon himself to ensure that Old Amplefordians were 'kept on the right track'). Currently the Head of HR for the Royal Household, Charlie was appointed as a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) by Her Majesty The Queen in the New Year Honours 2018 for services to the Royal Household.



# Homily for the funeral of Fr Aidan Gilman, OSB

20 DECEMBER 2018



On behalf of Fr Abbot and of the monastic community I would like to welcome you all to this funeral Mass for Fr Aidan. I would like to welcome family members who knew him as Dick, and who have been able to be present at rather short notice and I welcome friends, of whom I know he had a great number over the years. He was a dearly loved and highly valued friend, spiritual director, adviser. We pray for him in this Mass, for the forgiveness of his sins and for his welcome into the Kingdom of Heaven. These are the prayers we all need; to offer them for Aidan is a duty, but also a privilege and a joy.

Fr Aidan made a careful selection of the two readings we have just heard from the book of Genesis and from the Gospel of St Luke, the Emmaus story. I think the first thing we might notice is

that they are both short and I think that this is part of the deliberate plan. I am not just referring to physical height – his, mine or anyone else’s – but brevity. I suspect Fr Aidan did not want long readings or even more to the point a long homily; I shall try to heed the warning. Many of us were summoned to Fr Aidan’s room in recent months and days, usually for a very specific purpose and then there would be some such quite speedy closure – certainly and very sympathetically in my case – ‘you can go now’ sometimes with a wave of the hand ‘you are very busy’.

Brevity is, however, I realise only part of the point; the readings may be brief but they are telling. First there is the creation of mankind, male and female, in the image and likeness of God. This seems appropriate for Fr Aidan, because he was grounded in his humanity, no gnostic ignoring of the body and the physical in the interests of an ethereal spirituality.

Then there is the Resurrection, again something physical and bodily, but now transformed; an astonishing, fleeting moment of recognition. The disciples recognise the risen Jesus at the breaking of the bread, but he has vanished in that very moment from their sight, leaving them with their

hearts burning within them. It is the moment of salvation and the re-creation of mankind, of physical humanity restored, albeit in a way that is not yet securely grasped but which points beyond itself to what is still to be.

There could be a great deal of biographical detail and much anecdote, but the funeral homily is not the place for this. I just want rather to point out, and see if I can draw some meaning, from the obvious and intriguing point that Fr Aidan’s monastic career, which spanned 70 years, went down some routes that were very traditional in the Ampleforth community and some that were very definitely not traditional. Yet it was the same Aidan taking both routes, a man made in the image and likeness of God and seeking through his monastic call to catch a glimpse of the face of the risen Christ.

On the traditional side, there is studying Biology and General Science at Oxford to equip him for teaching in the school. He was Housemaster of St Thomas’ for five years and later Novice Master, albeit just for a year and Chaplain of Stanbrook Abbey for five years. He was part of the pastoral centre at St Bede’s in York and then four years in the priory and parish in Osmotherley. These are traditional works, but no

doubt – and there are those here who know better than me – not necessarily worked conventionally. I have little doubt that he did a good deal of important pastoral work in his time at Osmotherley, but the comment he makes in italics on his monastic CV is that he planted a garden there, as he had done previously in Stanbrook and indeed, he points out, more than a dozen gardens in total in assorted places.

This is my way of turning to the untraditional Aidan, because of course as we all know he will be remembered among us and widely beyond Ampleforth, as the postbag has shown in the last few days, as a hermit. He spent six years on the moors from 1969, occupying and repairing a derelict cottage and building a small chapel. Then interspersed with the other roles I have mentioned, he spent a year in Nigeria, including a trek to the place where Charles de Foucault had lived; this was the basis of one of the ‘shaggy dog stories’ to which he could be partial with the moral ‘man proposes but God disposes’ – he was in fact due to the exigencies of travel only able to spend 20 minutes there not the planned week. He was part of an experimental community (his own words) in Little Crosby and then closer to home and more age suitable, in Plantation House in the valley, 12 years there in total. Before thinking however of that as a half-way compromise with civilisation and amenity, we may remember that he used to refer to Plantation House as the hutch.

There are maybe just two comments to make about the hermit years. Before he joined the monastery he was three years (immediately after the war) in the Royal Marines and there is maybe a connection here. To be a marine and to be a hermit requires an exceptional sinewy toughness of body, mind and spirit, which is not a common still less a universal gift. Then for those who think that being a hermit is an antisocial turning away from human fellowship and friendship, then one simply has to say that for Aidan, as for many another hermit in the history of the Church, friendships and ministries were opened up and entwined through the eremitic experience. He was also thereby enabled to walk alongside and support brethren in very difficult circumstances.

He had an eye for the odd connection, for paradox, for the coincidence that points towards a providence. I remember him preaching once on the feast of St Dominic when the reading was by coincidence the Canaanite woman who Our Lord compares to the house dogs; Fr Aidan found a twinkle in the eye connection between the house dogs and the ‘dominicanes’ the Dominican self-description as ‘God’s dogs.’

On the day he died, the first reading at Mass was from the book of Ecclesiasticus, which has the final line ‘Happy shall they be who see you and those who have fallen asleep in love.’ Sister Philippa remembers that

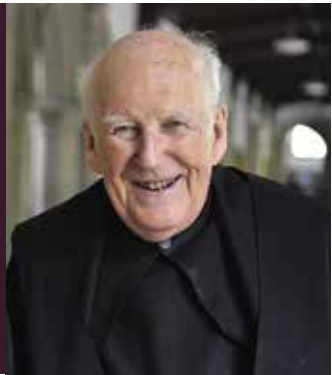
Fr Aidan preached on that text once at Stanbrook and remembered that it used to be on memorial cards. Eyes seeing God and love, ways in which Aidan will be remembered.

A few years ago, but when he was already in the infirmary, I asked Fr Aidan, as many before me, about prayer. He responded that we approach God through the incarnation. He comes to us and that monastic life is God’s love affair with us. He recalled Abbot Herbert Byrne’s comment that contemplative prayer lasts only a few moments. Then he became autobiographical and he spoke to me of three moments. Of knowing for a moment in boyhood that God loved him. Of choosing in early manhood monastic life and not marriage and then of being a hermit, not so much times of prayer but as living with God. Finally – and this story he also shared with the brethren last August in our celebration of his two jubilee celebrations of this year, 70 years a monk and 60 years a priest – he recalled a photograph of his parents, his father’s hand upon his mother’s shoulder and in that picture he saw a couple grown together in love, one being. In the end of our lives, at the end we pray of a long monastic life, we find and remember what has been there from the beginning; God’s love, and we pray that he takes us to himself.

**Fr Gabriel Everitt, OSB**  
Prior Administrator

# Homily for the funeral of Fr Dominic Milroy, OSB

11 JANUARY 2019



On behalf of Fr Abbot and of the monastic community I would like to welcome you all to this funeral Mass for Fr Dominic. Thank you for coming and in such numbers, perhaps today's greatest eloquence. I would like to welcome family members and many friends, who have come from near and far, some long journeys. I welcome Abbot Christopher Dillon and Canon Jane Brooke from Chester Cathedral. I would like to welcome those listening in through the live streaming, with perhaps a special prayer that it works properly. Among these a very particular welcome to Clare Jennings, sadly not able to be present, but who as we know over many years was a chief support of Fr Dominic and enabler of so many of the great things he accomplished. Clare, we offer you great gratitude. Our most important task, a very practical one, is for us to pray for Dominic in this

Mass, for the forgiveness of his sins and for his welcome into the Kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks for his life and for all that he has meant for us.

It was not difficult to look for a gospel reading today from the gospel of John. Fr Dominic had in recent days and right up to quite soon before he died, been dictating his thoughts and reflections on the Fourth Gospel and this was an interest which in fact goes back many years. Somewhere close to the heart of this interest was the sense that in St John's Gospel a powerful and soaring spirituality – the symbol of St John is the eagle in flight – is nonetheless in play in very material and down to earth elements of the world around us.

In a chapter entitled 'The Gospel of Signs' Dominic had this to say, which I dare to think, we may take as an insight into a, perhaps *the*, key dimension of his thought and more particularly of his faith. He wrote 'In John there is no equivalent of the moral teaching and no parables [as in the synoptic gospels]. Instead, we have the 'signs' in which Jesus is deliberately linking God with elemental features of his creation – Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Jesus' attitude to created things is wholly positive. Rather than seeing the divine as

'spiritual' and as opposed to the created world of things, Jesus sees creation as a manifestation of the divine. This is where the Gospel is radically different from Gnosticism, which presupposes an opposition between the spirit and the flesh'.

So in today's gospel passage for a requiem Mass we have from John chapter 6 this bold identification of Jesus: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.' Jesus has this bold, indeed shocking, identification of his flesh and blood as our food and drink: 'if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you ... For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.' This is strong stuff and so right up Dominic's street; as he put it these scraps of the created world become manifestations of the divine. This is our faith, this was his guiding faith.

Now it seems right, albeit that this is homily, not obituary, that I say something about the phases of Fr Dominic's life and career, but I should maybe refer to something overarching, but which relates to things very material and of the world. It may sound flippant. Many, some here some unable to be here, have

written in the last few days and there have been references to some of the concrete signs of Dominic's presence for which he is lovingly remembered: the smell of pipe smoke and of a tumbler of malt, the sight of a golf club and of a fishing rod, the distinctive sound of a voice speaking and indeed singing. He was a first cantor. Material and in some cases worldly things, but of course the striking thing is that these are remembered in the context of friendship, of affection, of love and ultimately therefore of something at once very human but also of the human spirit which reaches out for, searches for, yearns for God, not yet of course in secure possession.

I dare to identify three key stages or phases in Fr Dominic's monastic career; interestingly the first two both in turn divide into an Ampleforth and then a wider almost global aspect. The third stage is then very different.

In the first we find a monastic path from clothing in the habit in 1950 through study in Oxford to school roles: librarian, Director of Theatre (a role he loved, maybe even a favourite which he spoke about often in later years) Head of Modern Languages, Housemaster of St Wilfrid's for ten years from 1964 to 1974, already years of social revolution. As in a powerful and complex symphony themes from this stage reprised in later life, so he was – in a new monastic dispensation – chaplain to the girls of St

Aidan's house from 2008 to 2013. This first stage came to a close though in a very individual and distinctive way when he was headhunted by the Abbot Primate to be the Prior of Sant' Anselmo in Rome for five years to 1979, the international Benedictine house of studies on the Aventine Hill. It was a role for his linguistic and other manifest abilities in his early 40s. Abbot Edmund Power celebrated a Requiem Mass for him in Sant' Anselmo on Wednesday, two days ago.

In 1980 what I am typifying as a second phase, years of maturity, began when he was appointed Headmaster of the College. There is so much one could say and others could do it better. There is a particularly powerful memory of Exhibition speeches learnt by heart and delivered with a remarkable intensity of idea and vision. I recall one on the challenges faced by monasteries in the final decades of centuries, pointing to some particular difficulties of 1990 and 1991. You will gather that pygmies albeit standing on the shoulders of giants do not manage the same feats.

A zenith of the headmaster years was his chairmanship of HMC, the Headmasters' Conference and the staging – the right word I think but with no disparagement – of the annual conference in Bruges. When I became Headmaster here in 2004 that conference was still remembered among colleague headmasters in its totality and for some of its memorable details as a pinnacle

experience. This international venture presaged how the years of maturity developed after he stepped down as Headmaster again in a global frame, as he became a retreat giver and canonical visitor – over 25 monasteries across nine monastic congregations. I should also mention that Fr Dominic was key to perhaps one of the most unlikely connections which has nonetheless proved fruitful beyond all imagining and planning processes, namely the link between Ampleforth and the Manquehue Apostolic Movement in Chile. Here too he formed key and lasting friendships and a very special one with Ignacio Eguiguren. Another unlikely but true connection is that Fr Dominic was a consultant to an animated film version of the Life of Christ which took him to Cardiff and Moscow.

Across these years of mature achievement Fr Dominic continued to do important things for Ampleforth: he was delegate to General Chapter from 1992 to 2004, and variously Master of Oblates, Secretary of Confraters (this up to his death) editor for eight years of the Ampleforth Journal, reshaping it very much in this time. He particularly valued the thirteen years from 1997 he spent as chairman of governors of St Benedict's, the voluntary aided primary school in Ampleforth Village. In recognition of many achievements, abilities and contributions he was made already in 1993 cathedral prior of Chester according to our EBC custom.



Then we come to the third phase, which crept up on him and as for many people, particularly those who have been accounted among the 'great', it is darker and more difficult. It is the time of failing powers, for him of a terribly debilitating macular degeneration that hit his ability to read and write and sing, so key to his art, and of depression about which, being him, he was able to speak very clearly. It could be a time of great disappointment and at times of rage. His wide world painfully narrowed.

He faced the tarnishing of his own reputation in the child abuse scandals and in the very difficult material we have had to face through the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. We all here have to confront the exposure of sins and crimes committed by Ampleforth monks, and Fr Dominic himself came under direct fire for his handling of these matters. He like many of us had to face some failures in the care of children entrusted to our schools, who have been harmed. We have to apologize for these and we have to ask forgiveness; even when not directly harmed, we have to share responsibility for what happened.

In his last days in hospital in York Dominic had a very acute and very general consciousness of the desperate need, which in truth we all have, for forgiveness. If the eagle was no longer soaring, he was lying often in great pain and mental distress reaching out

for God to come down to him. On the day of his fall in the monastery infirmary, in a particular agony, he wanted to sing a *Salve* for those suffering more acutely and he asked for his community list to pray for all his monastic brethren by name. Yes of course these have his taste for drama, but they are the real him. In his last moments as this new year was coming in he was wishing well cheerily to the staff and his fellow patients. He commented to one of his very many hospital visitors that whatever else there was about his condition, that his depression seemed to have lifted.

Dominic was a man who loved, he had a mind which loved. He had a mind which loved and embraced complexity and paradox. In the time since his death we have been celebrating the Epiphany. In the Benedictus antiphon at Lauds on this feast day, it is said of the Church's experience of the Epiphany 'Today the Church has been joined to her heavenly bridegroom, since Christ has purified her of her sins in the river Jordan, the wise men hasten to the royal wedding and offer gifts: the wedding guests rejoice since Christ has changed water into wine'. To say the least this is a strange passage. Why describe the wise men as hastening to a royal wedding, when nothing in the gospel text, at least on its surface, seems to speak of a wedding?

When we visited Dominic in York we were in truth visiting

him on his death bed. Nothing about it suggested a marriage bed. But one of the themes that intrigued him for a long time about St John's Gospel is the wedding, the nuptial imagery. He was certainly writing about it in 2008. On Wednesday 5 December five days before his accident he said this 'The Gospel passages of Jesus' passion and death are starkly concise and factual. It is not immediately self-evident that they are giving us an account of a supreme act of love, which is both human and divine.' Then he has this remarkable insight: 'Suffused with the imagery of love between bridegroom and bride, they become immeasurably richer' ... 'Beneath the events of the Passion there is, in John's Gospel, a particular and powerful sub-text, hinted at but not developed. This hidden theme is that of the fruitful union between God and his people.' Dominic reflects that in the Fourth Gospel, John the Baptist had spoken of Jesus as the 'bridegroom' and suggests that this attribution takes on a new resonance in the light of Christ's dying words. He draws a link between the words from the Cross 'I thirst' and Jesus' encounter earlier in the Gospel with the Samaritan woman: 'On the surface, as a dying man he is thirsting for water but, on a deeper level, he is thirsting for the fulfilment of the love between God and his chosen people'. Dominic then looked at the words from the Cross addressed to his mother and to John, the beloved disciple: 'his extension of Mary's motherhood to

include the beloved disciple is, once again, a word that moves at two levels. At the surface what he says results in John taking Mary into his care. At the deeper level he is extending the motherhood of Mary to include not only John but all his human brothers and sisters, a new dimension of universal fruitfulness. These are Dominic's last words in this passage: 'The richness of the

imagery here is hard to grasp. Jesus, in his humanity, is the son of Mary and brother of the whole human family. In his divinity he is the divine bridegroom. His bride is the chosen and redeemed people of God, represented here by the person of Mary. The bridal images echo the prophets and the Song of Songs'. The Song of Songs, that favourite monastic text.

Let us pray for the repose of Dominic's soul, for the forgiveness of his sins, for his coming to the marriage feast in the kingdom of heaven, for his singing of the Song of Songs. May we come all together to everlasting life.

**Fr Gabriel Everitt, OSB**  
**Prior Administrator**

## A Gift in Memory of Fr Dominic Milroy, OSB

Having spent so much of his early life at Ampleforth, Fr Dominic was clothed as a monk in 1950 and had a dedicated presence at the College thereafter. He held the positions of Housemaster of St Wilfrid's from 1964 to 1974, Chaplain of St Aidan's from 2008 to 2013, and served as Headmaster for 13 years from 1980.

In recognition of his work within the College, the Monastic Community and the family of Fr Dominic intend to allocate any donations made in his memory towards an Ampleforth bursary fund. The bursary fund will support a gifted individual who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy an Ampleforth education; enabling them to recognise their unique capabilities and develop their potential. We believe this to be a true reflection of Fr Dominic's principles of an education at Ampleforth.

If you would like to commemorate Fr Dominic Milroy OSB in this way, or wish to receive further information, please contact:

**Sue Fisher, Director of Development**

Sue.Fisher@ampleforth.org.uk or telephone +44(0)1439 766766  
Ampleforth Abbey Trust registered charity number 1026493







I first joined the OA Rugby Football Club in 2015, shortly after moving to London. I hadn't played rugby seriously for 4 years and hadn't really considered going back to it. However, when my brother (also an OA) suggested I join, I decided it might be fun to play again (as well as being a good opportunity to shake off some of the university weight I had accumulated). I showed up to my first training session in Battersea Park a little sheepishly but was very happy to see a few familiar faces. I haven't looked back since.

The playing squad is composed of a wide of array of OAs but also many non OAs (even a pair of Sedbergh boys) who happen to have stumbled across the club in one way or another. I was very quickly made to feel welcome and I rediscovered what it was that I had enjoyed so much whilst playing rugby for the College. The club is an amazing group to be a part of and I have proudly played for the team for four years now. It is very inclusive, open to players of all abilities who are keen to be part of a team. The commitment of some members has allowed it to become the amazing environment it is today, starting with the club President (Sebastian Reid) and Club Chairman (John Dick) but also all the non-playing members who support us on weekends and make playing in the red and black such a great experience.

From a playing perspective, the club has achieved some fantastic results. In my first year of playing, we narrowly missed out on a promotion to the top Surrey league (but clinched the top of the table the following year and were promoted). We have now had two tumultuous seasons in Surrey 1, where we have learned there is no such thing as an easy win but that we are capable of beating anyone on our day. Playing attacking free flowing rugby has always been a club philosophy and we have always tried our best to abide by this.

What makes the club particularly special is the strong ethos that reigns not only on the pitch but also off it. The club house is always full and vibrant after matches. We have now gathered a wide array of regional Surrey pub knowledge, and have organised a many social events on bye weekends. A memorable highlight was the trip to Ampleforth for the OA sports weekend. We played an unforgettable 30 minutes of rugby against an OA barbarian side, in the midst of a brutal snow storm before converging on the Windmill for drinks with teachers, monks, parents, and other OAs.



Sadly I am due to move away from London in the summer and it looks like this will be my last season with the OAs. I am very grateful to everyone who made the club the great place it is, from the committee members to players and social members. I encourage anyone who fancies a game to get in touch with the club (Jamie Reid, Ben Pearce, and Geordie Tulloch) and head down for training in Battersea.

**Vincent O'Rourke (D11)**



# OLD AMPLEFORDIAN RUGBY CLUB



*“...the characteristic humanity and openness of heart of Ampleforth students continues to give us the courage to invest in what we’re about.”*

*About Fr Ambrose:*

Fr Ambrose joined the monastic community at Ampleforth in 2011, making his final profession of vows in 2015, and was ordained priest in 2017. Fr Ambrose holds degrees in Classics, Philosophy and Theology from the University of St Andrews and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Alongside his new role, he continues to teach students in the Classics Department, and to be a tutor and House Chaplain in St John’s.

# Our Mission

from the Dean of Ampleforth College, Fr Ambrose Henley OSB

## OUR MISSION:

*A school for the Lord’s Service.*

Our mission is to educate our students to the best of their ability, within a community of faith and scholarship.

## OUR VISION:

*From everyone who has received, much more will be asked.*

Our vision for our students is that they leave Ampleforth a source of life for the church and the world through service, as young men and women of enduring friendships, deep and nourishing faith, and a love of learning and of the truth.

## WHO WE ARE:

*Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ.*

Since 1802 Ampleforth has been the home of a praying community of monks, in a life-long commitment to seeking God in this place.

Heirs to 1,500 years of Benedictine dedication to learning, we understand education as a spiritual work of the most profound kind, encompassing the whole person. This is the basis on which the monastic community shares the precious and life giving gift of the Gospel with all the students and staff, and their families, who make Ampleforth a home from home.



*Fr Ambrose says about the role:*

“The word *Dean* in St Benedict’s Rule signifies a focus on people first in the community: who we are as a Benedictine Community. This role is intended to place service of our spiritual aims and needs at the heart of what we do and where we are going. Longer term the task is to foster a fruitful relationship between what Ampleforth stands for, and the way it makes sense as a place for each person who comes here. I have the responsibility of being the point person between monastery and school, and working with both to help shape the future of monastic commitment to education at Ampleforth.

“I believe what Ampleforth has to offer our students is fairly breath taking: loving dedication well beyond the call of duty, and an art of living and growing within a community of faith and scholarship. It has grown up through the astonishing and unrelenting efforts of so many now and over the years, and fundamentally around a praying community of monks for whom this is home. The basic invitation of St Benedict to his monks was ‘to receive all like Christ; to pray before all else; to share the Gospel as good news; to undertake service with humility, kindness and the courtesy of love;’ and to do it together, as an act of the community.”

*“If the community is rather large, some brothers chosen for their good repute and holy life should be made deans. They will take care of their groups of ten, managing all affairs according to the commandments of God and the orders of their abbot. The deans selected should be the kind of men with whom the abbot can confidently share the burdens of his office. They are to be chosen for virtuous living and wise teaching, not for their rank.”* Rule of St Benedict, 21

# LANDROVER RESTORATION CLUB

Ampleforth has been rebuilding, renovating and restoring classic Land Rovers since 2006. The group started when one of the School's Biology teachers brought his Series 2a in to work on in an outhouse on the School site. Soon a group of students had begun helping regularly and the project became an official activity. The work done was to such a high standard the restoration featured in *Land Rover Owners International* magazine!



Sitting in the beautiful rural North York Moors, gives a stunning backdrop to any activity, especially classic 4x4s! Design and Technology at Ampleforth has a strong ethos of 'Design for Good', with a focus on sustainable, recyclable and environmentally responsible design (6R's) in all projects for all year groups. The restoration of old and broken cars (instead of simply buying new ones) fits well within this.

The project vehicles are chosen so as to offer the largest scope of processes and techniques to the students. Often it will be a 'frame-off' restoration starting from a new or restored chassis and building from the ground up. Students work on everything from the brakes (under close supervision) to the engine and even painting the bodywork. Most of the students involved take Design and Technology for GCSE or A-Level but that isn't a pre-requisite to joining. Links to subject topics are raised as they appear giving students to opportunity to cement their knowledge of the subject through a practical example (metal types, joints and fasteners, finishes, upholstery, electronics all real topics on the syllabus). The group allows students from Year 10 up to participate (for safety reasons) but younger students are invited to join the '4x4 in Schools' competition team in year 8 and 9 with a view to joining the Restoration Team in year 10.

Working for an hour a week on the vehicles the club is an excellent way for the students to relax and focus on a practical, and often physical, activity. Students often look forward greatly to their time in the workshop and you can watch as the day's stress is turned into mucky hands and smiles whilst half under a Land Rover.

Some students have used the activity to bolster their CV for jobs at Land Rover after they leave school, having a real passion for the History of the company looks great on an application.

The club has two vehicles in the workshop at the moment and a third 'mystery' vehicle under wraps for next year. These vehicles when completed are displayed at the School's year 'Exhibition' and it is often an impressive line-up of past, present and future projects. It's great to see past students come back and reminisce about the hours of care and attention they put into the machines. We certainly hope the club is the most positive memory of school.





# THE GUT GIRLS



Congratulations to the cast and crew of "The Gut Girls" for three tremendous performances in December 2018.

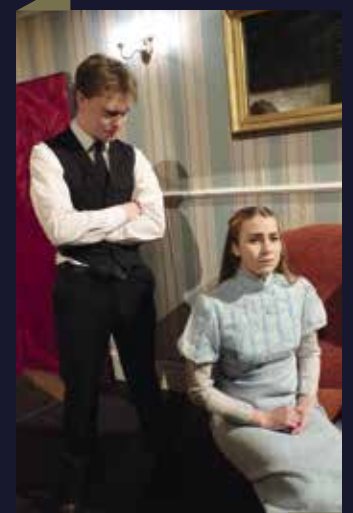
You may well wonder about the plot! In the introduction to her play, Sarah Daniels says: "The women of Deptford Foreign Cattle Market are up to their elbows in the guts of animals, working 12 or 13 hours a day preparing meat. They are pilloried, and marginalised, even though they are well-paid. One local well-to-do woman decides that the Christian thing to do would be to teach these women how to act like young

ladies, train them up for a life as maid-servants. 'Improve' them. Of course, it doesn't work out that way. Gut Girls contrasts the bloody mess of independence and solidarity with the apparently pristine face of upper-class life."

Armed with a group of talented actors and highly skilled technicians, the students set a truly professional standard in the theatre. They created a piece of epic theatre, which was moving, funny and completely absorbing. The audience were transported effortlessly from the working

class gutting sheds to the pristine world of Lady Helena, moving from deeply emotional monologues to farcical demonstrations of the girls' attempts to become more 'ladylike.' The production received amazing feedback from each audience. One audience member said: "What a fantastic production! It was thought-provoking and gutsy. All of the students performed with real confidence and displayed their vast array of talents."

Congratulations to all the students and staff involved.





# THE GUT GIRLS



*“What a fantastic production! It was thought-provoking and gutsy. All of the students performed with real confidence and displayed their vast array of talents.”*



# THE GIFT OF A BURSARY - JOB OPPORTUNITY



*“If an education is the greatest gift any child can be given, an Ampleforth education sends young people out from our beautiful valley with something they cannot get anywhere else – a particular sense of their place in the world, a compass for life.”*

At Ampleforth we know the difference the receipt of a bursary can make in transforming the lives of those students who, without support, would not benefit from an education at Ampleforth. Children, from a diverse range of backgrounds genuinely exceed expectations, with recent recipients going on to achieve great success, including places at Oxbridge.

Old Amplefordians, parents and friends have been incredibly generous in supporting our bursary scheme and now we want to significantly grow the funds available, doing so will enable us to offer more bursaries than ever before. To help us achieve this we are investing in the creation of a new role. The Bursary Development Manager will be responsible for raising the profile of our bursary scheme with Old Amplefordians and parents and seeking donations to support the giving of more bursaries. Due to the amount of travel expected for this role, we would be happy to have a flexible approach to where the post holder would be based, however, we would always ensure they have a desk here at Ampleforth.

If you are interested in applying for this role or would like to know more, please contact Sue Fisher at [sue.fisher@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:sue.fisher@ampleforth.org.uk) or keep a lookout on our Ampleforth jobs board at [www.ampleforth.org.uk/careers](http://www.ampleforth.org.uk/careers)



*Come and Stay*  
Peace      Space      Beauty      Rest



AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

Jesus said:

*“Let us go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile”* (Mark 6:31)

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Would you like some time out, some space for yourself,  
a chance to rediscover a sense of peace and calm?

Come and spend some time with us at Ampleforth

For further details and to check availability and book,  
please contact us on [pastoral@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@ampleforth.org.uk) or call us on **01439 766486**

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 @ampleforthretreats

 @ampleforth1802

 @ampleforthmonks



In your time since leaving the College, be it a few months or a few years, no doubt there have been many life events to mark or celebrate. You may now be the owner of a thriving business; you may be getting married or have become a parent or grandparent. Perhaps life has changed, and you simply want to relax and reconnect. Where better to do that than here in the Ampleforth Valley?

Steeped in history and memories of your school days, we have facilities old and new that can cater for all occasions, from small parties of 20-30 guests, to large, formal, sit-down dinners for up to 350 people. We serve drinks and canapés, hot and cold buffets, or formal three-course dinners with table service, depending on your occasion.

We are always delighted to host events, catering for weddings, christenings, anniversary parties and birthday celebrations to name just a few. Our venues go far beyond the celebration, as we offer accommodation in our comfortable guest houses, and for large groups we can take you right back to your school days and offer accommodation in your old boarding house. If you are feeling energetic you can make use of our excellent sports facilities. Go for a morning swim in our newly refurbished swimming pool, challenge your partner to an intense game of squash or enjoy a work out in our fully equipped gym.

Perhaps you need a get-away for your business and feel some teambuilding is in order. Why not bring your colleagues to the Valley and turn your hands to some clay pigeon shooting, or if you're feeling even more adventurous, we can run activities on the lake including canoeing and raft building? In the New Music School, we have the Performing Arts Centre, lovingly known as PAC, for sport and dance activities. With tiered seating for over 100 delegates and a large cinema screen, PAC is a great place for team presentations or for more light-hearted film nights.

But it's not just parties and getaways we cater for. If you've never tried Ampleforth's award-winning cider, come on one of our Orchard Tours to see how it's made from over 70 varieties of apples grown on site in our historic orchard. Our cider, beer, apple juice and chutneys can all be purchased from our shop in the main building, making excellent gifts for friends and loved ones.

We run public orchard tours, which can be booked online, but for groups of 20 or more, why not have a private tour and afternoon tea in the Windmill, our purpose-built pub, fully fitted with Robert "Mouseman" Thompson furniture? The Windmill is one of our key venues for hire offering spectacular views over the valley making it the ideal location for weddings, christenings, parties, or a simple BBQ night to round off a day of team building.

To find out more about venues at Ampleforth, visit [www.ampleforth.org.uk/visitors](http://www.ampleforth.org.uk/visitors) or if you have an event enquiry, please email [lettings@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:lettings@ampleforth.org.uk). We hope to see you soon!

# AMPLEFORTH VENUES

*"Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ,  
who will say: I came as a guest and you received me."*

– Rule of St Benedict



# A VIEW FROM THE ORCHARD

“OUR REPLANTING PROGRAMME IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE MORE OF OUR APPLE HERITAGE AND WILL BE SURE TO DELIGHT OUR ORCHARD TOUR VISITORS.”



They say the best time to plant an apple tree was ten years ago, and the second-best time is of course now. It is over 50 years since Fr Edmund Hatton OSB planted a new and modern orchard on former pasture alongside Aumit Lane. A collection of varieties selected to provide a succession of ripening apples from early August through to December, with late storing varieties keeping the community and College in pie beyond Easter.

Our 50-year-old trees, grafted onto dwarfing rootstocks, are now reaching the end of their lives. They

have lasted for far longer than trees of this type in a typical commercial orchard. There, dwarf trees are often grubbed out and replanted on 12 year cycles, so there are always new, vigorous trees maturing and risks are spread. To help future-proof our orchard we are now replanting, taking out the most diseased and least productive trees to make way for new trees on a more vigorous rootstock. Our new orchard planting will be more robust with longer living trees and provides us with an opportunity to introduce new varieties. Some have been chosen because they are less disease prone and

others because they will help us to broaden our produce range and extend our season. Good examples being Belle de Boskoop and Ashmeads Kernel. Two richly flavoured heritage apples, robust and very well suited to our location. In addition, a collection of heritage cider apples have been planted including Foxwhelp, Fillabarrel and Tremlett's Bitter all 'bitter sweets' that will add a real bite to our cider.

We currently have over 70 different varieties of apple in our orchard, unlike most commercial orchards, which may grow only a few in





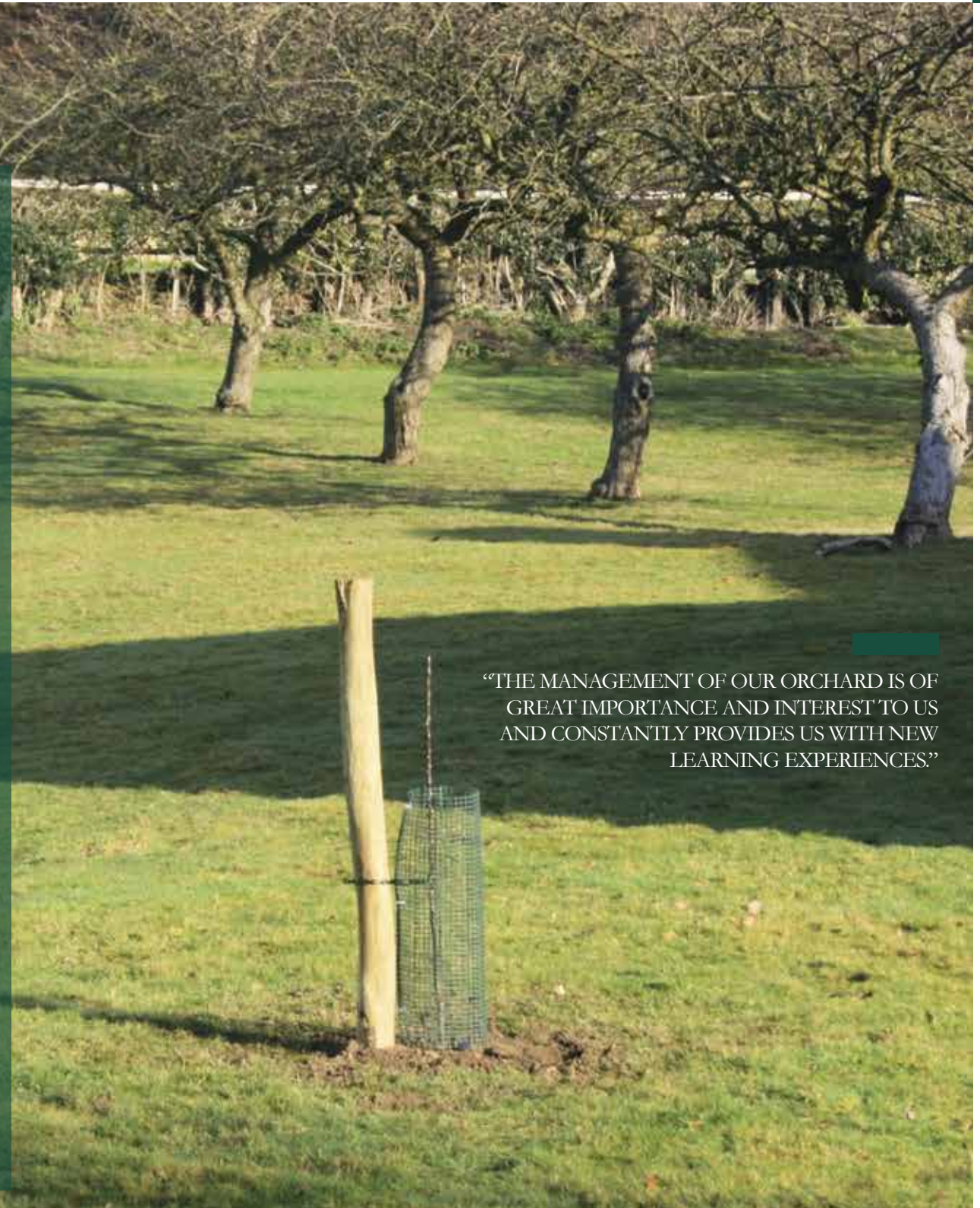
line with retail demand, yet there are over 2,000 in the National Apple Collection at Brogdale in Kent. Our replanting programme is a fantastic opportunity to showcase more of our apple heritage and will be sure to delight our orchard tour visitors. Orchard tours begin with the first apple blossom and continue until the end of harvest in the autumn. Tour visitors, especially those who remember particular varieties from years past, are fascinated to see and taste apples that will never be found on our supermarket shelves, varieties such as Beauty of Bath, Irish

Peach, Ribston Pippin and Pitmaston Pineapple. Their orchard tour becomes an opportunity to reminisce, as well as learn about our award-winning ciders and apple juice.

The management of our orchard is of great importance and interest to us and constantly provides us with new learning experiences. Although not certified organic, we apply no chemicals, preferring instead to manage pests and diseases by careful husbandry, selective pruning and by encouraging beneficial insects and birds.

Our mowing regime means that the grass sward beneath the mature trees is now left uncut, helping to protect the soil, reduce water loss and minimise compaction. It also enables small meadow flowers to flourish, and these, along with the trees and shrubs on the orchard's perimeter, provide additional forage and habitat for beneficial insects and birds. These things all add interest for our visitors, and help us to fulfil what we believe is our responsibility to practice good land stewardship.

**Tim & Steve,  
the Pommeliers**



“THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR ORCHARD IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND INTEREST TO US AND CONSTANTLY PROVIDES US WITH NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCES.”





4's 1932

# St Benet's Hall: 100

Years as a Permanent Private Hall



St Benet's Cricket 1923

It is well-known that the University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world; however, not much is known about the history of the University from its founding in 1096 until the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

What we do know is that the vast majority of students of the time lived and studied in a variety of small halls of scholarship scattered around the city. These halls included the medieval incarnations of Blackfriars, Greyfriars and St Edmund Hall.

After the founding of the first colleges in the mid-13th century came the Benedictine colleges: Gloucester College (1283), Durham College (1291) and Canterbury College (1311). During the reign of Henry VIII and the Dissolution of the Monasteries, these Benedictine colleges were closed. Durham College became Christ Church in 1546 and Canterbury College became Trinity College in 1555. Gloucester College was



Summer party 1985



Benet's welcomes newly matriculated graduate students, including the first cohort of those studying the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy

initially made an annex of St John's College but was eventually refounded as Worcester College in 1714.

Benedictines, and Catholics more generally, were largely absent from Oxford for the next 350 years.

It was not until the University Test Acts 1871 that Catholics, non-conformists and non-Christians were allowed to take up fellowships, studentships and other positions within Oxford (as well as Cambridge and Durham). The Catholic hierarchy, however, did not respond in-kind and barred students from attending these universities until 1895. That year, Pope Leo XIII set up the Universities Catholic Education Board to help guide Catholic

students through their time at these protestant universities and the religious orders came forward to found houses of studies. These houses of study were founded based on the statutes passed in 1895 allowing any Master of Arts to open

**THE UNIVERSITY, RECOGNISING THIS, PASSED A STATUTE IN 1918 ALLOWING FOR THE CREATION OF PERMANENT PRIVATE HALLS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP AND STATUS FOR THESE HALLS**

a private hall after receiving a license from the University.

The problem the religious orders came across was that Catholics were only just then allowed to study at the University so no Catholic students had been made a Master of Arts. Luckily enough, the presence of the Oxford Movement led by Cardinal John Henry Newman earlier in the century created a number of converts to Catholicism. Among those was

Fr Oswald Hunter-Blair from Magdalen College who founded Hunter-Blair's Hall in 1897 after being asked to do so by a close friend, Fr Anselm Burge OSB, Prior of Ampleforth. As the private halls developed and leadership changed, so did their names. Hunter-Blair's Hall became Parker's Hall to reflect the name of the new Master and licence-holder. As the licence for each hall was held only by the existing Master and no other entity, the halls held a fairly transient and unimportant role within the University. The University, recognising this, passed a statute in 1918 allowing for the creation of Permanent Private Halls to ensure continuity of leadership, scholarship and status for these halls. Parker's Hall became St Benet's Hall and joined Champion Hall (formerly Plater's Hall) as the first two Permanent Private Halls of the University of Oxford in Michaelmas Term 1918.



In the decades since this status was conferred, St Benet's Hall has grown from a house of study for Benedictine monks from Ampleforth to a global community of students and scholars founded on and informed by the Rule of St Benedict. Like the medieval Benedictine halls of study which formed the foundation of the University, our fellows, students and staff begin every dinner with a reading from the Rule and sit around a common table.

Our current community is made up of men and women, Old Amplefordians and those from state schools, Benedictine monks and atheists. We house nearly 100 undergraduate and postgraduate students from over 20 countries. Our

current undergraduates study Theology, History, Classics, Oriental Studies, PPE and Human Sciences while the postgraduates study a number of associated subjects, including: DPhil and MPhil in Theology, Archaeology, Egyptology and Eastern Christian Studies, the MBA and MPP, and a variety of one-year taught courses.

As we look towards the next 100 years, the future for St Benet's Hall is bright. Benet's is not only a bridge between the worldwide Benedictine community and the world-leading teaching and research carried out across the University but an active participant. Benetians are increasingly successful academically both at the undergraduate and graduate

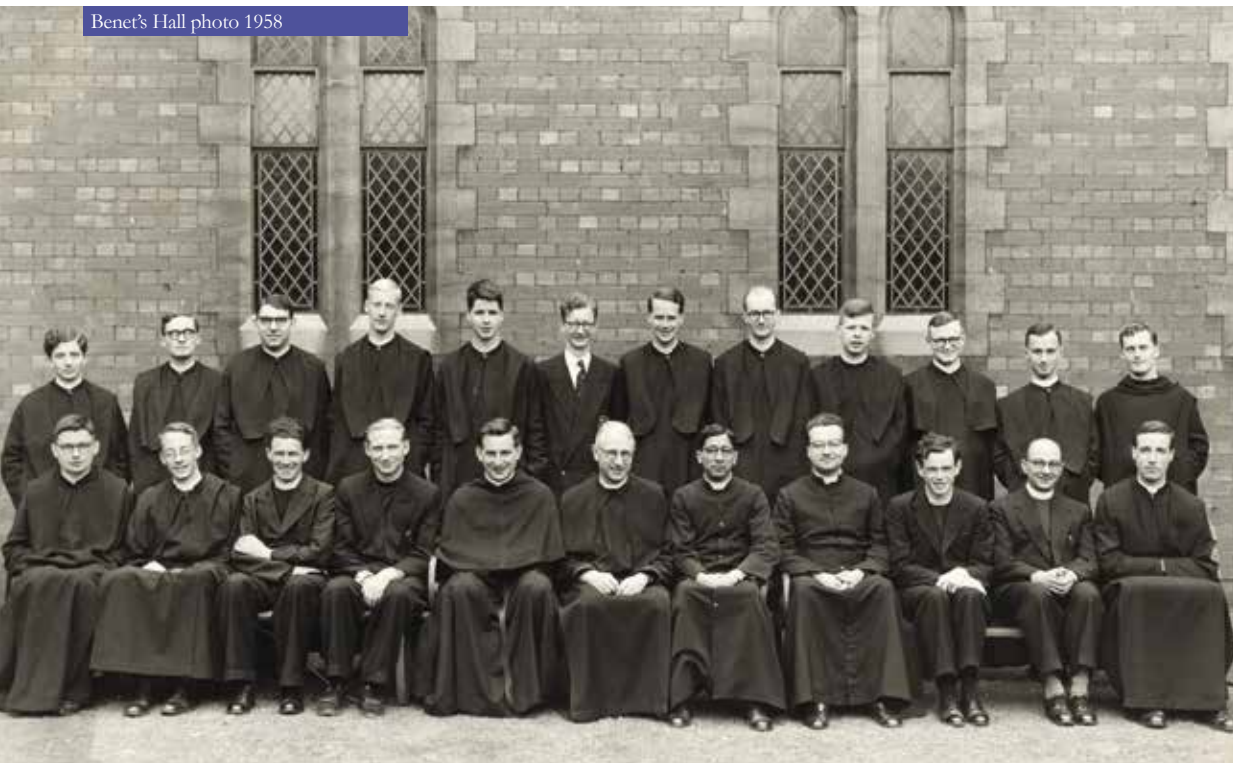
level with high levels of Firsts and a number of distinctions. Benetians also lay claim to the most Blues per head as well as the highest student satisfaction of any College or Hall.

If you have never visited Benet's, have not been back to see us recently, or haven't been to visit in a few weeks, we extend an open invitation to you to come and sit with our staff and students. We would also like for you to make a note in your diary for May 15th when the Chancellor of the University, Lord Patten of Barnes, will be joining Benet's alumni and friends for an evening celebration in London. More details will be forthcoming.



Thirty-nine new St Benet's Hall undergraduates and graduate students matriculated into the University of Oxford on Saturday 13 October, 2019

Benet's Hall photo 1958



Tea in the Garden, 1960's

BENET'S IS NOT ONLY A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE WORLDWIDE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD-LEADING TEACHING AND RESEARCH CARRIED OUT ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY BUT AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT.



StB Women's boat Feb 2019



StB Men's boat Feb 2019



News from the Monastic Community, Old Amplefordians,  
the College and St Martin's Ampleforth



*[www.ampleforth.org.uk](http://www.ampleforth.org.uk)*